



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.5.2018
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion on the Communication on preserving and strengthening Schengen {COM (2017) 570 final}, and the proposal amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 as regards the rules applicable to the temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders {COM (2017) 571}.

The Commission welcomes the Poslanecká sněmovna's support for the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area, as well as for its support to the proposed revision of the legal framework for the temporary reintroduction of controls at internal borders.

The legislative proposal intends to strike a balance between the legitimate expectations related to internal security and the rights of European Union citizens and those of neighbouring Member States potentially affected by such reintroduction or prolongation of border controls at internal borders.

The proposal contains a number of additional procedural safeguards to ensure that border controls are reintroduced only as a measure of last resort, following a proper risk analysis and looking into alternative measures, as well as ensuring that the views of the affected Member States are taken into account in the process. For these reasons it was proposed to involve the Council in case of border controls exceeding one year, thus providing for institutional supervision over decisions that have an impact on the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Treaties.

The Commission believes that the inclusion of new procedural safeguards would make Schengen more resilient to future challenges. At the same time, it would reinforce the Schengen area by ensuring that controls at internal borders are reintroduced only exceptionally, following a proper risk assessment and carried out only to the necessary and proportionate extent.

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Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*