



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.11.2018  
C (2018) 7316 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 amending Regulation (EC) No 767/2008, Regulation (EC) No 810/2009, Regulation (EU) 2017/2226, Regulation (EU) 2016/399, Regulation XX/2018 [Interoperability Regulation], and Decision 2004/512/EC and repealing Council Decision 2008/633/JHA {COM(2018) 302 final}.*

*The proposal aims at better responding to evolving security and migratory challenges and improving the EU's external border management. The proposed changes will allow for more thorough background checks on visa applicants, for closing security information gaps through better information exchange between Member States and for full interoperability with other EU-wide databases.*

*The Commission welcomes that the Senát shares the Commission's view on key issues such as the inclusion of long-stay visas and residence documents of third country nationals in a central EU database and that the Senát finds that the proposal will lead to streamlining and strengthening the processing of short-stay visa applications. The Commission appreciates that the Senát agrees with the proposed measures concerning the verification of persons and security checks at the external borders and on the territory of the EU Member States, as well as with the proposed storing of a copy of the applicant's travel document in the Visa Information System.*

*Discussions on the proposal are now underway between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached on its proposal in the near future.*

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

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*