

LOUIS MICHEL

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

06. 03. 2007

Brussels,

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Dear Ms Gomes,

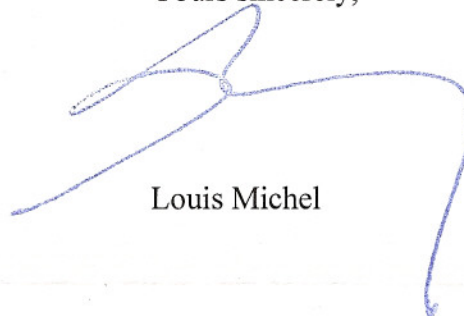
Thank you for your message of 8 February conveying to me and to my colleague Benita Ferrero-Waldner the case of four former members of the Ethiopian Parliament, who escaped to Kenya and who are applying for refugee status to the UNHCR. I deeply deplore the situation which brought the four Ethiopian MPs to flee their country.

From a formal point of view, you were of course right to contact the UNHCR with respect to the status of the MPs and it would be a matter for E.U. Member States or other states to accord them the right to enter and stay consistent with refugee status. I further deplore the idea that any fugitive or refugee should be attacked, and that the country they are in does not protect them.

As you are aware, I am profoundly concerned about the political situation in Ethiopia and a peaceful solution of the crisis, including a genuine dialogue with the opposition, is permanently on my agenda. In line with this objective, I am unstinting in my efforts to encourage Ethiopia to rebuild confidence and mutual trust between government and opposition.

I have informed the Delegation of the Commission in Kenya and in Ethiopia so that they be fully appraised of this situation.

Yours sincerely,



Louis Michel

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c.c. Mr T. Clarke, Delegation Addis Ababa  
Mr E. Van Der Linden, Delegation Nairobi  
High Commissioner Mr António Guterres, UNHCR

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