



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.8.2018  
C(2018)5259 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 establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems (borders and visa) {COM(2017) 793 final} and on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems (police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration) {COM(2017) 794 final}.*

*These proposals establish a framework for interoperability between European Union information systems in order to better protect the security of citizens and to improve migration and border management. In their Joint Declaration, the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission placed these proposals among the legislative priorities for the European Union for 2018 – 2019.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Senát shares the view that action at the Union level as envisaged in the proposals is necessary to make European Union information systems interoperable, able to exchange information and to work better together.*

*Responding to the Senát's call to reach a balance between the effectiveness of the interoperability components and the level of personal data protection, the Commission would like to stress that such a balance between security and respect of the data protection framework is the cornerstone of these proposals.*

*The Commission shares the Senát's views that it is necessary to ensure utmost effectiveness of the financial planning and spending during the implementation of the proposed actions. Interoperability will allow exploiting economies of scale, while the cost for the implementation of the interoperability initiative will be relatively limited compared to the implementation costs of existing systems and of the development of proposed ones.*

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

*The Commission takes note of the Senát's concern as regards the impact on the national information systems and on the need to provide a sufficient timeframe for the adaptation of national systems. The Commission recalls that the expected timeframe for the implementation of the proposal spans over 2022 and 2023 and that transitional periods are foreseen in the proposals. The Commission therefore invites Member States to already envisage the necessary preparatory work for the implementation of the interoperability, in order to be able to exploit all its benefits early on.*

*The proposals are currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached before the end of 2018, fully preserving the relevant data protection safeguards included in the proposals, while responding to the needs of end users.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Elżbieta Bieńkowska*

*Member of the Commission*