On Supporting the Competitiveness Compass and a Robust Migration Policy

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The European Commission affirms its resolve and commitment in addressing the EU's continued economic challenges through the Competitiveness Compass framework and in strengthening, through common solidarity, our response to irregular migration of peoples to the Community.

Contending with slow, fragile growth, persistent inflation driven by energy shocks, and other economic obstacles, the Commission reaffirms its commitment to establishing the Competitiveness Compass as a framework to attain continued, sustainable economic growth that preserves the Single Market's competitive role in the global economy. Additionally, the Commission, while acknowledging the recent progress that the EU and its Member States have achieved with respect to processing and integrating migrants, including asylum applicants and irregular border crossers, into our communities, recognizes the necessity for continued enhancement of these efforts to ensure a fair, just migration policy.

Thus, we are committed to working with Member States to ensure a coordinated response, including consideration of national emergency measures that utilize all available EU resources to ensure financial and material stability of our citizens. We also maintain our conviction to marshal the full power of this Union to address ongoing foreign policy issues that are critical to preserving EU security and maintaining the rules-based international order. **To address this broad range of policy matters, the following stipulations are proffered for collective consideration:**

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the EU has consistently sought to deepen integration among Member States and declare our shared commitment to promoting democratic principles, the following should be taken into account:

1. That we are a broad, diverse community historically divided by conflict and misgivings for centuries, now dedicated to jointly overcoming strategic challenges.
2. That the EU is a Union that stands for human freedom, democratic principles, the rule of law, and the upholding of fundamental rights.
3. That closer integration between Member States will strengthen our shared values and create greater benefits for our citizens and Community.
4. That our Union will continue to build economic, political, and social partnerships that enhance Europeans' standard of living and reinforce the EU's global influence.
5. That our community understands the need to adopt policies that position Europe to withstand future economic or political crises through sound economic reforms, responsible foreign policies, and technological cooperation.

Enhancing Europe's Sustainable Economic Prosperity

Establishing the Competitiveness Compass

WHEREAS Slowing productivity, demographic challenges, rising energy costs, and increased global competition are putting pressure on Europe's long-term prosperity. At the same time, the green and digital transitions demand unprecedented levels of investment and innovation.

WHEREAS The EU must tackle longstanding barriers and structural weaknesses that hold it back. For over two decades, Europe has not kept pace with other major economies, due to a persistent gap in productivity growth. The EU has fallen behind the US in advanced technologies, while China has caught up in many sectors, and is winning the race for leadership in new growth areas.

WHEREAS if Europe does not increase its productivity, it risks being stuck on a low-growth path, with less income for the employed, less welfare for the disadvantaged and less opportunities for all. Europe faces a world of great power rivalry, competition for technological supremacy, and a scramble for control over resources. In this world, Europe's competitiveness and what Europe stands for are inseparable.

WHEREAS our freedom, security and autonomy will depend more than ever on our ability to innovate, compete and grow. These will be the keys to funding the EU's technological and energy transitions. They will ensure that our distinctive social model remains sustainable. And they will provide the resources for Europe to guarantee its security and play a global role in foreign affairs. It is vital to create the conditions for businesses to thrive and where everyone has an equal chance of success.

WHEREAS to safeguard and boost Europe's competitiveness, also vis-à-vis other global actors, prosperity, and fairness, we must take decisive action. This starts with making business easier and faster, and deepening our single market across all sectors. The Competitiveness Compass builds on the analysis of Mario Draghi's report on the future of European competitiveness. The Draghi report identifies three necessities for the EU to boost its competitiveness: 1) Closing the innovation gap, 2) Decarbonising our economy, and 3) Reducing dependencies.

WHEREAS To complement these three pillars, the Competitiveness Compass introduces five horizontal enablers to increase our competitiveness across all sectors: 1) Simplify EU rules to create a favorable business environment where European companies can thrive; 2) A horizontal single market strategy to modernize the single market's rules, removing barriers and preventing the creation of new ones; 3) A savings and investments union to create new savings and investment products, provide incentives for risk capital, and ensure investments flow seamlessly across the EU; 4) A union of skills program to ensure high quality education, training and lifelong learning to fill the skills and labor gaps; 5) A competitiveness coordination tool (CCT) to develop and strengthen strategic industrial value chains with EU added value across EU countries, to build a more competitive, prosperous and independent Europe.

