



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Minister's Office

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Nicosia, 23 August 2021

URGENT

Dear Vice-President.

Dear Margaritis,

Dear Commissioner,

Dear Ylva,

Following our recent discussion in the Home Affairs Council regarding the developments in Lithuania and Afghanistan and in view of the forthcoming new teleconference which I expect to be convened by the Slovenian Presidency to examine the Afghan crisis and the possibility of taking measures to prevent any eventual massive migratory flows towards the European Union, with this letter, I would like to formally submit the proposal I made during the extraordinary Ministerial teleconference on 18 August.

It is well understood that the EU must take all necessary actions to safeguard the security and integrity of citizens trying to escape the Taliban regime. However, it is also understood that due to the continuation of the flow of Syrian nationals and their instrumentalization by specific third countries, the EU should activate all available mechanisms to prevent any eventual mass migratory flow of Afghans.

Through our discussion, it appeared that there is a clear intention to show solidarity with Lithuania in a very specific way, which proves that there is a common belief that the EU is not in a position to absorb new, additional migratory flows.

Margaritis Schinas
EU Commission Vice-President
B-1049 Brussels

Ylva Johansson
EU Commissioner for Migration,
Home Affairs and Citizenship
B-1049 Brussels

- Increased budget support to Organizations operating onsite, such as the IOM and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, should be considered as a priority in order to establish adequate reception infrastructure for populations, in third countries.

In this way, the unquestionable right to security of the persons seeking to leave Afghanistan is ensured, while at the same time, the infrastructure of the countries that will, de facto, become transit countries is strengthened.

Moreover, this approach would be an important tool against migrant trafficking and the dismantling of networks. In addition, displaced populations will be able to return to their country of origin and reintegrate into local communities more effectively and immediately, when the circumstances will permit it.

Therefore, I believe that the EU should exhaust the scope for increasing the funding of these organizations, as well as of other partners who can contribute to the efforts to create the necessary infrastructure for the reception and accommodation of populations, in neighbouring areas. In consultation with all EU Directorates involved, in cooperation with the EEAS but also on the basis of relevant consultation with the Council, I believe that the above issue should be considered as a matter of immediate priority, so that the necessary procedures can be launched as soon as possible.

As I also mentioned when I intervened during our extraordinary teleconference, the EU cannot experience a new 2015. It is the EU's obligation to take all necessary actions to prevent such crises in order to safeguard the integrity of the asylum and reception systems of the Member States, at a time of particularly high geopolitical developments and challenges.

I am convinced that my above proposal will be considered immediately and will receive a positive response from all involved.



Nicos Nouris
Minister of Interior

- Copy to:
- Mr Nicos Christodoulides, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus
 - Mr Aleš Hojs, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia
 - Mr Filippo Grandi, UNHCR High Commissioner
 - Mr Antonio Vitorino, IOM Director General