



Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
The Chair

To the Chairperson(s) of the committee(s) concerned

Honourable Chairperson,

In February 2013 the European Commission presented the legislative proposals comprising together the Smart Borders Package. This package consists of two main elements: the proposal for an Entry/Exit System (COM(2013)95) which would record the time and place of entry and exit of third-country nationals crossing the external borders, calculate the duration of their stay as well as generate an alert when authorised periods for stay have expired and the proposal for a Registered Traveller Programme (COM(2013)97) which would allow certain groups of frequent travellers (i.e. business travellers, family members etc.) from third countries to enter the Union, subject to appropriate pre-screening, using simplified border checks including at automated gates.

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs has been discussing these proposals since then and during the last legislative term identified a number of serious concerns in the proposals presented. These concerns and concerns expressed by Member States in the Council as well as by the Commission led to a further technical study. This study was presented in our Committee on 16 October 2014 by the Commission. On 3 December Commissioner Avramopoulos announced to the Committee that the proposals of 2013 would be withdrawn and replaced by new proposals at the end of 2015 or the beginning of 2016.

Against this background, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs would like to invite Members of national Parliaments to an inter-parliamentary meeting on "***The Smart Borders Package: European challenges, national experiences, the way ahead.***" The meeting is scheduled for Monday, 23 February 2015, from 3 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. and Tuesday, 24 February from 9 a.m. to 12.30 in the European Parliament in Brussels.

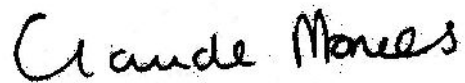
I am therefore pleased to invite up to four Members of the relevant committee(s) from each national Parliament (two from each Chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting.

Should you be unable to attend, I would welcome any written contribution which would be distributed to our respective Members and other participants.

Practical details regarding the meeting as well as a detailed draft programme will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's services for relations with the European Parliament.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and I am looking forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 23 February 2015.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claude Moraes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Claude Moraes