



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 8.11.2018
C(2018) 7313 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Progress report on the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration {COM(2018) 250 final}.

The progress report confirms that the common actions taken by the European Union and its Member States have established a sound operational and policy framework allowing returning to an effective and comprehensive management of migration within the Union. The decrease in irregular arrivals has been confirmed throughout the first months of 2018, while work is ongoing to save lives, tackle root causes, further strengthen cooperation with international partners and protect Europe's external borders, including through the active support provided by Romania and other Member States. However, with the overall situation remaining fragile, additional efforts, notably additional financial resources, will be necessary to ensure a continued effective response to the migration challenge. We need to maintain this momentum and take further steps forward, including finding an agreement on the reformed Common European Asylum System.

The Commission welcomes the inclusion of this issue in the agenda of the Romanian Presidency of the Council and agrees on the need for maintaining this subject among the most important issues for discussion at European level.

The Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaților on the need to continue monitoring the situation along the main migratory routes. The Commission presented its third progress report on the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration {COM(2018) 301 final} on 16 May 2018.

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The Commission takes seriously the concerns expressed by the Camera Deputaților as regards the emergence of a new migratory route through the Black Sea. The Commission and its agencies will follow any developments thoroughly and assist the concerned Member States if needed.

The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților shares the view that cooperation with North Africa, Sub-Saharan and Western Balkan partners is essential to manage migration in a comprehensive and responsible way and that our main concern must remain combating the causes of migration and saving lives. The Commission is pursuing tailor-made approaches under its Partnership Framework on Migration presented in June 2016.

The Commission also welcomes the broad support expressed by the Camera Deputaților for sufficient financing of migration management under the next multiannual financial framework (MFF), including the protection of the external borders of the European Union, support for the relevant agencies and the external dimension of migration. In this respect, we would like to draw your attention on the fact that in spring 2018, the Commission has proposed to almost triple the envelopes foreseen for the dedicated EU funding for migration and border management to ensure the effective implementation of these political priorities. The relevant legislative proposals for the sectorial funds for migration, border management and security are currently in the legislative procedure and discussed by both the European Parliament and the Council.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*