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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

**Re: Invitation to the LIBE Interparliamentary Committee meeting on
“The European Agenda on Migration - What about legal avenues and
integration?” on 24 January 2018 in Brussels**

Honourable Chairperson,

The unusually large influx of migrants arriving in or attempting to reach the EU in the last few years prompted a series of responses by the European Union, which the European Commission framed in its European Agenda on Migration in May 2015. Based on ‘four pillars to manage migration better’, the Agenda triggered the current reform of the Common European Asylum System as well as the reinforcing of the common border management, notably with the new European border and coastguard agency (Frontex). It aimed also at reducing the incentives for irregular migration, insisting on returns, the fight against smuggling and on a renewed approach to the cooperation with third countries through readmission agreements and informal arrangements.

In particular and important for the European Parliament, the Agenda announced as well the launch of a new policy on legal migration and the intention to further support effective integration measures.

More than two years later, it is time to take stock of the EU response to the current migration challenge. Has it been as comprehensive as claimed by the Agenda and as called upon by the European Parliament in its strategic report of 12 April 2016 on “The Situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU policy on migration”?

On 11 October 2017, Commissioner Avramopoulos presented the Communication on the “Delivery of the European Agenda on Migration” (COM (2017)558) to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), as responsible Committee on all these files. Although this Communication includes initiatives to reinforce resettlement to the Union, the LIBE committee wants to go further and explore in particular those aspects of the asylum and migration policies that have been least pursued under the European Agenda on Migration, which are the development of legal avenues to the EU for third-country nationals, and of supporting measures to their integration. In this respect, the LIBE committee also takes into account the importance attached to the issue of integration by national Parliaments.

Therefore, **the LIBE Committee** would like to invite **Members of national Parliaments** to an **inter-parliamentary committee meeting** on

"The European Agenda on Migration - What about legal avenues and integration?"

on Tuesday 24 January 2018 from 9.00 to 17.15
in the European Parliament premises in Brussels.

The meeting will constitute a unique opportunity for Parliamentarians at EU and national level to engage in a debate on topics touching upon competences in all spheres of the European multi-level governance. Key issues such as legal avenues for international protection, labour migration and family reunification, as well as the opportunities and challenges of integration, will be on the agenda of the day (see draft programme enclosed). National authorities, intergovernmental organisations, academics and representatives of civil society active in the field will be present to provide expert input for the relevant discussions.

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. Additionally, they may also propose Members, among those four Parliamentarians, who would be interested in making more substantial interventions during the respective sessions on:

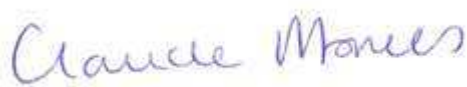
- Legal avenues for international protection,
- Labour migration and family reunification,
- Integration - opportunities and challenges.

In accordance with the draft programme, these interventions should not be longer than 10 minutes and reflect the national perspective and approach, and present, where possible, best practices. Please contact the LIBE Secretariat directly if one of your Members would like to make such a presentation.

Practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's services 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 24 January 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Claude MORAES