



Jean-Claude JUNCKER
President of the European Commission

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 16. 03. 2016
Ares (2015) 6000476

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

I would like to thank you very much for your letter of 17 December 2015, in which you remarked positively on the efforts of the Commission in the continuing response to the refugee crisis, as well as the concerns you raised with regard to the availability of information about the national programmes under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund on the public websites of the Member States' national authorities. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying.

I have taken note of your concerns and fully agree that we need to be as transparent as possible in how European Funds are managed and awarded, whether this is for the benefit of private actors or national governments. I would also like to reassure you that the respect for Fundamental Rights is the first concern in shaping any of our policies, including those that directly affect asylum seekers and resettled persons, and regardless of whether this is in the context of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) or the Internal Security Fund (ISF). I would like to reassure you that the Commission has done everything necessary with regard to this matter.

The Commission can confirm that relevant information pertaining to the AMIF National Programmes is indeed available on the respective websites of each Member State which are fully accessible to the public. Member States must comply with EU legislation, and have therefore – at the Commission's urging – published the details of the National Programmes, as required by Regulation 514/2014, Article 53(1) (a) of which provides that “Member States and Responsible Authorities shall be responsible for: (a) a website or a website portal providing [...] access to the national programmes in that Member State.”

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Ms Emily O'REILLY
European Ombudsman

E-mail: eo@ombudsman.europa.eu

The Commission, as Guardian of the Treaties, will ensure swift and active follow-up where there is evidence that a Member State has not applied the legal framework, and will also ensure full compliance with EU legislation and the respect for Fundamental Rights of asylum seekers and resettled persons.

I would like to thank you for the initiatives that you have taken as I, like you, believe that accountability is key to the proper functioning of a political and more importantly – democratic – European Union.

Yours sincerely,