



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 12.10.2018
C(2018) 6693 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) no 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection {COM(2018) 307 final}.

The aim of this proposal is to support the European Agenda on Migration by providing European Union policy and decision-makers with better and timelier policy-relevant statistics, and to strengthen the response to the challenges posed by migration. In particular, the initiative will upgrade European statistics on asylum and managed migration by providing a legal basis for statistics that are currently collected voluntarily.

Moreover, beyond these specific and immediate needs, the revision will provide an embedded flexibility for future data needs and further improvements of migration statistics, so that new and emerging data needs can be addressed more rapidly. It will also allow for responsiveness in developing new migration indicators that will better support the 'Agenda on Migration' priorities thanks to the evidence provided. Such flexibility will improve the quality of European statistics, mainly by making them more relevant.

The Commission is pleased that the Cortes Generales share the view that the proposal for amending Community statistics on migration and international protection complies with the principle of subsidiarity laid down in Article 5(3) of the Treaty on European Union.

The initial proposal presented by the Commission is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*