

**ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
on the draft contribution of the LX COSAC PLENARY MEETING
15.11.2018**

1. Security and the fight against illegal migration

1.1. COSAC recalls the need for a comprehensive EU approach to migration, which ensures coherence between internal and external policies encompasses all migration routes and is based on the principles and values on which the EU is built. A long-term and effective response to the human, social and political challenges of irregular migration and forced displacement demands enhanced cooperation with the countries of origin and transit, and ***countries hosting refugees beneficiaries of international protection or asylum seekers***, as part of a broader partnership in order to tackle the root causes of these phenomena, ***and break the business model of smugglers and traffickers.***

1.1a For that purpose, COSAC considers that a reformed Common European Asylum System, including a fully-fledged EU Asylum Agency, is urgently needed in order to establish a fair and predictable intra-EU solidarity mechanism, ensuring that the EU follows its international obligations and implements the priorities agreed in the Valletta Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

1.2. . COSAC considers that greater efforts must be made to protect the EU's external borders, with the goal of preventing irregular entry into the EU, tackling human trafficking and smuggling and preventing loss of life at sea. It also underlines the necessity to significantly step up the effective return of irregular migrants in line with fundamental principles of international and EU law. Existing readmission agreements should be better implemented and new ***formal readmission*** agreements concluded, including by using the necessary leverage consisting of all relevant EU policies, instruments and tools.

2. Securing prosperity and competitiveness through digitalisation

2.2. COSAC invites the co-legislators to take work swiftly forward on the proposals on digital taxation and on the latest data package as well as to deliver on the remaining legislative proposals concerning the Digital Single Market, ***including the e-privacy proposal, which is the last instrument necessary to achieve the update of the EU data protection legal framework*** before the end of the current legislative cycle. In line with the position of the European Council, COSAC welcomes the ongoing work of the Commission and Member States on a coordinated plan on artificial intelligence.

2.3. COSAC welcomes that the Commission's proposal for Horizon Europe continues well-established funding instruments but will also provide new impetus, be it with respect to the European Innovation Council or developments towards a stronger mission orientation of research and innovation. COSAC supports the development of key capacities of the Digital Europe Programme such as high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and advanced digital skills as well as ensuring their wide use and accessibility across the economy and society by businesses and the public sector alike. ***Moreover, respect of fundamental rights, and particular the rights of private life and the protection of personal data shall be ensured and duly embedded in the development of these initiatives.***