

Commissioner Margaritis Schinas
Member of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi ~~West~~straat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Commissioner Ylva Johansson
Member of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi ~~West~~straat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Rom, Madrid, Paris, Berlin, ~~DY~~.06.2020

Dear Commissioner Schinas,
Dear Commissioner Johansson,

The European Union needs a fair, efficient, resilient and above all functioning Common European Asylum System to manage and regulate migration. Since the current system is not fit for this purpose, President von der Leyen announced a true relaunch ("fresh start"), and rightly so.

We believe that a fundamental reform is needed to build a system where member states tackle asylum policy challenges together, based on the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility enshrined in the Treaties. We welcome the work which is currently carried out by the Commission with openness and in close relation with all the member states, which must lead to a compromise on this difficult issue, which has been unsuccessfully discussed for more than three years now.

As part of this reform, we recall the need for a reinforced cooperation with countries of origin and transit, considering the close link between the external and internal dimension of migration.

With this in mind, we would like to support the European Commission to include the following key elements:

- A "Search and Rescue Solidarity Mechanism" should be established.

- **Procedures, at external borders:** Mandatory pre-screening (registration, security and medical checks, identification) is an essential part of the procedures. Applicants who are clearly not entitled to protection must not be allowed to remain in the European Union. The European asylum agency may assist member states in the aforementioned procedures as needed. An updated and extended catalogue of clauses for declaring the inadmission of applications should be established.
- **Creating a new and fair system based on responsibility and solidarity:** Currently, a handful of member states carry an excessive burden, which shows a lack of solidarity and risks making the whole system dysfunctional. Therefore we advocate for a fair sharing of responsibility and a reform that must create a binding mechanism for fair distribution according to specific criteria, in particular when a member state is under disproportionate pressure. Member States resorting to other measures of solidarity than relocation must remain an exception, only for motivated reason.
- **Preventing secondary movements is still one key problem that needs to be addressed;** this notwithstanding the Schengen Acquis should be preserved. We therefore need various effective countermeasures within the CEAS. In particular, reception services for asylum seekers should be provided exclusively by the responsible member state.

We will do our utmost to help the European Commission with its task to create a fair, efficient and resilient asylum system.

We will continue to be at your disposal to discuss this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Luciana Lamorgese



Firmato digitalmente da:
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 Ministero dell'Interno
 Firmato il 08/04/2020 16:17
 Seriale Certificato: 8922
 Valido dal 31/10/2019 al 31/10/2022
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