



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24.6.2016
C(2016) 3815 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002 establishing a European Maritime Safety Agency {COM(2015) 667 final}.

This proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures presented by the Commission on 15 December 2015 designed to address the refugee crisis by creating a European Border and Coast Guard system and promoting integrated border management.

The proposal under examination reinforces and expands the tasks of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) by providing for close cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) to support the national authorities carrying out coastguard functions. This close cooperation will translate into sharing, combining and analysing information; providing surveillance and communication services based on state-of-the-art technology; developing guidelines, recommendations and best practices; and sharing resources and capacity.

The Commission welcomes the Senat's support for the proposal and is pleased that it shares the view that action at the EU level, as envisaged in the proposal, is required. The Commission notes the Senat's emphasis on the sharing of information and the provision of surveillance and communication services based on state-of-the-art technology such as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), satellite Automatic Identification System (AIS) and satellite communications as well as training and the development of joint operational standards.

The Commission also notes the recommendations made by the Senat to pursue closer cooperation with the competent authorities, reduce deficiencies on information, skills and capacities of other bodies and ensure the necessary human resources. The Commission trusts that its proposal already goes a long way in meeting these recommendations given its scope and the additional resources proposed.

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The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council in which the Romanian government is represented.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc
Member of the Commission*