



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion concerning the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a European Agenda on Migration {COM(2015) 240 final}.*

*The Commission shares the analysis of the current situation and appreciates the support given to the comprehensive approach on migration outlined in the abovementioned Communication, namely as regards the holistic approach taken including medium and long-term actions, proposed measures to reinforce the protection of the external borders as well as the increase of the relevant funds.*

*Over recent months the Commission has worked for a swift implementation of the Agenda to give a coordinated European response to the most severe refugee crisis since the Second World War. The Commission has tabled a series of proposals designed to equip Member States with the tools necessary to better manage the large number of arrivals. It is grateful for the support of the Camera dei Deputati expressed in its Opinion and in particular the support to the proposed European Border and Coast Guard {COM(2015) 671 final}. To update you on the state of negotiations on this file, the discussions in the Council recently led to the adoption of a common approach which allows the Presidency to start discussions with the European Parliament. The rapporteur of the European Parliament presented a draft report on 11 April 2016. Negotiations between the two co-legislators will be launched following the vote in the responsible committee of the European Parliament scheduled for 30 May. It is essential that the proposal is agreed and legally adopted by the end of June 2016, as requested by the European Council, so that it can be operational as soon as possible ensuring that the European Union can deliver on the joint responsibility for protecting the external border.*

*As regards, the revision of the Dublin regulation, on 4 May the Commission presented a first package of proposals to reform the Common European Asylum System by creating a fairer, more efficient and more sustainable system for allocating asylum applications among*

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*Member States. The basic principle for the reformed Dublin regulation<sup>1</sup> will remain the same – asylum seekers should, unless they have family elsewhere, apply for asylum in the first country they enter – but a new fairness mechanism will ensure no Member State is left with a disproportionate pressure on its asylum system. That mechanism would be automatically triggered, as soon as a Member State carries a disproportionate burden, meaning that, this Member State would be responsible for examining applications for more than 150% of its reference share.*

*The Commission has also proposed to transform the existing European Asylum Support Office (EASO) into a fully-fledged European Union Agency for Asylum to reflect its enhanced role in the new system<sup>2</sup> and to reinforce of the EU's fingerprinting database, Eurodac<sup>3</sup>, in order to better manage the asylum system and to help tackle irregular migration.*

*On 18 May the Commission adopted its latest progress report on relocation and resettlement<sup>4</sup>, assessing actions taken up to 13 May 2016. Regarding relocation, progress remains unsatisfactory despite the identification of challenges and solutions proposed by the Commission in its monthly reports and despite the regular meetings of the relocation liaison officers. Only few relocation transfers have taken place since mid-April and Member States should provide an adequate response to the different challenges including by increasing the number of pledges, relocating more vulnerable persons, especially unaccompanied minors and reducing the response time to relocation requests. Greater efforts on relocation are increasingly urgent in view of the humanitarian situation and of the mass pre-registration of applicants in Greece and the increase in arrivals to Italy.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera dei Deputati and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2016) 270 final

<sup>2</sup> COM(2016) 271 final

<sup>3</sup> COM(2016) 272 final

<sup>4</sup> Communication from the Commission – Third report on relocation and resettlement, COM(2016) 360 final