



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.1.2019
C(2019) 116 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund {COM(2018) 471 final}.

Migration has been a political priority since the beginning of the mandate of this Commission. Financial support provided by the Union budget to Member States under pressure proved essential to ensure an effective European Union response, for example to develop search and rescue capacities, increase reception capacity, and step up returns. Learning the lessons of the past, and knowing that migration and border management will remain a challenge in the future, the Commission proposes to significantly reinforce funding for migration under the next Union budget from 2021 to 2027.

The new Asylum and Migration Fund will support ongoing efforts in the areas of migration and asylum, focusing on Member States under increased migratory pressure, support for legal migration and the early integration of legally staying non-European Union citizens, countering irregular migration, increasing the effective return of those who have no right to stay, cooperation on readmission with third countries and equipping the Union with faster and more flexible means of responding to crises.

The Commission welcomes the Cortes Generales' assessment that the proposal is in conformity with the principle of subsidiarity.

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Discussions on the proposal are now underway in the European Parliament and in the Council and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached in the near future.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Cortes Generales in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*