



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 21.3.2018
C(2018) 1545 final*

Dear Chair,

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 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 as regards the rules applicable to the temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders {COM (2017) 571 final}.

The Commission welcomes the positive opinion of the Assembleia da República on the proposal that intends to strike the right balance between the legitimate expectations of the Member States to ensure internal security and guarantee the rights of the Union's citizens, and of the neighbouring Member States potentially affected by such reintroductions or prolongation of border controls at internal borders.

The proposal contains a number of procedural safeguards to ensure that border controls are reintroduced only as a last resort measure, following a proper analysis of alternative measures, and that other Member States are heard in the process. This includes a proposal for the involvement of the Council in cases where border controls exceed one year, providing the institutional supervision to the decisions having an impact on the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Treaties. The Commission believes that this proposal, including new procedural safeguards, would make Schengen more resilient. At the same time, this would reinforce the Schengen area 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.

*Ms Regina BASTOS
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the Assembleia da República
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*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Assembleia da República in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*