



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2023) 266 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Attracting skills and talent to the EU {COM(2022) 657 final}, the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents (recast) {COM(2022) 650 final} and the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State (recast) {COM(2022) 655 final} (the 'Skills and Talent' package).

The Commission welcomes the general support of the Senát for the Commission's aim to make the EU generally more attractive for labour migration, as outlined in the Skills and Talent package presented in April 2022.

The two legislative proposals of the Skills and Talent Package addressed in the Senát's Opinion, the recasts of the Single Permit Directive and of the Long-Term Residents Directive, when adopted will simplify the application process for living and working in the EU for a broad range of third country-nationals wishing to settle in the EU. They will also improve the rights of those who are already in the EU. By reducing costs and administrative burdens for employers and migrants, they will facilitate efforts to better use the potential of labour migration to address skills gaps in Member States. Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, concerning the proposals are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that agreements will be reached in the near future.

The Commission wishes to clarify that in accordance with Article 79(5) TFEU neither legislative proposal will affect the right of Member States to determine volumes of admission of third-country nationals based on national needs.

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CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

With regard to the Senát's request of clarification on the Long-term Residents Directive recast proposal, the Commission would like to point out that the EU long resident status is to be granted by Member States when the conditions set out in the Directive are fulfilled by the third-country national. To acquire the long-term resident status, the third-country national concerned must lodge an application with the competent authorities of the Member State in which he or she resides. The Long-term Residents Directive recast proposal states in Article 9 that in case of withdrawal, including where a decision ending the legal stay is taken in line with the conditions set out in Article 13 of the recast, "EU long-term residents shall no longer be entitled to maintain EU long-term resident status".

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

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Ylva Johansson
Member of the Commission*