Closing the Innovation Gap

WHEREAS to close the innovation gap, the Commission through the Competitiveness Compass calls for prioritizing: 1) Creating a friendly environment for young companies to start and expand, with a dedicated EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy; 2) Assisting big companies with their adoption of new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics through the Apply AI Strategy; 3) Making it easier for companies to operate across the EU by simplifying rules and laws, with a proposal for a 28th legal regime to guarantee one set of rules across the EU, including the EU Inc. company form; 4) Supporting the development of new technologies, with action plans for quantum, advanced materials, biotech, robotics and space technologies.

WHEREAS Since 2007, EU-funded startups developing cutting-edge technologies have raised over EUR 70 billion in venture capital and generated over EUR 500 billion in enterprise value. The European Innovation Council (EIC), launched in 2018 with a EUR 10.1 billion budget, supports disruptive innovations from research to scaling. Today, the EIC Fund is one of the largest deep-tech venture capital funds in the EU, aiming to raise up to EUR 20 billion for startups by 2027.

WHEREAS InvestEU, the EU's largest program for supporting companies at all development stages, complements this by fostering seed capital, growth, scale-up, manufacturing and deployment. Through partners like the European Investment Fund, InvestEU is key to developing Europe's venture capital ecosystem, while the European Tech Champions Initiative has successfully pooled public funds to support European VC funds.

WHEREAS the European Commission has launched an EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy to make Europe a great place for starting and growing global technology-driven companies. Startups and scaleups drive innovation and sustainable growth, create high-quality jobs, attract investment and reduce strategic dependencies. However, too many still struggle to take ideas from lab to market or grow at scale within the EU. The strategy addresses these challenges by supporting them throughout their lifecycle and identifying their key needs. It puts forward a set of actions the Commission will undertake in 5 main areas: 1) Fostering an innovation-friendly environment; 2) Driving better financing; 3) Supporting market uptake and expansion; 4) Attracting and retaining top talent; 5) Facilitating access to infrastructure, networks and services.

WHEREAS the strategy seeks to shift the European economy towards a more entrepreneurial, innovative model. It aims to create a dynamic ecosystem where bold vision and calculated risk-taking are encouraged, and failure is seen as a necessary step to progress. The strategy will drive policy and regulatory changes across the EU, with the Commission leading by example. The aim is to pave the way for a next generation of European startups, centaurs and unicorns who have the potential to develop into global tech leaders.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 1 The Commission calls for Member States to submit policy proposals for the Commission to consider towards reducing regulatory burdens with the Single Market in strategic sectors, such as with the EU Biotech Act, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, the EU Life Science Strategy, the Advanced Materials Act, the Medical Devices Regulation, and the Omnibus Defence Simplification Package.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 2 The Commission proposes the creation of a voluntary ‘Innovation Stress Test’ for Member States, consisting of recommendations for Member States to systematically assess the potential impact on innovation when preparing new or revised national legislation. We call on the Member States to establish the parameters for the ‘Innovation Stress Test’. These parameters should focus on strategic sectors, such as with the EU Biotech Act, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, the EU Life Science Strategy, the Advanced Materials Act, the Medical Devices Regulation, and the Omnibus Defence Simplification Package, and determine the scale, metrics, and goals that will be the focus of the ‘Innovation Stress Test’.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 3 The Commission calls for Member States to consider an expansion on the European Innovation Council to increase its focus on challenge-driven, staged funding for high-risk innovations by introducing more ARPA-like processes. It will also expand its Trusted Investor Network and better engage with EU centaurs and unicorns for policy feedback. Consider the details of the measure's implementation, the amount of funds available for disbursement, the criteria used to calculate the aid, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation in the Single Market.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 4 The Commission calls for the creation of the Scaleup Europe Fund. This fund will work with private investors to deploy, as part of the EIC Fund, a market-based, privately managed and privately co-financed Scaleup Europe Fund, with a focused investment strategy aimed at bridging the financing gap of deep tech scaleup companies. The Scaleup Europe Fund will mobilize significant private funds and make direct equity investments in strategic sectors, to contribute to Europe's technological sovereignty and economic security. Consider the details of the Scaleup Europe Fund's implementation, the amount of funds available for disbursement, the criteria used to calculate the aid, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation in the Single Market.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 5 In the context of the European Innovation Act, complementing the above, the Commission seeks ways to increase total investments in public and private innovation procurement across Europe that 1) Provide a fast-track procedure for public procurement of R&D services that fall outside of the EU public procurement directives, including pre-commercial procurements and 2) Incentivize innovation-minded sourcing strategies for private procurers. The Commission calls for Member States to submit policy proposals that achieve the goal of increasing total investments in public and private innovation procurement across Europe. Consider the amount of funds available for the investments, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation in the Single Market.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 6 The Commission seeks to actively promote and further strengthen entrepreneurial education and upskilling, including through the EIT, promoting gender balanced and diverse participation. We call on the Member States to develop a blueprint for an academic career development framework that rewards research commercialization activities, including transitioning from university to industry and back, such as in the academic staff evaluation and promotion criteria, as part of the Competence framework of academic staff announced in the Union of Skills.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 7 The Commission, recognizing that successful innovation relies on access to highly skilled talent, calls on Member States to develop an EU Visa Strategy which will include measures to better attract highly skilled students, researchers, entrepreneurs and trained workers from third countries to come to the EU, for example by making the most of the Students and Researchers Directive and the Blue Card Directive in particular for startup founders. The EU Visa Strategy needs to additionally consider a fast-track scheme allowing eligible startup founders to obtain a residence and work permit under simplified and expedited procedures.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 8 The Commission accepts additional proposals held in agreement by the Member States that achieve the common Community goal of closing the innovation gap.

