



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.8.2018  
C(2018) 5301 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems (borders and visa) {COM(2017) 793 final} and on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems (police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration) {COM(2017) 794 final}.*

*These proposals establish a framework for interoperability between European Union information systems in order to better protect the security of citizens and to improve migration and border management. In their Joint Declaration, the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission placed these proposals among the European Union legislative priorities for 2018 and 2019.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Senat shares the view that action at Union level, as envisaged in the proposals, is required to make European information systems interoperable, in order to ensure that end-users have fast, seamless, systematic and controlled access to the information that they need to perform their tasks.*

*The Commission concurs with the Senat's opinion on the utility of the shared biometric matching service to facilitate the identification of an individual who may be registered in different databases, by matching biometric data across different systems. The Commission would like to stress that the balance between the effectiveness of the interoperability components, security and data protection, is the cornerstone of these proposals.*

*Responding to the Senat's concerns on the multiple identity detector, the Commission would like to recall that the detector would permit establishing that different names are used by the same person. The multiple identity detector would only show those biographical identity records that have a link in different central systems. These links would be detected by using the shared biometric matching service on the basis of biometric data and would need to be confirmed or rejected by the authority that recorded*

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*the data in the information system that led to the creation of the link. The proposals describe the procedures that would be put in place to handle the different categories of links.*

*The Commission would like to clarify that Member State authorities may use the European Search Portal to search for data related to persons or their travel documents in the central Schengen Information System. In such cases, access to the central Schengen Information System will be established through the European Search Portal. Member States with a national copy may also still access data gathered in the central Schengen Information System through their national system (N.SIS). In such cases, access to the data gathered in the central system will not be established through the European Search Portal but through the national system.*

*The Commission takes note of the Senat's concern as regards the need for sufficient funds for both the European Agency for the Operational Management of Large-scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) and Member States. The cost for the implementation of the interoperability initiative will be relatively limited compared with the implementation costs of existing systems and of the development of proposed ones. Interoperability will also allow exploiting economies of scale. The Commission would like to recall that the budgetary impact is assessed to cover the costs needed to deliver the interoperability components to Member States. Any additional support possibly requested should be subject to prior political decisions.*

*In order to prepare end-users for the new tools, the proposals include provisions regarding training on the use of the interoperability components by end-users, including through the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL).*

*The Commission would like to thank Romania for its endeavour to contribute to improving migration management and security in Europe. The interoperability framework is deemed to reflect the participation of each country to the different underlying systems.*

*The proposals are currently in the legislative process involving the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached by the end of 2018, strengthening the security of the European citizens, while fully preserving the relevant data protection safeguards included in the proposals.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Elżbieta Bieńkowska  
Member of the Commission*