



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Luis CAPOULAS SANTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
of the Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President
of the Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da Republica for its Opinion on the Communication on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum {COM(2020) 609 final}¹.

The Commission is convinced that the EU needs a new, comprehensive, sustainable and predictable European framework for its asylum and migration system to offer a proper response to the opportunities and challenges in normal times, in situations of pressure and in crisis situations.

The New Pact on Migration and Asylum and its accompanying legislative proposals address all the elements for a holistic European approach to migration. The new EU-wide approach provides certainty, clarity and decent conditions for the men, women and children arriving in the EU. It aims at allowing Europeans to trust that migration is managed in an effective and humane way, fully in line with fundamental rights and European values. This is crucial for rebuilding trust between Member States and confidence in the capacity of the European Union to manage migration.

The internal and external aspects of migration are inextricably linked. On the EU internal side, the Pact sets out improved and faster procedures throughout the asylum and migration system and balances the principles of fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity. On the external side, addressing the root causes of irregular migration, helping refugees residing in third countries and supporting well-managed legal migration are

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum {COM(2020) 609 final}.

valuable objectives for both the EU and our partners to pursue through comprehensive, balanced and tailor-made partnerships. Together with the first report on migration and asylum since the adoption of the Pact², the Commission has adopted on 29 September a renewed EU action plan against migrant smuggling (2021-2025)³, which adopts a ‘whole-of-the-route’ approach and seeks even closer cooperation with non-EU countries along the migratory routes towards the EU, and a Communication assessing the implementation of the Employers sanctions Directive and setting out measures to improve its effectiveness⁴.

The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Assembleia da República in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Ylva Johansson
Member of the Commission*

² COM(2021) 590 final

³ COM(2021) 591 final

⁴ COM(2021) 592 final