



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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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 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice, and amending Regulation (EC) 1987/2006 and Council Decision 2007/533/JHA and repealing Regulation (EU) 1077/2011, {COM(2017) 352 final}.

This proposal forms part of a broader package of measures designed for a better functioning of the existing European Union information systems and their interoperability, for the creation of the necessary new systems, and for enhancing information exchange among those systems. These measures are key to ensure security, efficient migration and border management in the European Union.

By proposing a new mandate for the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT Systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA), the Commission is delivering on the European Agendas on Security and Migration.

The purpose of the proposal is to improve the functioning of eu-LISA and strengthening its role to ensure that its mandate meets the current challenges at Union level in the area of freedom, security and justice.

The Commission is pleased that the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado share the view that the capabilities and legal framework of eu-LISA shall be strengthened and that the Agency's tasks shall be extended, in order to contribute to improving the control of illegal migration and combating terrorism and serious cross-border crime, and to facilitate effective, secure and continuous data exchange between Member States.

The proposal would provide the Agency with the necessary resources to efficiently deal with the current and new systems and its additional tasks, highlight the role of the Agency for the technical implementation of interoperability and for improving data quality, and strengthen the Agency's advisory and support role toward the Member States and the Commission.

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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.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*