



Jean-Claude JUNCKER
President of the European Commission

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Brussels, 20/04/16

Dear Prime Minister, *Mr Juncker,*

Thank you for your letter of 15 April 2016 and the Italian non-paper "Migration compact – Contribution to an EU strategy for external action on migration".

I very much welcome your initiative which confirms the need for a European approach to migration that I have advocated since my election as President of the Commission. This is precisely the approach set out in the European Agenda on Migration that the Commission adopted in May 2015 for improving the management of migration in all its aspects. As you will recall, the external part of the European Union action figures very prominently in the European Agenda on Migration.

Like you, I am convinced that only a stronger European approach in the current refugee crisis, which includes both internal and external EU policies, will help us to orderly manage migratory flows to Europe and to return to a fully functioning Schengen system in a spirit of enhanced solidarity. I am glad to see that we share the same agenda.

The European Union needs to manage its external borders together, provide safety for refugees in need of protection, offer legal ways for migrants to come to Europe and keep its internal borders open. In this context, I agree with you on the need to look at innovative means to finance our external action in the field of migration. This is precisely the objective of the EU-Africa Trust Fund, made up of €1.8 billion, which was agreed at the Valletta Summit in November 2015 and the aim of which is to complement and strengthen existing EU and Member States financial instruments. This Fund is able to finance projects aiming at addressing the root causes of irregular migration and promoting economic and equal opportunities, security and development, including infrastructure projects. It has already allowed for projects, represented with a total amount of more than €350 million, covering areas including job creation, better management of migration and security.

H.E. Mr Matteo RENZI
Prime Minister
Italy

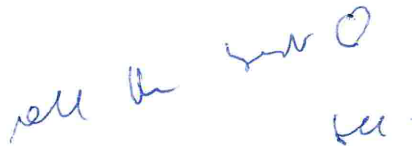
The political declaration agreed in the Valletta Summit confirmed also the principle of considering migration and mobility in the EU development strategies, programming and implementation. The European Council of 15 October 2015 tasked the Commission to "further increase leverage in the fields of return and readmission, using, where appropriate, the 'more-for-more' principle" (European Council conclusions, point 2q). The Commission has been working on implementing this principle by developing tailor made incentives to be used vis-à-vis third countries for the implementation of existing readmission agreements and concluding new ones.

The Commission will continue to work hard and to keep pushing for more Europe, more ambition and faster delivery in all aspects of the European Agenda on Migration, including its external aspects.

I have asked First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, in close consultation with High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini, to prepare a Communication on the State of Play of the external aspects of the European Agenda on Migration that could serve as a basis for our discussions during the next European Council of 28 and 29 June 2016.

I count on your continuous support and on working closely with you in this very important endeavour.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long horizontal line with a small loop at the end.A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jill" followed by a flourish and a small circle.