



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.10.2016
C(2016) 6449 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) to register entry and exit data and refusal of entry data of third country nationals crossing the external borders of the Member States of the European Union and determining the conditions for access to the EES for law enforcement purposes amending Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 and Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011 {COM(2016) 194 final} and on the proposal to amend Regulation (EU) No 2016/399 as regards the use of the EES {COM(2016) 196 final}.

The proposal on the EES was announced both in the European Agenda on Migration {COM(2015) 240 final} and the European Agenda on Security {COM(2015) 185 final}, which underline the need for common high standards of border management. These are essential to prevent cross-border crime and terrorism as well as for better use of the opportunities offered by Information Technology (IT) systems and technologies. The EES opens a new phase for increasing the efficiency of border crossings and facilitating the crossings for the large majority of 'bona fide' third-country travellers, whilst at the same time strengthening the fight against irregular migration by creating a record of all cross-border movements by third country nationals. The amendment of the Schengen Borders Code established by Regulation (EU) No 2016/399 is necessary to update the control process at the external borders of the Schengen area for the use of the EES.

The Commission welcomes the conclusion of the Assembleia da República that the draft legislative acts comply with the principle of subsidiarity.

Discussions between the co-legislators concerning the proposals are progressing: a first reading of the proposed regulations was completed in the Council, in which the Portuguese government is represented, and the report from the rapporteur of the European Parliament is expected in the 3rd quarter of 2016. The Commission will continue to support the co-legislators in their negotiations in order to reach the target to have the EES implemented by 2020.

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President of the
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The Commission hopes that this information provides some insight into the timeline of this initiative and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*