Council of the European Union

Brussels, 9 December 2015
(OR. en)

15110/15

Interinstitutional Files:
2015/0208 (COD)
2015/0211 (COD)

ASIM 169
COWEB 147
CODEC 1684

COVER NOTE

From:	Committee of Regions
date of receipt:	8 December 2015
To:	General Secretariat of the Council
No. prev. doc.:	ST 12811/15, ST 12810/15
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a crisis relocation mechanism and amending Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third country national or a stateless person Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, and amending Directive 2013/32/EU

Delegations will find attached the letter form the Committee of the Regions on the above mentioned subjects.

Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs

The Chair

EUROPEAN UNION

Committee of the Regions

Brussels, 27.11.15 01668

FD/ST/KS/ek/D(2015)2376

SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE
SGE15/11645
Reçu le 08 -12- 2015
DEST. PRINC.
DEST. COPISTES

Mr Jim Cloos
Deputy Director-General
General Secretariat
European Council
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 175
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel

Dear Mr Cloos,

I would like to thank you for your letters dated 21 October 2015 by which you consulted the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on the following documents:

1. *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, and amending Directive 2013/32/EU - (COM(2015)0452 - 2015/0211 (COD))*

2. *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a crisis relocation mechanism and amending Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third country national or a stateless person - (COM(2015)0450 - 2015/0208 (COD))*

Following careful consideration of both dossiers in the meeting of the CIVEX commission on 16 November 2015, the CoR has decided not to elaborate a specific opinion on these two files.

Both proposals analyse and suggest amendments to topics that are of great interest to the CoR. However, the planning of the CoR commission meetings and plenary sessions did not allow the CoR to deliver a new opinion on the above mentioned proposals within a suitable timeframe and before the procedures in the Council and European Parliament on these proposals are completed. In addition, certain aspects of the proposals in question have been considered in the opinion on the "European Agenda on Migration" that the CIVEX commission adopted on 14 September and that the CoR plenary is going to adopt on 3 December 2015.

The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 — 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel — BELGIQUE/BELGIË — Tel. +32 2 282 22 11 — Fax +32 2 282 23 25

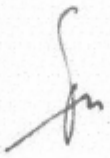
In particular, the CoR has welcomed the Council decisions on relocation. Relocation could be an effective means of solving the problem of uneven distribution of asylum-seekers and refugees between states and between and within regions. Indeed, relocation is the only way to prevent areas along migration routes from being overwhelmed by the size of migrant communities. Therefore, the CoR has called for increased efforts at European level to reach an agreement on the criteria for and implementation of a sustainable and fair system for distributing asylum seekers and refugees between the Member States.

Furthermore, local and regional authorities have first-hand experience of the situation and therefore should be more actively included in the process of relocation through cooperation with both the EU and national authorities.

The CoR also welcomes the proposal establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin as it has already called for an agreement on this issue in order that common standards are guaranteed at EU level in the processing of asylum applications from the countries affected.

Further elements of the two legislative proposals that are relevant for the local and regional authorities could still be considered in the opinion on the "European Agenda on Migration". Upon adoption in the CoR Plenary, the opinion will of course be communicated to all European Institutions and I hope that the position of the Committee of the Regions will be taken into consideration in these issues that have a major impact on cities and regions.

Yours sincerely,



François DECOSTER