

Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS
Member of the European Commission

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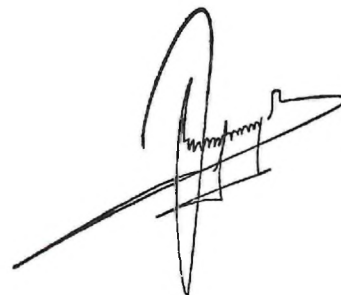
Dear Ms Gomes,

Also on behalf of First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, I would like to thank you for your messages of 19 June and 22 June 2018 and the transmission of a “summary of the assertions, evidence and testimony relating to the allegations” about a high number of short stay visas that allegedly would have been fraudulently issued in 2015 and 2016 to Libyan nationals by the Maltese authorities for the purpose of medical treatment.

I am afraid I can only confirm what I wrote in my letter of 4 May 2018 on this issue, where I explained that the Commission has no competence to intervene in individual investigations in a Member State and that it is for the competent national authorities to investigate such allegations. I understand from your latest messages that the issue has now been referred to the competent national courts and you will appreciate that I cannot comment on pending cases.

In my earlier letter I also referred to the Commission's assessment of Member States' anti-corruption general policy landscape in the framework of the European Semester. Please rest assured that the Commission will carefully assess the measures to be put in place by Malta to address the 2018's recommendations in the 2019 European Semester country report for Malta.

Yours sincerely,



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