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Brussels, 15/3/2024
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Dear Minister, *Lauri,*

The political agreement on the Pact on Migration and Asylum represents a historic achievement, demonstrating our unity and ability to build trust and find a common approach even on such a complex, multifaceted file. Once adopted, the Pact will equip the Union with the tools it needs for a fair, efficient, and sustainable management of migration.

Any legislation is only as good as its implementation, which is why it is essential to start preparing the ground for the effective operationalisation and implementation of the Pact. Our success in this matter will require the same dedication and engagement that we mustered to reach the agreement on the Pact. The Commission will play its leading role in the implementation process, ensuring full involvement of Member States and EU agencies in making this a success.

To this end, work has already started on the Common Implementation Plan that the Commission has to put forward, in line with the new legislation. A comprehensive, but targeted approach across all the Pact instruments will underlie our work, bringing together internal and external components, including on the prevention of irregular migration along the different routes. The Common Implementation Plan will ensure that we are adequately prepared by the entry into application of the Pact, notably by informing the development of each Member State's National Implementation Plan, due six months after the entry into force of the Pact.

The Common Implementation Plan will be developed in close cooperation with you and all the other Member States, through both targeted and joint consultations. This will allow us to build a shared understanding of the key building blocks and foundational concepts that will form the basis of this Plan. This structured dialogue and engagement will also be essential for identifying your specific funding needs and optimising the use of additional resources, including those resulting from the upcoming mid-term review of the Member States' AMIF and BMVI programmes, as well as from the recent revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027.

Mr Lauri LÄÄNEMETS
Minister of the Interior
Republic of Estonia

The Commission is working in close cooperation with the Belgian Presidency in this context, and I very much welcome the Presidency's intention to convene a Ministerial Conference on the Implementation and Operationalisation of the Pact on 29 April. The conference will be an occasion to take stock of our structured consultations and make progress towards a shared understanding of the building blocks and the key milestones for the Pact's implementation.

My services are ready to fully support you every step of the way. I asked them to establish country teams with a dedicated contact point for each Member State and to prepare a timeline for the next steps. You will soon receive a letter explaining all of this in detail and inviting you to also identify dedicated contact points on your side.

I am looking forward to working with you in this crucial next phase to make the Pact a reality.

Yours faithfully,

Ylva JOHANSSON