Decarbonizing our Economy

WHEREAS to decarbonize the economy, the Competitiveness Compass highlights the need to support clean and affordable energy through: 1) Putting forward the Clean Industrial Deal, to help reduce carbon emissions, especially for energy intensive companies, and facilitate their transition to low carbon technologies; 2) Presenting tailor-made action plans for energy intensive sectors, such as chemicals, steel and metals, which are the most vulnerable at this phase of the transition; 3) Developing an affordable energy action plan to help bring down energy prices and costs.

WHEREAS faced with high energy costs and fierce global competition, European industries need urgent support. The Clean Industrial Deal launched on 26 February 2025 outlines concrete actions to turn decarbonization into a driver of growth for European industries. This includes lowering energy prices, creating quality jobs and the right conditions for companies to thrive. The Deal presents measures to boost every stage of production, with a focus on energy-intensive industries such as steel, metals, and chemicals and the clean-tech sector.

WHEREAS affordable energy is the foundation of competitiveness. To lower energy bills for industries, businesses and households, while promoting the transition to a low-carbon economy, the Commission adopted the affordable energy action plan to 1) Speed up the roll-out of clean energy, accelerating electrification, 2) Complete the internal energy market with physical interconnections, and 3) Use energy more efficiently and cut dependence on imported fossil fuels.

WHEREAS in March 2026, the Commission presented the Industrial Accelerator Act, to increase demand for low-carbon, European-made technologies and products. The act introduces "Made in EU" and low-carbon requirements for public procurement and public support schemes in key strategic sectors. It also sets conditions for investments of at least €100 million by companies from a non-EU country that controls more than 40% of global manufacturing capacity in areas such as electric vehicles, batteries, solar, and critical raw materials. To qualify, such investments must create high-quality jobs, drive innovation and growth, generate real value in the EU, and comply with local content requirements.

WHEREAS the Clean Industrial Deal will mobilize over €100 billion to support EU-made clean manufacturing. The Commission has already: 1) Launched a dedicated call under Horizon Europe worth €450 million to stimulate research and innovation in these areas; 2) Adopted a new Clean Industrial Deal state aid framework to speed up the approval of state aid for renewable energy, industrial decarbonization and clean tech manufacturing capacity; 3) Amended the InvestEU Regulation to increase the amount of financial guarantees that InvestEU can provide to support investments. This will in turn mobilize up to €50 billion for the deployment of clean tech, clean mobility and waste reduction.

WHEREAS critical raw materials are key for our industry. The EU needs to secure access to such materials and reduce dependence on unreliable suppliers. Integrating circularity in our decarbonization strategy is crucial to making the most of the EU’s limited resources. The Commission will: 1) Set up a mechanism enabling European companies to come together and aggregate their demand for critical raw materials; 2) Create an EU critical raw material center to jointly purchase raw materials on behalf of interested companies which will create economies of scale and offer more leverage to negotiate better prices and conditions; 3) Adopt a circular economy act in 2026 to accelerate the circular transition and ensure that scarce materials are used and reused efficiently, reduce our global dependencies and create high-quality jobs. The aim is to have 24% of materials circular by 2030.

