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COVER NOTE

From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 23 September 2015

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of
the European Union

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Subject: ANNEX to the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE
COUNCIL Managing the refugees crisis: immediate operational, budgetary
and legal measures under the European Agenda on Migration

Delegations will find attached document COM(2015) 490 final - Annex 1.

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ANNEX 1

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to the

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL**

**Managing the refugees crisis: immediate operational, budgetary and legal measures
under the European Agenda on Migration**

ANNEX I

Priority Actions under the European Agenda for Migration to deliver within six months

Operational measures

The *Commission* and the *EU Agencies* will:

- Assist Member States to take all necessary steps to roll out the relocation decisions, organising on-the-spot coordination and putting in place a network of national contact points. Follow up on action points from this week's meeting with Member States on relocation.
- Support the goal of making the Support Teams for the "hotspots" operational this week. The agencies' role will be to provide direct expertise in areas like the correct identification of migrants; the Commission will provide coordination between the different actors.
- Within the next fortnight, bring together Member States and the UNHCR to determine practical arrangements to implement the resettlement scheme.

Member States under pressure should:

- Finalise and start to implement their roadmaps for relocation and for the Support Teams for the "hotspots" this week; identify a network of liaison officers for all relevant local and national government agencies by the end of this week.
- Trigger the Civil Protection Mechanism or request Rapid Border Intervention Teams, to call on immediate practical support of the EU and other EU Member States.

All *Member States* should

- Identify national contact points for relocation this week to allow candidates to be swiftly identified and transferred; send liaison officers to Italy and Greece to support on-the-spot screening; identify the reception capacity to be used for relocated people.
- Notify to Frontex and the European Asylum Support Office, within a week of the finalisation of national roadmaps for Support Teams for the "hotspots", what national expertise will be made available.
- Identify and notify to Frontex by the end of September an emergency reserve of border assets which could be used in Rapid Border Intervention Teams triggered this year.
- Notify to the Commission by the end of September civil protection assets which will be held ready to deploy under the civil protection mechanism if called upon this year.
- Put in place a system of contingency planning for possible increases in asylum applications this year.
- Confirm continuing support to the Frontex joint operation TRITON and respond urgently to the call for assets for operation POSEIDON.
- Apply to Frontex for the coordination and financial support available still this year for joint return flights and pre-return assistance.

Stepping up budgetary support

The *Commission* will present the necessary proposals next week to the *European Parliament and the Council*. The institutions are invited to adopt the proposals for 2015 in a fast-track procedure:

- Increase the Emergency Fund of the Asylum, Integration and Migration Fund by €80m and the Internal Security Fund-Borders by €20m. This will be used for urgent needs to increase reception capacity, boost the administrative capacity to process asylum claims, and support the capacity to respond to pressure at the external border.
- Increase as from 2015, the capacity of the three key EU agencies with 120 additional posts: 60 posts for Frontex, 30 for EASO and 30 for Europol for 2015.
- Increase the funds for humanitarian aid by €200 million to provide immediate resources to respond to demands from UNHCR and the World Food Programme and other relevant organisations in order to help refugees immediately.
- Increase the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) in 2015 by €300 million to allow an increase of the *EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (Madad Fund)* and provide assistance to third countries hosting refugees from Syria. Together with a further reorientation of funds from the Instrument for Pre-Accession, this will allow the total EU funding for the Trust Fund in this phase to reach more than €500 million.

The *Commission* will propose to the *European Parliament and the Council* in the coming weeks the following changes to the proposed 2016 budget:

- A new package of €600 million to increase the emergency funding budget of the Asylum, Integration and Migration Fund and the Internal Security Fund-Borders and to finance increased funding for Frontex, EASO and Europol in order to be ready to respond to immediate needs for migration management, reception, return and border controls.
- Increase humanitarian aid by €300 million to be ready to help refugees' essential needs like food and shelter.

The EU should overhaul the allocation of EU funds for Turkey, such that a total of €1 billion could be available for refugee-related actions in 2015-16.

Member States should immediately commit to:

- Restore funding for food aid via the World Food Programme to 2014 levels to stabilise the supply of food to Syrian refugees.

- Match the EU budget contribution to the *EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (Madad Fund)*, to support Syrian refugees (in any country outside the EU) to reach at least €1 billion in total.
- Match the €1.8 billion of EU funding to the *Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa*.
- Make immediate use of the pre-financing resources (over €300 million) now being transferred to Member States to implement national programmes under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund-Borders.
- Examine the use of their current Structural Funds programmes in terms of supporting migration-related measures, with a view to proposing changes to the Commission.

Implementation of EU law on Asylum

Member States should commit to take urgent steps to transpose, implement and fully apply EU legislation covering the European Asylum System, including on reception conditions, asylum procedures, and who qualifies for asylum.

Next Legislative Steps

The *European Parliament* and the *Council* should fast-track the following Commission proposals on the table:

- Safe Countries of Origin, including Turkey
- The amendment to the Dublin Regulation to introduce a crisis relocation mechanism

The *Commission* will bring forward the following new proposals:

- Establishment of a European Border and Coast Guard and extension of the Frontex mandate (December 2015)
- Legal migration package including revision of Blue Card (March 2016)
- Further reform of the Dublin Regulation (March 2016)
- Proposal for a structured system on resettlement (March 2016)