



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2019) 1459 final*

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President of the
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*Mr Pio GARCÍA-ESCUDERO MÁRQUEZ
President of the Senado
Plaza de la Marina Española, 8
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Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals (recast) {COM(2018) 634 final}.

This proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to better protect Europe's external borders and to ensure the right balance between solidarity and responsibility on asylum and migration. It builds upon a comprehensive array of measures aimed at improving the effectiveness of the European system for the return of irregular migrants, notably those set by the 2015 and 2017 Action Plans on Return¹, which translate the objectives of the European Agenda on Migration² into concrete measures.

The Commission expects that this proposal will improve significantly the consistency and effectiveness of the European Union's return policy, while ensuring the protection of the rights of irregular migrants, who have the obligation to leave the European Union.

¹ COM(2015) 453 final and COM(2017) 200 final.

² COM(2015) 240 final.

The Commission is pleased that the Cortes Generales share the view that action is required at Union level in order to best achieve the objectives set by this proposal and 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*