



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Eighth biannual report on the functioning of the Schengen area – 1 May - 10 December 2015" {COM(2015) 675 final}.

The Commission shares the Senat's view that the relevant EU acquis must be fully implemented by all Member States in the Schengen area at both the external and internal borders. The Commission will continue to monitor Member States' compliance with the Schengen standards in order for the EU to be able to face the current migration crisis and contain terrorist threats.

The Commission welcomes the Senat's statement that the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls by certain Member States should remain limited in time and proportionate to the threat addressed. In its "Back to Schengen" Roadmap of 4 March 2016 {COM(2016) 120 final}, the Commission set out the concrete steps needed to return order to the management of the EU's external and internal borders. The aim is to lift all internal border controls as quickly as possible, and by December 2016 at the latest.

In this context, the Commission would like to draw the Senat's attention to the Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation for temporary internal border control in exceptional circumstances putting the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk, adopted by the Council on 12 May 2016. This Decision replaced the individual decisions by Member States on reintroduction of temporary internal border control by a coordinated approach at EU level. The Commission will monitor the application of the Council Decision and, where necessary and proportionate, propose adaptations to reflect any changing circumstances.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senat in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*

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