



MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr Xavier Bettel
Prime Minister of Luxembourg

Strasbourg, 29 October 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

The refugee and irregular migration crisis has been at the top of our European Union's agenda since its outset, with key actions having been identified by the EU institutions. Within the European Parliament, our political groups have expressed overwhelming support for the proposals outlined by the European Commission.

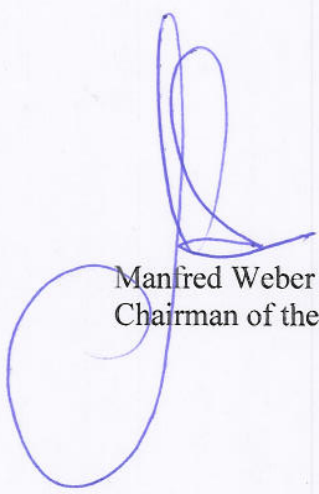
Given that the challenges posed by the migration crisis need to be addressed in close partnership by all countries concerned (of origin, transit and destination), in the run up to La Valletta summit, we believe it is essential to calibrate our efforts and step up our dialogue with the African Union and the key African countries. A common approach and shared responsibility with regard to critical issues impacting both Africa and Europe should be the basis for this strengthened dialogue.

As leaders of the political groups that support a comprehensive European response linking several areas of action, we encourage you to continue, in a constructive spirit, supporting our already agreed engagement with Africa through development cooperation and beyond, as a way to address the root causes of forced displacement and irregular migration in and from Africa. At the same time, we see a strong need to mobilise more expertise and funding to assist African governments that express an interest in cooperating with the EU, in particular with respect to ensuring better migration and border management, in full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the migrants, as well as improved protection and reception capacities. The "European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing the Root Causes of Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa", to be launched during the La Valletta Summit, is the right tool for achieving this objective. Finally, we need

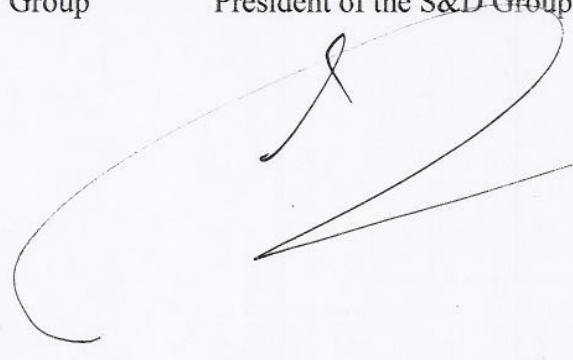
to unlock the untapped potential of the African continent: boosting socio-economic development, creating job opportunities, especially for youth, and expanding the education partnerships are some of the additional measures to be agreed on in La Valletta.

The Union cannot afford another failure or to lose time. We count on your support so that at the upcoming crucial Summit meeting a comprehensive solution will be embraced, reflecting Africa's well-deserved role as EU's partner.


Yours sincerely,



Manfred Weber MEP
Chairman of the EPP Group



Gianni Pittella MEP
President of the S&D Group



Guy Verhofstadt MEP
Leader of ALDE Group