



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*



Berlin/Rome/Paris, September 2015

Dear Federica,

Europe as a whole is confronted with the unprecedented challenge of increasing migration flows. The number of people seeking refuge in the European Union from civil wars, terrorism, humanitarian crises or economic distress is continuing to rise.

It is thus of the utmost importance that the Foreign Ministers hold a broad political debate on this matter during our informal Gymnich meeting on 4 and 5 September. The European Union must strengthen its common response to this historic challenge.

We must make use of all the policy instruments at our disposal to deal with this unparalleled crisis. In the enclosed non-paper we have outlined suggestions for a strengthened European migration policy based on an integrated policy approach focused on both the internal and the external dimensions of migration. With regard to the latter, our common foreign and security policy must prove that it is equal to the task when it comes to tackling the root causes of migration in the countries of origin and the situation in the countries of transit.

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Her Excellency Federica MOGHERINI  
High Representative of the Union  
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
Vice-President of the European Commission

In view of the conclusion of our last Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 20 July, we are confident that the enclosed non-paper will be of help in the development of appropriate policy proposals by the European External Action Service and the European Commission.

To further pursue this integrated policy approach, we propose that the Foreign Ministers prepare the next European Council meeting together with the Interior Ministers.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.



Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier  
Federal Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of the Federal Republic  
of Germany



Paolo Gentiloni  
Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of the Republic  
of Italy



Laurent Fabius  
Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of the French  
Republic