

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 28.07.2016 C(2016) 4775 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council "Back to Schengen – A Roadmap" {COM(2016) 120 final}.

The Commission agrees with the Senat's statement that the absence of internal border controls should go hand in hand with the elaboration of a common policy on asylum, immigration and external border control, based on solidarity between Member States and the principle of fairness to third-country nationals. It also welcomes the Senat's statement that a gradual return to a full implementation of the Dublin system, with the full participation of all Member States, is a crucial point.

The Commission is fully committed to work in that direction, respecting the objectives of solidarity and a fair sharing of responsibilities between Member States, and ensuring a uniform application of the Dublin rules in all Member States.

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

Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU President of the Senat Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5 RO – 050711 BUCHAREST