



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 24.6.2015
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Dear Chairmen,

The Commission would like to thank the House of Commons and the House of Lords for their Opinion of 21 January 2015 in which both Houses seek additional clarification on the processes and timetable expected to be established by the Commission in view of the new role accorded to national Parliaments within the new legal framework for Schengen evaluations, as laid down in the Council Regulation (EU) No. 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013.

As far as the involvement of national Parliaments is concerned, the above mentioned legal act divides the responsibilities between the Council and the Commission.

The Commission has been entrusted to inform the national Parliaments of the content and the results of the evaluations (Article 19). At the same time the Commission is also obliged to present a yearly comprehensive report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the evaluations carried out in the preceding year and transmit that report to the national Parliaments as well (Article 20).

While only information of the national Parliaments is requested without setting a deadline, the Commission intends to send the yearly comprehensive report established for the European Parliament and the Council in accordance with Article 20 also to the national Parliaments in order to treat all stakeholders involved equally.

Against this background it should be noted that the Commission is continuously committed to strengthen Schengen governance. For this purpose, it has started in 2012 to prepare regularly biannual reports on the functioning of the Schengen area addressed to the European Parliament and to the Council. To use the successfully established biannual reporting scheme even more efficiently and to avoid overlapping reporting, evoking excessive administrative burden for all stakeholders, the Commission intends to use the synergies in the reporting obligations and to dedicate one of the biannual reports specifically to the Schengen evaluations.

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There the Commission will mention all countries evaluated in the preceding year and describe, in a comprehensive way, the results of the evaluation for all policy areas. As adequate, it will as well inform on the progress made by each evaluated country in remedying deficiencies detected during the evaluation.

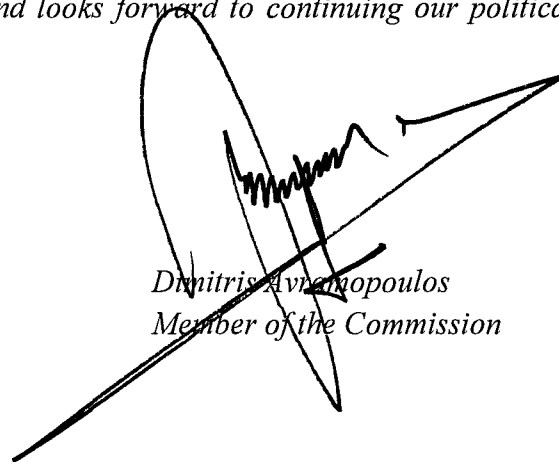
The biannual reports on functioning of the Schengen area are public; hence all the information described in the biannual reports is available also to the national Parliaments.

The Commission hopes that this information will facilitate the preparations to put in place process in relation to the new Schengen evaluations within the respective committees of the House of Commons and the House of Lords and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,



*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*



*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*