



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.1.2019  
C(2019) 106 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 establishing the Internal Security Fund {COM(2018) 472 final}.*

*This Commission made security a top priority from the beginning of its mandate. Over recent years, security threats have intensified and diversified in Europe. They are increasingly cross-border in nature, meaning Member States can no longer act alone. While protecting citizens is a national responsibility, the European Union plays a vital role in supporting Member States' efforts. The Union budget has a key role to play in supporting Member States in keeping Europeans safe, in particular when security threats know no borders and insidiously target our values and our way of life. Building on these foundations, the Commission is proposing a reinforced Internal Security Fund.*

*The reinforced Internal Security Fund will have three new objectives focusing on increasing the exchange of information between Union law enforcement authorities, intensifying cross-border joint operations and strengthening capabilities to combat and prevent crime, and to tackle radicalisation. This will support Member States in a more flexible and effective way to deliver on priority security areas: the fight against terrorism and radicalisation; serious and organised crime; cybercrime; and the protection of victims of crime.*

*The Commission welcomes the Cortes Generales' assessment that the proposal does comply with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in the Treaty on European Union.*

*Ms Ana PASTOR  
President of the  
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*Mr Pio GARCÍA-ESCUADERO MÁRQUEZ  
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*Discussions are now underway between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached on this proposal in the near future.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*