



European Council
Cabinet of the President

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Dear Mrs Roy,

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 2015 to the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, on the subject of migration and on the situation in the Mediterranean. Everyone of us has been touched by the recent tragedies and level of human suffering involved.

As you know, President Tusk called a special European Council on 23 April 2015 to mobilise the European Union, its Member States and its institutions, to act concretely and rapidly to prevent further loss of life at sea and to tackle the root causes of the human emergency that we face.

Saving the lives of innocent people is the European Union's immediate priority. At the meeting, the European Council could of course not solve everything or decide on all issues. But some real steps forward were taken. EU leaders agreed action in four main areas:

- 1) strengthening the EU presence at sea, with a view to saving more lives;
- 2) fighting the traffickers in accordance with international law;
- 3) preventing illegal migration flows through increased support to countries of origin and transit; and
- 4) reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility, including through a voluntary resettlement programme for refugees.

The EU and Member States are currently working on the full implementation of these orientations. On this basis, the issue will again be discussed at the June European Council to assess progress.

Yours sincerely,

Leila Brahimi
Member of Cabinet, President of the European Council

Heather Roy,
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