



HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

A VICE PRESIDENT

Chairman of the Special Standing Committee on European Affairs,

Athens, 13 November 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Following the Greek parliamentary elections of July 2019, and the appointment of the new government, I have the honor, as of August 2019, to hold the offices of first Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament and Chairman of the Special Standing Committee on European Affairs.

In view of the LXII COSAC to be held in Helsinki in December- which, unfortunately, I will be unable to attend due to unavoidable commitments, I avail myself of the opportunity and address you this letter in order to draw your attention to the volatile migratory situation facing the EU and the urgent need to effectively respond to exceptional challenges ; at this crucial time, our common efforts are needed to make EU migration policy truly future-proof, effective and resilient.

In 2019, 92.000 refugees and migrants arrived in the EU, 55.000 of whom in Greece. The increasing influx of migrants/refugees to Eastern Mediterranean and particularly in Greece indicates EU-Turkey Statement failure to deliver desired results in limiting irregular sea crossings, while migratory pressure from Turkey and renewed armed hostilities in the north-east of Syria cause grave concern. The situation remains fragile while new migration challenges are on the rise together with longer term trends such as demography and climate change, all risking to further undermine the stability of the whole region, and giving no cause for complacency.

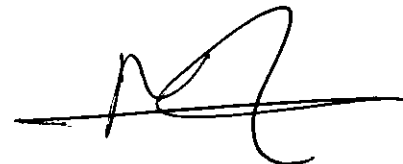
Recently the Finnish Presidency hosted an Interparliamentary Conference on Asylum and Immigration, bringing together Member

States' parliaments and the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament to discuss issues related to immigration, border control and asylum policy, also stressing the need of finding common solutions and working together to bring real results.

Migration has climbed up EU priorities. EU efforts to address the challenge of migration since the start of the crisis in 2015 and work so far need to be taken forward. Despite some progress achieved, there is no truly common and binding asylum procedure in the European Union as the establishment of the Common European Asylum System is still pending.

In light of the above, I would like to suggest this issue to be included in the agenda of the Zagreb LXIII COSAC . It is our duty and responsibility to join forces and work together for ensuring Europe's readiness to effectively respond to medium and long term future migratory challenges and putting in place a fair, more efficient and sustainable European migration governance and asylum system, respecting cohesion, solidarity and delivering results.

Hoping that my suggestion finds you in agreement, I would like to convey my best wishes for a fruitful and successful plenary meeting in Helsinki and express my sincere regret for not being able to join you in this event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line and a large, sweeping flourish.

Nikitas Kaklamanis

Ms Satu HASSI,

Chair of the Grand Committee, *Eduskunta*

Ms Gabriela CREȚU,

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, *Senat*

Mr Angel TÎLVĂR,

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, *Camera Deputaților,*

Mr Domagoj Ivan MILOSEVIC,

Chair of the European Affairs Committee, *Hrvatski sabor*

Ms Mairead McGUINNESS,

First Vice-President, European Parliament

Mr Antonio TAJANI,

Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament