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## Member of the European Commission

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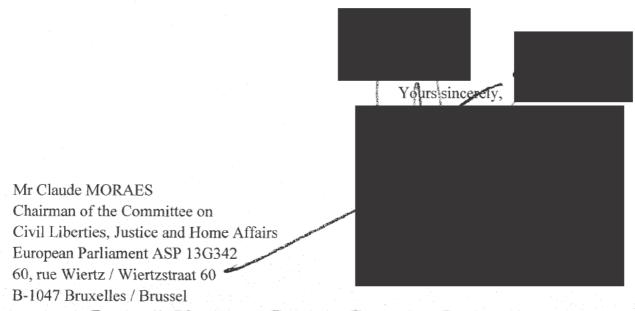
Dear Chairman,

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2014 inviting DG HOME to report further on the preparation of the national programmes under the Home Affairs Funds during the LIBE Committee meeting of 23-24 February. I can confirm that Ms Belinda Pyke, acting Director for Migration and Security Funds, will present the state of play of the preparation of the national programmes to your Committee.

In her presentation Ms Pyke will build on the previous sessions in which DG HOME has reported on the preparation of the national programmes and include information on the most recently submitted draft programmes. It is important to bear in mind that the process of the preparation of national programmes is still under way and that the adoption of the first set of the programmes is not foreseen before the end of March.

One of the key areas of focus in the examination of the draft national programmes is ensuring full respect of the minimum percentages for the allocation of the funds to the specific objectives. In exceptional cases of deviation from these minimum percentages by a Member State, the justification for the deviation is carefully scrutinized. In order to allow for a meaningful and well-informed debate on the preparation of the national programmes, my services will provide a background note with information on the minimum percentages and country-specific data ahead of the meeting, as per your request.

I wish you a fruitful debate and thank you for closely following this important matter.



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