



March 2, 2016

To:
Vice President Timmermans
Commissioner Avramopoulos
EU Commission
Bruxelles

Dear Mr. Vice President, dear Commissioner,

The refugee crisis has revealed the limitations of the European Policy on Migration and Asylum, and in particular of the Dublin Regulation as well as substantial shortcomings in the protection of the external borders of the Union. It has become evident that the existing refugee procedures and mechanisms in Europe are not viable. Our legislation has not been designed for managing so large a number of refugees.

What we need is an ambitious reform of the Dublin Regulation within a readjusted Common European Asylum System. We need to develop a protection system in which the burden of illegal migration and persons in need of protection are not just borne by the member states of first arrival and on the external borders and a few other receiving countries.

We need updated and effective procedures. This applies to the asylum procedure as such, to harmonized standards for accommodation and basic services, the procedures on the recognition of the status of refugees but also on legal redress and return issues. An accelerated appeal procedure should be introduced for all cases.

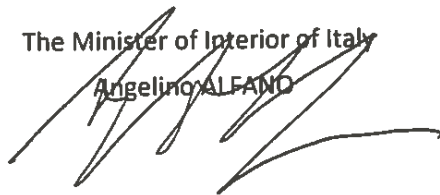
An essential part of our overall obligation and efforts to improve the protection of the external borders of the European Union must be an enhanced European mechanism for identification and registration of all migrants entering the EU. This requires a substantial strengthening of EASO. Through comprehensive legal, organizational, personnel and financial measures, EASO must be transformed into an EU asylum agency.

Repatriation activities are crucial for the effectiveness of the whole migration management system. We urge the Commission to arrange, in cooperation with Frontex, repatriation initiatives which should be complemented by reinstallation programs (i.e. in the field of vocational training and in the start up of new micro-entrepreneurial businesses).

In order to manage the difficult situation in Europe all member states and the European Commission must work together in a constructive manner. For this reason, we suggest that the attached non-paper be taken into account in the context of the upcoming revision of the Common European Asylum System, which we are awaiting with great interest.

Yours sincerely,

The Minister of Interior of Italy
Angelino ALFANO



The Federal Minister of the Interior of Germany

Thomas de MAIZIERE

