

Carlos Coelho

Deputado ao Parlamento Europeu

Mr. Dimitris Avramopoulos

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

Mr. Julian King

Commissioner for the Security Union

European Commission

Rue de la Loi, 200

B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 19th of July 2017

Subject: Schengen information System - National Copies

Mr. Commissioner Avramopoulos,

Dear Dimitris,

Mr. Commissioner King,

On the 21st of December 2016, the Commission presented a set of proposals to amend the current Regulation and Decision establishing the SIS II. As you know, I am the rapporteur in the European Parliament for these two initiatives.

In these proposals, the European Commission proposed to introduce an obligation for Member States to have national copies of the central system. A significant change *vis a vis* the current *status quo*, as

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there is not such an obligation, but also *vis a vis* the position of the Commission until now, as in the past it has always advocated for the exact opposite.

Since 2015, a number of proposals have been put forward and approved which will surely have an impact in the demand from the central system. I am referring, for example, to the recently approved systematic checks at the external borders for EU citizens.

The Commission services' have so far argued this change wants to ensure business continuity, guaranteeing that a security database is flawless. Still, no comprehensive - or for that matter consistent - account has been given of incidents of the central system, leading to its unavailability, since it came into operation in 2013. Therefore, I would request that you would provide the European Parliament with a full list of those incidents, specifying the resulted downtime of the system, the exact reason(s) for such unavailability, as well as the response of the back-up central system. Moreover, I would urge you to provide the exact same account regarding the communications infrastructure. In this regard, one begs the question, why is there no mandatory back-up communications infrastructure, unlike the central system?

In this framework, I have well-founded fear that the above-mentioned change of the Commission's view is because the central system is not performant enough, nor powerful enough for future challenges. Unlike what this house has always demanded, what has been previously agreed and after hundreds of millions of euros that were put into this project.

The three institutions have agreed that a swift approval of these two proposals is key to deliver security to our citizens. This is without prejudice to good law making and a transparent legislative process. I would therefore call for full disclosure in this matter, as well as urgency in your reply.

Yours Sincerely,

I wish you the best



Carlos Coelho

CC: Claude Moraes, Krum Garkov