WHEREAS the EU needs reliable global partners more than ever. In addition to ongoing and new trade agreements, the Commission: 1) Strengthened the carbon border adjustment mechanism, the EU's tool to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods; 2) Put forward the new EU global climate and energy vision outlining how the EU can shape a clean and resilient global transition; 3) Launched Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships to diversify supply chains and forge mutually beneficial deals; the first such partnership being with South Africa.

WHEREAS The EU's workforce must have the necessary skills to support the transition to a low-carbon economy, including skills in clean technologies, digitalization, and entrepreneurship. The Commission established a union of skills that invests in workers, develops skills and creates quality jobs. Erasmus+ will reinforce education and training programs to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce, and address skills shortages in key sectors, with up to €90 million in funding.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 9 The Commission calls for a set of guiding principles to assist Member States when introducing and designing tax incentives to contribute to the objectives of the Clean Industrial Deal. It aims to support clean investment, i.e. investment in manufacturing capacity in clean technologies, demand for clean technologies, and decarbonization of industry, as part of a broader, evolving policy mix. The Commission asks the Member States to determine the extent and metrics regarding tax incentives to support clean investment. When introducing tax incentives aimed at contributing to the objectives of the Clean Industrial Deal, Member States are strongly encouraged to design such incentives with due consideration of the main principles underlying the judicious and cost-effective use of tax incentives within a sound and efficient tax system. The scope, type and design of tax incentives advocated must be aligned with the principle that tax incentives should be cost-effective, well targeted, simple for companies and administrations to understand and use, not applicable to investments in fossil fuel infrastructure and/or machinery that consumes fossil fuels and provide certain and timely support to companies making clean investment decisions.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 10 The Commission calls for Member States to recommend tax relief in the form of a tax credit for investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or improve the energy efficiency of industrial activities, particularly for companies implementing and disclosing corporate transition plans aligned with the European Climate Law. Consider the extent of tax credits for investments, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation in the Single Market.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 11 The Commission calls on the Member States to consider tax incentives and other financial assistance packages that aim to combine different renewable technologies, including innovative forms of deployment and innovative renewable energy technologies, on the same site, including offshore. This is known as hybridization. Hybridization utilizes the complementary nature of different renewable energy sources, resulting in a more efficient, reliable and stable power system.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 12 The Commission calls on the Member States to develop support schemes for offshore renewable energy deployment in a way that encourages the participation of all relevant innovative forms of deployment and innovative renewable energy technologies, including offshore floating wind, ocean energy and offshore floating solar, while considering the potential for synergies between technologies. Consider the extent of the schemes, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation in the Single Market.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 13 The Commission calls on the Member States to design support packages to support the development of agrisolar with specific policies through their common agricultural policy strategic plans. They should also establish eligibility conditions for the granting of income support that allows farmers to benefit from it when having agrisolar installations. Consider the extent of the packages, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation in the Single Market.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 14 The Commission calls on the Member States to devise schemes for the installation of solar energy in buildings under Article 10 of Directive (EU) 2024/1275 of the European Parliament and of the Council; Member States should promote the deployment of building-integrated solar in the framework of public procurement of solar energy products through the application of non-price criteria. Consider the extent of the schemes, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation in the Single Market.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 15 As grid and storage infrastructure is necessary for integrating renewable energy into the electricity system of the EU, the Commission calls on Member States to decide on a set of investment packages to expand grid and storage infrastructure in their territories. Consider the extent of the packages, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation in the Single Market.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 16 To achieve the Commission's goal for the Circular Economy Act, we recognize the need to accelerate the circular transition and ensure that scarce materials are used and reused efficiently, reduce our global dependencies and create high-quality jobs. The Commission calls for the Member States to commit their economies to be 24% of materials circular by 2030 and affirm a set of goals for the following five-year period.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 17 The Commission accepts additional proposals held in agreement by the Member States that achieve the common Community goal of decarbonizing the economy.

Reducing Dependencies

WHEREAS the Competitiveness Compass identifies how the EU can further diversify and strengthen our supply chains and reduce dependencies by 1) Developing a new range of clean trade and investment partnerships to help secure supply of raw materials, clean energy, sustainable transport fuels, and clean tech from across the world; 2) Reviewing the public procurement rules to allow for the introduction of a European preference in public procurement for critical sectors and technologies.

