

Brussels, June 24th, 2021

Dear Iratxe,

As you may know, the forthcoming European Council of 24-25 June is set to discuss a possible continuation of the financial support to Syrian refugees in Turkey.

The Commission will present possible options to the leaders and although the exact framing isn't known yet, the following points have been raised:

- The new financial package could be spread over the years 2021, 2022 and 2023: the amount for 2021 would be presented through a draft amending budget (DAB), while the one for 2022 would appear in the amending letter to the draft budget 2022;
- The magnitude of the proposed package could be of EUR 800 million (tbc) per year for each of the three years;
- The Commission might propose to leaders to indicate whether the Member States would wish to contribute to the proposed package or if the entire funding should come from the EU budget.

Of course, it is important for our Socialists and Democrats family to support displaced populations from Syria but we also believe that the following are key topics:

1. The question of human rights in Turkey and in particular the question of refugee's rights when they are kept outside the EU;
2. If the council decision is to take the refugee aid on EU's budget, it cannot be taken on development aid (global Europe);
3. And lastly if the council and the Commission decide to take this aid program for refugees on the EU budget we, EP, must be part of this discussion and we must use this as a bargaining and a way to insure that we obtain a pact on migration that takes into considerations our main demands (a true solidarity mechanism, safe and legal migration routes, the right to individual asylum in the EU and the setting up of a monitoring committee in charge of verifying that these resources will be invested for the protection and respect of human rights and improve the integration and living condition of refugees population.

We think that it is important for our SD group to raise our voice on this during the Council meeting.

Thanks a lot for your answer and your support.

**Pietro Bartolo** (Vice-President LIBE Committee)

**Maria Arena** (President Sub Committee on Human Rights)