



*Brussels, 25.1.2018
C(2018) 242 final*

Dear President

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice, and amending Regulation (EC) 1987/2006 and Council Decision 2007/533/JHA and repealing Regulation (EU) 1077/2011 {COM(2017) 352 final}.

This proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures including measures designed for the better functioning of current European Union information systems, the creation of new systems, and measures to ensure the systems' interoperability and a better information exchange. These measures are key to ensure security and efficient migration management in the European Union.

By proposing a new mandate for the Agency, the Commission is delivering on the European Agenda on Security and Migration.

Improving the functioning of the Agency and strengthening its role to ensure that its mandate meets the current challenges at Union level in the area of freedom, security and justice is at the heart of the Commission's proposal.

The Commission is pleased that the Senát shares the view that the European Agency for the operational management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the area of freedom, security and justice should be strengthened and its tasks should be extended.

The proposal ensures, in particular, that the Agency can concentrate on its core tasks and has the necessary resources to efficiently deal with them. It also highlights the Agency's role for the technical implementation of interoperability and for improving quality, protection and security of data, and it strengthens the Agency's advisory role towards the Member States.

These are key aspects of the initial proposal presented by the Commission. The proposal is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.

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The Commission hopes that this reply addresses the issues raised by the Sénat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*