



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 21.12.2015
C(2015) 9593 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015-2020) {COM(2015) 285 final}.

The Commission welcomes the favourable opinion of the Senát upon its examination of the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling, while at the same time recognising the relevant observations made. In particular, the Commission welcomes the Senát's opinion on the need for an effective return policy as a deterrent and preventive measure against migrant smuggling. To this end, the Commission proposed an EU Action Plan on return {COM(2015) 453 final} on 9 September 2015.

The Commission would also like to inform the Senát on the progress made in the efforts to increase the efficiency of cooperation of EU agencies. Since the EU Action Plan on migrant smuggling was adopted, the Commission has established a Contact Group of EU Agencies on migrant smuggling, which has already met three times, lastly on 24 November 2015. This platform serves as a forum to strengthen operational cooperation and information exchange between the relevant EU Agencies. In this context the Commission also welcomes the swift conclusion of an operational agreement for the exchange of personal data between Europol and Frontex, which was concluded on 4 December 2015.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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