



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.7.2015  
C(2015) 4832 final*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH  
President of the Senát  
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4  
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Sixth bi-annual report on the functioning of the Schengen Area {COM(2014) 711 final}.*

*The Commission shares the view that the report should contribute to the debate on the effectiveness and improvement of the functioning of Schengen. It concurs with the importance attached by the Senát to the free movement of persons which is one of the main achievements of the Union. It remains fully committed to this core principle of the Union. The Commission takes the view that together with all the stakeholders, ways can be found to address the current security challenges while preserving the principles upon which the Union is founded.*

*At the same time, the Commission attaches great importance to finding the most appropriate manner to address the security threats posed by the so-called foreign fighters. It notes the Senát's support for the steps taken in this regard as far as the Schengen Information System (SIS II) is concerned.*

*The Commission also shares the Senát's view on the need to have full and comprehensive data on the secondary movements. In this regard, co-operation of all the Member States in collecting relevant information is essential.*

*The Commission appreciates the importance attached by the Senát to the proper implementation of the Union acquis and operational cooperation between the Member States and the Union agencies, including Frontex. The Commission is convinced that mutual trust and cooperation between relevant actors is the right way to address the challenges currently being faced. This is one of the key messages of the European Agenda on Security, adopted by the Commission on 28 April<sup>1</sup>, that defines the main actions envisaged by the Commission to ensure an effective EU response to security threats over the period 2015-2020.*

*As far as the establishment of the European System of Border Guards is concerned, no decisions have yet been taken. The need to enhance effective shared management of*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2015) 185 final.

*European border is clearly identified in the European Agenda on Migration adopted on 13 May 2015<sup>2</sup> and further reflexion will be launched on this area.*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for the importance it attaches to the current EU agenda and for the views expressed in the above mentioned resolution. This proactive approach by the Member States' Parliaments, including the Senát, helps the Commission to shape the future steps in further consolidating the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>2</sup> COM(2015) 240 final