



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 12.12.2017
C(2017) 8502 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third country nationals and stateless persons (TCN) to supplement and support the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN system) and amending Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011 {COM(2017) 344 final}.

The proposal on the European Criminal Records Information System forms part of a broader package of measures designed to improve the Union's security architecture set out in the European Agenda on Security and the Commission's Communication of 6 April 2016 on Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security, {COM(2016) 205 final}. It is also part of the legislative priorities for 2017 as agreed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in December 2016 in their Joint Declaration of 13 December 2016.

The Commission's proposal strives to close loopholes in the exchange of conviction information regarding convicted third country nationals. It will provide a search mechanism to identify the Member State(s) holding information on a particular convicted third country national. Information on former convictions of persons will lead to better informed and adequate decisions in criminal proceedings and other security relevant fields of decision making.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República shares the view that action at Union level as envisaged in the proposal is required to improve the exchange of criminal records information regarding convicted third country nationals through the European Criminal Records Information System.

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Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Assembleia da República in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Věra Jourová
Member of the Commission*