

JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 5/5/2020
A(2020)2136333-2543028

Ms Rasa Juknevičienė MEP
Mr Attila Ara-Kovács MEP
European Parliament

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

The current situation we all face with the COVID-19 pandemic is proving extremely challenging, given its multifaceted nature and wide-spreading effects. It has demonstrated the need to mobilise all tools and assets that the EU has at its disposal, including across the spectrum from civilian to military means, in order to provide the best possible response. Work is ongoing to this effect, while considering the impact of the pandemic on our global and European security.

Being a key enabler for rapid and seamless movements of military personnel and assets, the Military Mobility initiative is particularly relevant in such circumstances, reinforcing our preparedness and resilience. Therefore, as rightly pointed out in your letter, Military Mobility remains high on our agenda.

The EU and its Member States are committed to the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Military Mobility – both to upgrade transport infrastructure and to streamline cross-border procedures or other related procedural and regulatory issues. Close cooperation at EU level and with key partners, notably with NATO, is essential. In our second Joint Progress Report to be released this summer to the European Parliament and the Council, together with the Commission, we will provide an update on all key achievements over the past year in areas ranging from transport infrastructure (preparation of dual-use projects) and customs related procedures, to cross-border movement permissions and EU-NATO cooperation on Military Mobility. This Progress Report will also provide an opportunity to consider the next steps that the EU could take to further improve the mobility of military forces within and beyond its borders in the future.

In this context, I fully agree that it will be critical to secure an adequate level of funding for military mobility in the next Multi-annual Financial Framework. This is necessary to allow the launch of the dual-use transport infrastructure projects as of 2021. These projects would also contribute to the economic recovery in critical sectors in the post-pandemic situation. Securing funding in support of the Military Mobility initiative will also contribute to reinforce other important EU defence initiatives, such as the Permanent Structured Cooperation, as well as EU-NATO cooperation.

EU Ministers of Defence expressed support to the Military Mobility initiative during the ministerial discussion in Zagreb on 5 March 2020.

I also count on the European Parliament to support this initiative.

Under the leadership of the European Council, over the past few years the EU has responded to the worsening security situation by taking ground-breaking steps forward in the area of security and defence. These efforts should continue as these initiatives and instruments provide important incentives for closer defence cooperation among Member States, leading to better value for money and a more effective European security and defence.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the name Josep Borrell Fontelles.

Josep Borrell Fontelles