



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 25.9.2017
C(2017) 6087 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado for their Opinion on the:

- *Proposal for a Regulation on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, amending Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1986/2006, Council Decision 2007/533/JHA and Commission Decision 2010/261/EU {COM(2016) 883 final};*
- *Proposal for a Regulation on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the field of border checks, amending Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 {COM(2016) 882 final};*
- *Proposal for a Regulation on the use of the Schengen Information System for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals {COM(2016) 881 final}.*

These proposals work together and form part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to improve European security by strengthening European borders, and tackling the challenges of both terrorism and migration.

The proposals make technical and operational improvements to the Schengen Information System, the largest information sharing tool in Europe. In 2016, the system was evaluated and deemed to be a significant operational success, supporting information exchange on criminal matters and border check issues between law enforcement officials and border guards in 29 countries. Notwithstanding this success, the evaluation found a number of areas where improvements could be made, including on improving operational effectiveness and efficiency in cooperation on criminal matters and enhancing the effective implementation of entry bans and return decisions. These proposals seek to address these issues by improving harmonisation and cooperation among the countries that use the system.

*Ms Ana PASTOR
President of the Congreso de los Diputados
Floridablanca s/n
E – 28071 MADRID*

*Mr Pío GARCÍA-ESCUADERO MÁRQUEZ
President of the Senado
Plaza de la Marina Española, 8
E – 28071 MADRID*

The Commission welcomes that the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado share the view that action at European Union level as envisaged in the proposals is required to ensure effective information exchange through the Schengen Information System, in particular in light of the transnational nature of the challenges it seeks to tackle.

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

The Opinion of the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations with the co-legislators and will inform these discussions.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*