

Brussels, 28 NOV. 2018  
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Ms Ana Gomes MEP  
European Parliament  
Brussels

*Dear Ana,*

I would like to thank you for your letter of 10 October regarding Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia.

I fully share your concerns regarding the situation of these returnees. The EU, via DG ECHO, has been providing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable of them, through food, non-food item kits, and onward transportation costs. We have raised these concerns with the authorities of Saudi Arabia in May 2018.

More broadly, the EU supports programmes aiming at enhancing protection for migrants and at supporting return and reintegration of stranded migrants. We have assisted Ethiopia's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to develop a sound migration policy respectful of the rights of migrants, including through the development of appropriate legislation. We are equally funding a regional facility for the return and reintegration of migrants from the Horn of Africa stranded overseas via the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

In the context of the EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement, we have also launched a sectoral dialogue on migration on 16 November, where we discussed issues of joint concern including the situation of returnees from Saudi Arabia. We indeed agree with you that sustainable solutions must be found.

As you mention the ongoing political transition in Ethiopia, I would like to thank you for your determined engagement and commitment to promote democracy and human rights in Ethiopia these past years. As noted by my services on 11 July during the event you co-hosted at the European Parliament on the transition in Ethiopia, the EU remains ready to support these reforms, including the political dialogue, the revision of relevant legislations, opening up the political space, support to civil society, as well as economic reforms to facilitate the work of businesses as well as job creation.

My services will be asked to arrange for a meeting with you and your team to discuss the ongoing political transition in Ethiopia and how the EU can best support the process.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini