



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 26 JUL. 2012
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Swedish Riksdag for its Opinion on the Communication of the European Commission – "Smart borders – options and the way ahead" {COM(2011) 680 final} and apologizes for the delay in replying.

I am grateful to the Riksdag for the general support for managing the external border of the Schengen area in the most effective way including in the light of an expected increase in passenger flows.

The Commission fully shares the opinion that a high level of security at entry to and exit from the Schengen area demands full respect for fundamental rights and access to international protection. The Commission would like to reassure the Riksdag that the planned systems would in no way interfere with, for example, the right of third country nationals to seek asylum in the EU. The implementation of an Entry/Exit System (EES) and a Registered Traveller Programme (RTP) would not change the basic requirements for entering the Schengen area and would not touch upon the existing asylum policy and asylum rules.

The principles of proportionality and necessity must be fully analysed and taken into account for any legislative proposal in relation to these systems. The proposals would be accompanied by impact assessments that would also consider in detail issues related to data protection and costs. In terms of timing, it is clear that the new systems could only become operational after the full roll out of the Visa Information System (VIS) and the Schengen Information System (SIS II).

The Commission hopes that this reply addresses in a satisfactory manner the concerns expressed in the Riksdag's Opinion and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Herr Per WESTERBERG
Talmannen
Riksdagen
Sveriges riksdag
SE – 100 12 STOCKHOLM*