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RESOLUTION
BY THE 14TH STANDING COMMITTEE

(European Union Policies)

An initiative by Senator CHITI

Approved on 21 October 2015

Pursuant to article 50, sub-section 2 of the Regulations, on conclusion of an examination of the assigned item "Debate on Revising European Treaties Prior to 2017 Deadlines"

The 14th Standing Committee,

Whereas:

- With a reprise of the Greek crisis and the migrant emergency, events in recent months have once again highlighted the need to pursue the process of political integration with renewed vigour and to strengthen the workings of the Institutions;

- The Report on the Completion of Economic and Monetary Union presented in June by the five Presidents identifies a series of measures for potential adoption over the next few years to strengthen European economic governance;

- Given the pressing Greek crisis and the difficulties with which Member States and Europe's Institutions have responded to it, the Report puts forward a series of excessively timid proposals and insufficiently ambitious objectives; moreover, the order of intervention has already been superseded by historic events;

- At its meeting on 25/26 June, the European Council acknowledged the Report and invited the various formations within the EU Council directly involved in the Report – ECOFIN, General Affairs and Social Affairs – to promptly examine the Report's proposals;

- The issue of EMU has implications of primary importance to the European Union's future political and institutional structure, and must therefore be handled as an issue of "constitutional" and political importance above and beyond its economic ramifications;

- During its Presidency, Italy raised the issue of restarting work on the Union's institutional framework, highlighting the topic of Treaty revision and, through the General Affairs Council, initiating a wide-ranging review process of institutional structures. This has led to a number of negotiation processes, including the current negotiation for an inter-institutional agreement on "better regulation". This reconnaissance process can serve as the launchpad for a more ambitious pathway of re-conceiving European structures, taking into account work currently underway at the European Parliament on the workings of the Lisbon Treaty and the future of the Union;

- Deadlines coming up over the next few years – an interim review of the Union's Multiannual Financial Framework, the British referendum on staying in the EU, an initial assessment of the "Fiscal Compact" and its potential inclusion in Treaties envisaged for 2017, as well as general elections in a number of major European nations – taken together mean that there is a time window within which a strong lead may be taken within this sphere;

- The sixtieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome falls on 25 March 2017. It offers a valuable opportunity to celebrate and reinvigorate the solidarity-driven spirit of Europe's founding fathers;

- This anniversary should stand as a moment of great prestige for the city of Rome and for Italy, coming after the Holy Year and before September 2017, when a decision will be taken in Lausanne on which nation hosts the 2024 Olympics. Above all, after the events of the last few years it represents an excellent opportunity to reinvigorate the political and institutional process of integration;

Commits the Government:

- To continue pursuing and accentuating the work that began under its Presidency on the workings of the Institutions, and to reopen the debate on revising the Treaties in the run-up to deadlines in 2017;

- Among all Council formations to promote an ambitious debate on following up on the five Presidents' Report, at all times highlighting the extremely political (rather than merely technical) nature of these decisions on how the European Union functions, including in relations with other Member States and with the European Institutions;

- At all stages of this debate, to ensure close coordination among all of the bodies most directly affected, and to promptly keep Parliament informed;

- To seek convergence in the various political and institutional fora with countries that share a similar outlook, starting with the six founder nations, in order to initiate a pathway leading to the launch of specific initiatives on political priorities of common interest and, more in general, a reprise of European integration, if required by initiating a process of Treaty revision in forthcoming years;

- To adopt all necessary initiatives politically and in terms of communications and information, including through the involvement of social partners and all stakeholders, so that the sixtieth anniversary of signing the Treaties of Rome is appropriately emphasized, striving to ensure that not only does it serve as a moment for celebration, it also acts as a vital waypoint along the path of mapping out, rediscovering and reinvigorating European integration.