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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Summary of the meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, held in Strasbourg on 8 June 2015

A short meeting where the main item was an exchange of views with Commissioner AVRAMOPOULOS. The Commissioner presented the main results of his past 9 months in office, expressing satisfaction at the work done, and stressed that several ongoing files finally started addressing issues that had not been tackled previously.

2. Draft amendment N° 5 to the general budget 2015 - responding to migratory pressures

LIBE/8/03459

The Rapporteur, Mr NIEDERMUELLER (S&D, HU), outlined the main elements of his opinion. He welcomed the increased funding in order to respond to current migration challenges, but he also warned that in his view funding for increases in EASO staff and Regional Resettlement programmes would most probably not be sufficient.

In the brief exchange of views that followed Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL, ALDE agreed with the Rapporteur that it would appear that funding was not sufficient to cover the demand. EPP also recognized that DAB 5 would be a challenge due to restricted ceilings.

The vote would take place on 16/17 June.

3. Structured dialogue with Mr Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

The Commissioner spoke about the recently published Agenda for security and Agenda on migration and stressed that both presented a comprehensive set of measures on which institutions and member states had to work together. On the Security Agenda he emphasised the importance of adequate operational support from various EU agencies and hoped for swift progress on Europol and Cefpol. He expressed his support for the EU PNR Directive and reiterated that the Commission was well aware of the issues of proportionality, necessity as well as on data retention requirements. He reassured MEPs of the Commission's intention to constructively contribute in the negotiations of this file. Regarding the Migration agenda the Commissioner recalled the latest proposals tabled by the Commission under the Article 78(3) mechanism, and praised member states for their contribution to the expanded Triton operation. He underscored that the EP was a crucial partner on numerous ongoing files in his areas of competence.

In the debate (only one speaker per group), Ms METSOLA (MT, EPP) welcomed the Commission's work on migration issues, nevertheless more discussions were necessary on member states' justified concerns. She also raised the following issues : the preparation of a model agreement for PNR agreements with third countries, the review of the Smart Borders Package, a possible proposal for tracking the financing of terrorism, preventing youth radicalisation, as well as progress on the citizens programme. Ms KYENGE (IT), on behalf of the S&D, expressed her group's support for the proposed Migration agenda, but insisted that some clarifications were still needed. Attention should be given to the need to integrate refugees in receiving member states. She also called for a comprehensive evaluation of existing legislation in the area of legal migration.

Mr KIRKHOPE (ECR, UK) raised the issue of unsatisfactory detention conditions in member states and inquired about possible Commission involvement in solving the situation of migrants in Calais (France). He also expressed his absolute commitment to an EU PNR. Ms WIKSTRÖM (ALDE, SE) thanked the Commissioner for his ambitious agenda, expressed support for increased resettlement capacities and hoped member states would accept the project. She hoped for swift progress on the unaccompanied minors file and on the students and researchers directive. Ms ERNST (DE) on behalf of GUE/NGL asked the Commissioner how he intended to bring forward the Migration agenda in view of significant reservations expressed by several member states on the proposed plans. She also expressed her groups opposition to using military capacities to destroy migrant vessels.

Ms SARGENTINI (Greens/EFA, NL) asked for progress on economic migration and the revision of Dublin II. Her group appreciated very much the distribution key proposed by in the Migration agenda. Ms FERRARA (EFDD, IT) raised the issues of migratory pressure in Italy and mafia and corruption in relation to the management of funds for migrants in Italy.

In his replies Commissioner AVRAMOPOULOS expressed hope that the EP would recognise that during his 9 months in office he had delivered on his promises. Issues that had been ignored for many years have now been addressed. Regarding the distribution key he pointed out that the Commission had used objective criteria and this constituted the basis of further discussions. He hoped for member states to take up the resettlement proposal. On labour migration, he stressed that the consultation on Blue Card has started recently and that the Commission also currently monitored the implementation of the Seasonal workers directive. Regarding the model PNR agreement he explained that after the ECJ had delivered its opinion on the EU-Canada PNR, the Commission would examine the possibility of having a model agreement for any future third country agreements. He agreed Italy needed support in the wake of the substantial migrant pressure it faced. On Calais he explained that the Commission could get involved only at the request of France. On the use of military means against smugglers he underscored that such activities would require a UNSC mandate. However he pointed out that smugglers were the enemy that had to be fought. He acknowledged that the possibility of revising Dublin II rules would have to be carefully examined.

6. Next meetings

- 16 June 2015, 14.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
 - 17 June 2015, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
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