



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 18.1.2019
C(2019) 55 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the 2018 Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) {COM(2018) 465 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Senato della Repubblica for the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) and the positive opinion expressed regarding the financial allocations proposed for IPA III. The Commission remains fully committed to ensuring the highest transparency and accountability standards in monitoring IPA III funding mechanisms at all levels.

The Commission is fully engaged in supporting candidate countries and potential candidates in their European path, as confirmed, for example, by its February 2018 Communication "A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced engagement with the Western Balkans", as well as its April 2018 "Enlargement package". It welcomes Italy's engagement towards this shared objective.

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its engagement with the pre-accession process and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Johannes Hahn
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Maria Elisabetta ALBERTI CASELLATI
President of the
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