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COVER NOTE

From:	Carmelo Abela, Malta's Minister for Home Affairs and National Security
To:	Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commission
Subject:	Letter from Minister Abela regarding the review of Dublin III regulation

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter from Malta's Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, Carmelo Abela, addressed to Commissioner Avramopoulos concerning the upcoming review of the Dublin III Regulation.

Encl.: Letter from Minister Abela



MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
AND NATIONAL SECURITY
STRAIT STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA

H.E. Dimitris Avramopoulos
European Commissioner
Responsible for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

1st March 2016

Dear Commissioner,

I write with reference to the upcoming review of the Dublin III Regulation.

The unprecedented migration flows towards the European Union have exposed one of the vulnerabilities of the Dublin III Regulation: this system of allocating asylum responsibility within the EU leads to a concentration of pressure in only certain Member States.

In response to this crisis, the European Union has urgently adopted a series of emergency measures. While Malta is honouring its commitments under the crisis relocation mechanism, we are also aware that emergency relocations are not a sustainable long-term solution to address the weaknesses of the Dublin system.

The upcoming review of the Dublin III Regulation is an opportunity for the European Union to lay the foundations for a future-proof Common European Asylum System that is prepared for any eventuality. As Malta has consistently argued for several years, the European Union needs a binding EU-wide permanent system to share responsibility for asylum seekers, based on a distribution key that takes into consideration the specificities of each Member State. This would be one important step towards the achievement of a Common European Asylum System governed by the principles of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty.

While the root causes of the migration crisis may seem like intractable problems, revising the Dublin system is a manageable task. We must have the political courage to embark together on the creation of a Common European Asylum System that is truly deserving of the name.

Sincerely

Hon. Carmelo Abela MP
Minister for Home Affairs and National Security