



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 21.3.2018
C(2018) 1546 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Vouli ton Ellinon for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation regarding the rules applicable to the temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders {COM(2017) 571 final}.

The proposed amendments intend to strike the right balance between the legitimate expectations of the Member States related to internal security and the rights of European Union citizens, and those of neighbouring Member States potentially affected by such reintroductions of border controls at internal borders.

The proposal contains a number of procedural safeguards to ensure that border controls at internal borders are reintroduced only as a last resort measure, following a proper analysis of alternative measures, and that the voice of neighbouring Member States is also heard in the process. This includes a proposal to involve the Council in case of internal border controls exceeding one year in order to provide institutional supervision over decisions that have an impact on the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Treaties. The Commission believes that this proposal, including these new procedural safeguards, will make the Schengen area more resilient. At the same time, this will reinforce the area without controls at internal borders by better 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.

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 hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the concerns of the Vouli ton Ellinon and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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