

The President

Ms Ellen Ueberschär
President of the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation

D 300960 15.02.2021

Mr Thierry Le Roy
President of France Terre d'Asile

Mr Cesare Zucconi
Secretary General of Sant'Egidio

Mr Ugo Melchionda
National spokesperson for Grei 250

TRANSMISSION BY E-MAIL: communication@france-terre-asile.org

Dear Ms Ueberschär, Mr Le Roy, Mr Zucconi and Mr Melchionda,

Thank you for your correspondence of last 10 December 2020, by which you sent me the "Rome Declaration on the new Pact for Asylum and Migration".

The European Parliament and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) in particular, has been working in a very committed way on the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) since the initial Commission proposals back in 2016 were issued and published. In the course of the work, in the positions the Parliament adopted and defended in the negotiations with the Council, the need for improvements in the legislation and for strict compliance with the European fundamental rights was always a main concern.

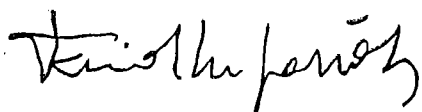
Soon after the adoption of the New Pact for Migration and Asylum, a High-level Conference on Asylum and Migration took place, under the auspices of the European Parliament and the German Bundestag, with national parliaments underlining our joint responsibilities.

As co-legislator in the reform of the CEAS, the European Parliament had already taken forward the Commission proposals of 2016, and for several legal instruments, provisional agreements with the Council have been reached. Parliament also developed its position for a fundamental revision of the so-called Dublin system based on the principle of solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibility. The Council of the European Union, unfortunately, has not been able to reach a common understanding in this regard and therefore negotiations on the revision of this legislative instrument, so important for the proper functioning of the CEAS, could not start in the previous legislature.

In that perspective, the European Parliament has great expectations with regard to the upcoming negotiations based on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. These should end the deadlock and allow for the adoption of legislation that will contribute to a better and comprehensive system, in full respect of fundamental rights. In that endeavour, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and in particular the rapporteurs and their negotiating teams, will develop the Parliament's approach and build on the input of civil society organisations, as they voice the concerns experienced on the ground, and reflect the valued views of our citizens involved. Furthermore, the European Parliament is committed to improving legal avenues into the European Union for work-related migration. Currently the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs is preparing a respective own-initiative report that is supposed to be the basis of a legislative own-initiative report with concrete proposals for legislative action for the European Commission.

I have transmitted the "Rome Declaration on the new Pact for Asylum and Migration" to the Chair of the relevant committee, Mr Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR, for further circulation among the Members, in support and as information to their work on the proposed legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Maria SASSOLI". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Maria SASSOLI