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Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
The Chair

To the Chairperson(s) of the committee(s) concerned

Honourable Chairperson,

The reform of the Union acquis on asylum, is currently under way by means of eight Commission proposals amending existing or establishing new legislative instruments. While the reform has been triggered by the large influx of asylum seekers and migrants last year, it also aims at further developing the Common European Asylum System as set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. For all those reasons, the reform is crucial. Relevant work has already started within the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), as responsible Committee on all these files, with key decisions planned to be taken during spring 2017.

Against this background, the LIBE Committee would like to invite Members of national Parliaments to an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "The Third Reform of the Common European Asylum System - Up for the Challenge". Indeed, the success of restructuring the Common European Asylum System and standing up to the relevant challenges, requires the participation of the Union and national legislators at all levels, from the conception through to the implementation stage.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 28 February 2017 from 09h00 to 18h30 in the European Parliament in Brussels (please see the draft programme attached - Annex I).

I am therefore pleased to invite up to four Members of the relevant committee(s) from each national Parliament (two from each Chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting.

Key issues such as a fair distribution of asylum seekers among Member States, the concepts of safe country of origin and safe third country, combatting human trafficking and protecting children in migration, will be on the agenda of the day. National authorities, academics and civil society active in the field will be present to provide expert input for the relevant discussions.

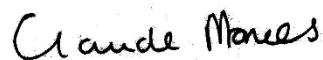
Please note that, at the beginning of the afternoon session, three parallel Workshops will take place. The practical arrangements and deadlines for written contributions to these Workshops are set out in Annex II to this letter, which I would invite you to consult.

Should you be unable to attend, I would welcome any written contribution which would be distributed to our respective Members and other participants.

Practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to the services of your Parliament, responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and I am looking forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 28 February 2016.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claude Moraes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Claude MORAES