WHEREAS trade with third countries is a key driver for Europe's prosperity. Today, external trade in goods and services accounts already for a major share of the EU's GDP. In 2023, transatlantic trade between the EU and the US exceeded EUR 1.5 trillion; together the EU and the US represent almost 30% of global trade. Looking ahead, 90% of global economic growth is projected to take place outside Europe's borders. A high degree of trade openness is therefore crucial, not only for sustaining Europe's prosperity, but also for enhancing its resilience.

WHEREAS the EU's ability to diversify and reduce dependencies will hinge on effective partnerships. The EU already has the largest and fastest growing network of trade agreements in the world covering 76 countries that account for almost half of the EU's trade. We are the number one trading partner for 72 countries that represent 38% of world GDP. We are also mobilizing Global Gateway investment packages across the globe in key areas intertwining Europe's economic interests with those of its partners.

WHEREAS the conclusion of negotiations of the EU-Mercosur Agreement and the modernisation of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement show how mutually beneficial trade can go hand in hand with creating a level playing field and reciprocity and increasing economic security. The EU will continue to work closely with partners to continue expanding its vast network of trade agreements, opening up market access for European companies, securing greater reciprocity, while promoting open rules-based global trade governed by a modernized WTO.

WHEREAS the EU needs to continue adapting its offer and seeking new ways of deepening partnerships and creating benefits for our businesses, from Digital Trade Agreements and Mutual Recognition Agreements to Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreements. Our new Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships will bring together targeted trade and investment rules, Global Gateway investments, and regulatory cooperation, into a single whole-of-government partnership. They offer opportunities to secure supply of raw materials, clean energy, sustainable transport fuels, and clean tech from across the world, while scaling up European sustainable investments that are beneficial to partner countries and achieving the global energy targets.

WHEREAS the vision reaffirms the EU's commitment to a rules-based international order. The EU's message to global partners is clear: we are working to fulfil the goals in the Paris Agreement; we are a reliable partner that plays by the rules; and we are open for business and cooperation.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 18 To protect European industry from geopolitical and price shocks, the European Critical Raw Materials Center seeks to diversify and strengthen the supply chains, using the Raw Materials Platform to aggregate demand, jointly purchase strategic raw materials and secure offtake agreements, and develop a coordinated EU approach to stockpiling critical raw materials. The Commission calls on Member States to submit policy proposals for the European Critical Raw Materials Center, signaling a common declaration to the Commission on their needs to diversify and strengthen supply chains in the Single Market and establishing a set of metrics and other goals for the stockpiling of critical raw materials.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 19 The Commission, seeking ways of deepening partnerships and creating benefits for our businesses, calls for Member States to propose a set of guidelines for the use of Global Gateway investments to facilitate partnerships with third countries. The guidelines should signal clear goals for the use of the Global Gateway funds, with a focus on procuring strategic raw materials while affirming our common commitment to the Paris Agreement, and the amount of funding to be made available through the Global Gateway for the initiative.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 20 The Commission accepts additional proposals held in agreement by the Member States that achieve the common Community goal of reducing dependencies.

European Asylum and Migration Management

WHEREAS the Commission and the Member States have been working closely together to reduce illegal migration and improve migration management. The combination of the reforms brought by the Pact on Migration and Asylum (the Pact) balancing solidarity and responsibility, an assertive migration diplomacy, and effective operational cooperation within and outside the Union is showing results, notably with a gradual reduction in illegal arrivals since 2023.

WHEREAS to further reinforce an assertive migration diplomacy that promotes the EU's interests, the Commission, together with Member States, will increase cooperation with international partners by: 1) Promoting comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships that ensure effective and rights-based cooperation on migration; 2) Using incentives and leverage across sectors and policy areas, such as visa policy, trade and financial support; 3) Implementing a whole-of-route approach that helps partners to build resilient and humane migration and asylum frameworks, including by providing protection closer to countries of origin; 4) Further stepping up the global fight against migrant smuggling to prevent dangerous journeys, including through the reinforced Global Alliance, new tools to track digital and illicit financial activities, and a new sanctions regime; 5) Promoting pathways to protection and supporting returns from third countries, to help reduce pressure on partners and shield them from the abuses of smugglers.

