



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 28.7.2017
C(2017) 5483 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) {COM(2016)731 final}.

The objective of ETIAS is to determine the eligibility of visa-exempt third country nationals to travel to the Schengen Area and to identify, prior to the arrival of the traveller to the external borders, whether such travel poses any security, irregular migration or public health risk.

The Commission is pleased that the Senato della Repubblica shares the view that action at the EU level is required, as one of the measures to strengthen the protection of EU external borders.

As regards the specific points raised by Senato della Repubblica, the Commission would like to make the following general remarks:

As for the role of carriers, the Commission proposal foresees that carriers check the status of the travel authorisation prior boarding travellers. In case of an absence of a valid travel authorisation, carriers would not board these travellers.

As regards the validity period, the Commission has proposed a period aiming to strike a balance between security and travel convenience. As part of the proposed solutions to have a 5 year validity period, the Commission has proposed that new alerts in the Schengen Information System (SIS) or new information added by Member States in the ETIAS watchlist would be compared with the valid travel authorisations contained in the ETIAS central system., If needed, travel authorisation would be re-assessed and where necessary can be revoked before the end of the validity period.

Concerning the responsible Member State, the Commission has proposed it to be the one declared by applicants as the Member State of first entry. The Commission's proposal foresees regular monitoring of the implementation of the ETIAS including its impact on the Member States.

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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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 by the end of 2017.

The Senato della Repubblica's Opinion has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations with the co-legislators and will inform these discussions.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senato della Repubblica.

Yours faithfully,

*Julian King
Member of the Commission*