

Commitments

made at the hearing of

DIMITRIS AVRAMOPOULOS

Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 30 September 2014 before the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), commissioner-designate Dimitris Avramopoulos made a number of commitments. They are summarised in this document¹.

Migration and Asylum

"The President-elect has made clear that establishing **a new European approach on legal migration** is a top priority."

"One of the early goals for my period in office ... will be to complete **a review of the Blue Card scheme**..."

"We need to set European rules so as to **clarify legal pathways for all categories of workers** that seek to reach the continent."

"And we need to step up the fight against those exploiting irregular migrants by ensuring **an effective enforcement of rules like the Directive on Sanctions against Employers** employing irregular migrants."

"I will also give a **high priority to the negotiations on the Directive on students and researchers**... in order to ensure they are **completed in 2015**."

"More generally, I would propose to undertake **a fitness check of the legal migration legislation in place**..."

"...ensuring **complete and consistent implementation of the Common European Asylum System** will also play a key part..."

"Based on the results of the **health check on the Dublin System**, I will analyse possible further steps."

"I am fully committed to encouraging Member States to host more refugees from third countries. **Resettlement of refugees** is one of the most tangible acts of generosity and solidarity."

"I will explore the idea of asylum applications being handled in **EU delegations in third countries (humanitarian visas and humanitarian corridors for refugees)**".

Borders

"...We need to make sure that **European Border Guard Teams are put into action** at the sections of our external borders with the highest pressure, with the participation of all Member States to become a rule."

"In addition, we need to look at the **feasibility and need for further reinforcing the Frontex Agency**."

"I commit to table **in 2015 new proposals on the smart borders package**."

Internal security

"There is an urgent **need to step up the fight against terrorism**, in particular by addressing **the issue of so-called foreign fighters**. ...I will work on **setting out operational measures**..."

"I pledge to reconsider (and possibly review) the current **Commission proposal on a European PNR system**, a (possible) valuable tool in the fight against terrorism."

"I will **consider a priority the full transposition and implementation of EU law** in the fields of the fight against organised crime, terrorism and corruption in the private sector, as well as in the area of exchange of available information..."

Data Retention

"The **judgement of the Court** sets out a number of **strict requirements** that will need **to be met by any possible new EU legislation** on data retention..."

"I will **examine the best options for the way forward** ... in an open dialogue with the European Parliament..."

Fundamental Rights

"The proposals that I will present to the co-legislators, either on migration or on home affairs, will **comply with the Charter of Fundamental Rights**."

Follow up to Legislative Initiative Reports

"I will... make sure that **the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests** made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, **within 3 months** after their adoption. ...the future Commission will be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports."

Equal Treatment of Legislators

"I am open to a regular dialogue in full transparency, **treating both co-legislators at equal footing.**"

Access to Information on Negotiations of International Agreements

"I intend to **keep the LIBE Committee fully informed** on the negotiations of the international agreements..."

Appearance before EP Bodies

"I am committed to establishing **a close and political cooperation with the European Parliament**, based on trust and mutual respect. I will be accountable to you and I wish to maintain **a regular, fruitful and constructive cooperation with the LIBE Committee.**"

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 30 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.



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