



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 23.10.2012
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Spanish Parliament for its Opinion providing a favourable assessment on the conformity with the principle of subsidiarity of the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF) {COM(2011) 751 final}.

The Commission appreciates your valuable contribution to the ongoing legislative process in view of the adoption of this piece of European legislation, which aims at making a more strategic use of financial resources and simplifying the financial instruments in the area of asylum and migration for the period of 2014-2020. It should also allow the EU to react more quickly in emergency situations.

The Commission also welcomes the favourable consideration set out in the Opinion, in particular in its point 5, which lists the main objectives that should be achieved through the proposed instrument, among them:

- *Developing effective cooperation among Member States, which would secure an improvement of the decisional process in the European system;*
- *Enhancing and complementing the activities of the European Asylum Support Office;*
- *Reinforcing the efforts of the Member States in developing, supervising and evaluating the asylum policies in accordance with the European legislation;*
- *Sharing the efforts of the Member States in providing international protection and durable solutions to displaced persons and refugees selected by the UNHCR;*
- *Providing support to operations regarding the transfer of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection from a Member State to another Member State.*

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The competences of the Autonomous Communities are raised in your report, and while not prejudging the content of national programmes to be agreed in due course, the Commission would like to clarify that the AMF is designed so that the involvement of regional and local administrations is significantly reinforced in comparison to the current Funds of the General Programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows". In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the strengthened partnership principle in Article 12 of the Horizontal Regulation (for programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) and the principal role of authorities at local and regional level with respect to the implementation of integration actions (Article 9 of AMF).

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised in your Opinion, and looks forward to continuing the constructive dialogue with the Spanish Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice President*