1. The Member States are responsible for processing the asylum applications lodged in their territory in accordance with EU and international law. The Commission has consistently maintained that external processing of asylum claims raises fundamental questions about both access to asylum procedures and effective access to protection. The Commission does not envisage concluding any agreements with Rwanda for the offshore processing of asylum applications.

2. The humanitarian situation of migrants is a key concern for the Commission. Respect for human dignity and fundamental rights is a core value of the EU, and the Commission is fully committed to respecting, protecting and defending this value, as well as ensuring that our Member States uphold these core principles. The 2020 Pact on Migration and Asylum places a strong emphasis on the obligations of Member States to guarantee the right of access to asylum procedures and to safeguard fundamental rights.

3. The Commission does not plan to negotiate any agreement with any third country that would lead to the offshore processing of asylum applications.