

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



MD-GLOBAL Human rights, Global and Multilateral issues
GLOBAL.4 Migration and Human Security

Brussels, 29/09/2016
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Subject: Reply to Ares(2016)1043875

Dear Mr Prifths,

Our Service has been asked to respond to your message on behalf of Mr. Juncker.

First of all, please accept our apologies for answering with such delay. We receive quite many letters from citizens and non-governmental organizations across Europe. So far this year, only our team has received over two hundred such messages. We do try to answer all of them but unfortunately it takes time.

I couldn't agree more with you on the need of the European Union – its institutions and Member States - to act in unity today. President Juncker spoke strongly about this in his State of the Union speech on 14 September 2016 (I attach a link to it at the end of this message).

In the time since you addressed your message to President Juncker, the European Union has moved quite fast ahead on migration management and many of these measures have already taken effect. Since March, we have worked to close the Balkan migratory route which has put such a great pressure on Greece. We addressed the limitations of the Frontex Agency, which you mention: it will be reinforced and enhanced and will transform in to a real European Border and Coast Guard. We are also re-thinking entirely the scale and nature of traditional development co-operation models. This new thinking will be supported by an ambitious External Investment Plan in order to mobilise investments in developing third countries, so that they get a real chance to build stable countries, with good prospects for life of their citizens instead of embarking on perilous journeys across the sea.

Thank you also for the arguments that you present regarding the role of NATO and Turkey in the migration crisis. These issues do deserve a serious public debate.

In the end, I would allow myself to suggest several Internet sources where you can find more information on the initiatives that the EU undertakes:

- <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/state-of-the-union-2016-pbNA0116205/?CatalogCategoryID=tgUKABst4kkAAAEjJ5EY4e5L>
- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2072_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/securing-eu-borders/fact-sheets/docs/a_european_border_and_coast_guard_en.pdf
- http://ec.europa.eu/echo/refugee-crisis_en

Thank you once again for your committed and critical interest in the European institutions and in the challenges we all face together.

Best regards,

Leonello GABRICI