



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 16.11.2015  
C(2015) 7664 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților 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 appreciates the support given to the comprehensive approach on migration outlined in the abovementioned Communication, namely as regards proposed measures to tackle the root causes of migration, to reinforce the protection of the external borders, to fight against smuggling networks, including through the recently-launched EUNAVFOR operation in the Mediterranean under the Common Security and Defence Policy, and to promote legal migration.*

*The Commission appreciates that the Camera Deputaților acknowledges the need to provide a coordinated and comprehensive response to the current migration crisis in the Mediterranean. To this end, the Commission has proposed to trigger the temporary emergency response under the Article 78(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) to assist the most affected Member States and especially Italy and Greece. The objective of these measures is to relieve the pressure on the asylum systems of those Member States which are confronted with exceptionally heavy migratory pressure, while at the same time ensuring protection of persons in clear need of it. The Commission takes note of the position of the Camera Deputaților that the solidarity efforts should remain voluntary.*

*The Commission welcomes that both emergency relocation proposals for 160 000 persons in need of international protection for the benefit of Italy and Greece notably were adopted by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 14 September 2015 and on 22 September 2015.*

*The Commission took note that Romania voted against when the decision was adopted by qualified majority vote on 22 September by the Justice and Home Affairs Council. In any*

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*case, both relocation schemes have now to be implemented accordingly and as a matter of urgency.*

*In addition, the Commission believes that a structural mechanism based on an objective distribution key needs to be established. For this purpose, as announced in the European Agenda on Migration, the Commission has also recently proposed a framework for a crisis relocation mechanism integrated in the Dublin Regulation. Such mechanism should be rapidly triggered in respect of any Member State experiencing a crisis situation and extreme pressure on its asylum system.*

*The Commission highly values the important contribution of Romania to the past and ongoing activities of the Home Affairs agencies (Frontex, EASO, and Europol), and its active involvement in the former relocation scheme – EUREMA pilot project.*

*The Commission shares the views that to reduce the risk of secondary movements the relocation mechanism has to be accompanied by measures aiming at effective social integration of migrants into the receiving society along the principles promoted in the Agenda on Migration and with support of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The Commission is also aware that managing increasing migration flows requires more resources, especially as regards qualified staff, including specialists in the area of social and health care as well as education, whose training can also be supported under the AMIF national programmes.*

*As regards the situation at the Eastern Borders with Ukraine and a possible risk for Romania to become a frontline Member State, the Commission proposed in the Migration Agenda to deploy Migration management support teams in "Hotspot" sections providing a "hotspot approach" platform for the relevant EU agencies to assist the local authorities in a rapid and integrated manner, when there is a crisis due to specific and disproportionate migratory pressure. The support teams will have an instant impact on the most critical point in the chain – where the most affected Member States are finding the sheer number of arrivals too great to manage effectively and in case of a need could therefore also be of assistance in Romania.*

*The Commission would like to clarify that resettlement is a measure which offers legal avenues to displaced persons stranded in third countries of transit and seeking international protection and allows for the preliminary asylum processing already outside the territory of the EU under the mandate of the UNHCR.*

*The Regional Development and Protection Programmes in the Middle East, North Africa and the Horn of Africa are an important element of the engagement with the transit countries in our neighbourhood as well as with those countries hosting large numbers of displaced persons by providing support to the capacity building of their asylum systems and border management.*

*The Commission takes careful note of the concerns raised by the Camera Deputaților as regards possible security threats related to increased migration flows and to some proposed measures to manage migration challenges, in particular a risk of terrorism and organised crime. As the Camera Deputaților is certainly aware, measures to counter terrorism and prevent radicalisation and fight organised crime are top priorities identified by the Commission in the European Agenda on Security.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*