**Věra Jourová,** *Member of the Commission***.** – Mr President, let me start by thanking the rapporteur, Mr Daniel Dalton, and the respective Council Presidencies for the work done on the proposals for a regulation and directive on the system for the improved exchange of criminal records of third‑country nationals, ECRIS‑TCN. In particular, let me thank both co‑legislators’ unceasing efforts to find a solution that is acceptable for all parties.

The Commission proposed the ECRIS‑TCN system following the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015. The aim was to close loopholes in the existing system for the exchange of criminal records, which is ECRIS, by ensuring better access for Member States’ competent authorities to criminal records of third‑country nationals. The proposals were included in the list of 2017 interinstitutional priorities for delivery before the European Parliament elections.

With tomorrow’s vote, the European Parliament is delivering on this objective. As a result, we will achieve an improved system for the exchange of criminal records that contributes to the European area of freedom, security and justice. I would like to thank the rapporteur and the shadows in particular for their efforts to solve two main issues: first, the conditions under which fingerprints can be included in the ECRIS‑TCN system; second, the inclusion of dual nationals, notably EU citizens who also hold the nationality of a third country.

I am satisfied that we have found a balanced solution that is acceptable to all sides and that will ensure that the ECRIS‑TCN system fulfils its purpose. The new system will allow the closing of loopholes in information exchange on previous convictions and this will be done on the basis of reliable identity information and with due regard to the rights of the individual. The Commission therefore fully supports the compromise found by the co‑legislators and looks forward to tomorrow’s vote confirming it.