



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr Dimitris Avramopoulos
European Commissioner for
Migration, Home Affairs and
Citizenship

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email:
dimitris.avramopoulos@ec.europa.eu

Direct Tel: 0131-348-5234
(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)
Fax: 0131-348-5088
(Central) Textphone: 0131-348-5415
Email: europe@scottish.parliament.uk

16 October 2015

Dear Mr Avramopoulos,

Refugee crisis in the European Union

I am writing to you in relation to the evidence that the Scottish Parliament's European and External Relations Committee heard on 1 October when it held a roundtable evidence session on the refugee crisis in the European Union. I attach a link to the Official Report of the evidence [here](#).

The Committee found the evidence very compelling and moving. A number of issues were raised during the evidence in relation to both the scale of the situation and how Scotland, the UK and the EU could – and should - respond.

The Committee heard compelling evidence about the huge numbers of refugees arriving in the EU, the desperation that caused people to flee their homes and the often harrowing and dangerous journeys that they had endured. The Committee was very concerned about the lack of humanitarian relief available for people arriving in the EU, particularly the evidence from the witnesses who had recently visited the Greek island of Lesbos and found that there was no significant coordinated response either from international charities or the local authorities to the refugees arriving in Lesbos by sea. The Committee would therefore be grateful if you could provide it with more information on how the European Union is seeking to support refugees both through resettlement and immediate humanitarian support at their point of arrival in the EU. The Committee would also welcome an update on the provision of vessels in the Mediterranean to rescue those in boats that are risking dangerous journeys and the action being taken to tackle human traffickers exploiting desperate people.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina McKelvie". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Christina McKelvie

Convener

European and External Relations Committee