



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.3.2019
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund {COM(2018) 471 final}, the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Internal Security Fund {COM(2018) 472 final} and the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for border management and visa {COM(2018) 473 final}.

Migration has been a political priority since the beginning of the mandate of this Commission. Financial support from the Union budget to Member States under pressure proved essential to ensure an effective European Union response, by developing search and rescue capacities, increasing the reception capacity, and stepping-up returns. Learning the lessons of the past, and knowing that migration and border management will remain a challenge in the future, the Commission proposes to significantly reinforce funding for migration under the next Union budget from 2021 to 2027.

Over recent years, security threats have intensified and diversified in Europe. As these threats are increasingly cross-border in nature, Member States can no longer act alone. While protecting citizens is a national responsibility, the European Union plays a vital role in supporting Member States' efforts. The Union budget has a key role to play in supporting Member States in keeping Europeans safe, in particular when security threats know no borders and insidiously target our values and our way of life. Building on these foundations, the Commission is proposing a reinforced Internal Security Fund.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's Opinion and its support for these proposals and the proposed increase of the financial allocations for migration and border management and internal security.

*Mr Jaroslav KUBERA
President of the Senát
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The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*