



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 21.3.2018
C(2018) 1543 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 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 as regards the rules applicable to the temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders {COM (2017) 571 final}.

The Commission welcomes the opinion of the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado on the proposal that seeks to strike the right balance between the legitimate expectations of the Member States to ensure internal security and the rights of the Union's citizens, and of the neighbouring Member States potentially affected by such reintroductions or prolongations of border controls at internal borders.

The proposal contains a number of procedural safeguards to ensure that border controls are reintroduced only as a measure of last resort, following a proper analysis of alternative measures, and that other Member States are heard in the process. This includes a proposal on the involvement of the Council in cases where border controls exceed one year. The Commission believes that this proposal, including new procedural safeguards, would make Schengen more resilient. At the same time, the Schengen area would be further reinforced by ensuring that controls at internal borders are reintroduced only in exceptional circumstances on the basis of a proper risk assessment and are carried out only to the necessary and proportionate extent.

Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.

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

Yours faithfully,

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First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
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