WHEREAS strong EU borders that ensure effective control over who enters the Union are key for the EU's migration policy and for the Schengen area. To sustain and further the progress made so far, the EU will: 1) Deliver the world's most advanced digital border management system, with the roll-out of the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the launch of the new European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS); 2) Screen all illegal arrivals and apply the border procedure at the external borders under the Pact as of June 2026; 3) Further strengthen the role of Frontex with a revision of its founding regulation.

WHEREAS the Pact on Migration and Asylum ensures stronger external border protection, strict rules against abuse and a balance between responsibility and solidarity. Its implementation, operationalization and further development will require a continued focus in the coming years. This includes: 1) Assisting national authorities in implementing the new rules with dedicated Commission country teams, and additional EUR 3 billion of funding to set up efficient procedures and better prevent unauthorized secondary movements; 2) Following the adoption of the first Solidarity Pool, ensuring continued solidarity for Member States under pressure; 3) Further strengthening and complementing the Pact to adapt to new challenges, e.g. with the amended safe third country concept and the EU list of safe countries of origin.

WHEREAS effective and dignified return is indispensable to the functioning and credibility of our migration and asylum system. With currently only about one in four of those ordered to leave actually returning, increasing the effectiveness of the EU's return system is urgent. To do so, the EU will further work on: 1) Building a common European system for return, based on the proposed Return Regulation, currently under negotiation, with more efficient rules, digitalized processes, and exploring other measures, such as the establishment of return hubs; 2) Improving readmission by third countries, by using and reinforcing the measures open to the EU to use leverage to promote cooperation.

WHEREAS in the coming years, skills gaps and labor shortages will accentuate in many key sectors, also driven by demographic dynamics. The EU should aim to become the most attractive place in the global race for talent. For this, it will be necessary to: 1) Scale up existing and launch new Talent Partnerships and fully integrate talent attraction into the EU's comprehensive cooperation with partner countries; 2) Simplify and accelerate the rules and the process to attract people with the skills Europe needs, including on the recognition and validation of qualifications and skills; 3) Fight illegal employment and exploitation of migrant workers and improve integration in host Member States, supported by EU funding.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 1 The Commission recognizes the need for continual testing and updating of the European Asylum Dactyloscopy Database (EURODAC), the European Union's biometric database used to collect, store, and compare fingerprints and facial images to track asylum applicants and irregular border crossers. We call on the Member States to propose a set of policy recommendations to strengthen and support EURODAC's role in asylum tracking and border control.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 2 The Commission considers the need for additional resources for facilities used in screening and the border procedures when processing asylum applicants and irregular border crossers. We call on Member States to create a set of financial assistance packages targeted towards Member States processing asylum applications and facing increased instances of irregular border crossings. All Member States should address any outstanding issues relating to ensuring adequate financing, staffing and training, and define clear lines of responsibility and accountability. These packages should expand resources for facilities used in screening and other border procedures. Consider the extent of the assistance packages, the intended impact of the measure, and its evaluation.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 3 The Commission highlights that it must be a priority for Member States to establish measures to prevent the issue of absconding and secondary movements. Member States need to use the period of initial apprehension by law enforcement authorities to do screening checks, notably the identity and security checks and the EURODAC registration. We call on the Member States to arrive at a common agreement and propose a set of policy recommendations to reduce the incidence of absconding and secondary movements within their territories.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 4 In addition, for border procedures to work, third countries will need to play their role and respect the international obligations to readmit their own nationals. As part of its migration diplomacy outreach, the EU is increasing its engagement with relevant third countries. The Commission notes that Member States need to step up readmission cooperation so that irregular migrants are effectively returned before the time limit for the return border procedure expires. We call on the Member States to propose a set of policy recommendations to realize this objective.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 5 The Commission calls on Member States to increase their efforts to cover gaps in access to free integration measures, including language and civic orientation courses, which are not yet available in all Member States; support to labor market integration, including employment-related training and services offered by employment offices; and access to procedures for the recognition of qualifications and validation of skills.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 6 The Commission acknowledges that Member States must increase efforts to reinforce the guardianship system to ensure timely appointment and an adequate number of representatives available to be appointed for unaccompanied minors, the respect of children's rights, including access to education and healthcare, and safeguards for children in relation to reception, the border procedures and detention.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION: Article 7 The Commission accepts additional proposals held in agreement by the Member States to support our common approach in supporting a robust, safe asylum and migration management policy.