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**Our reference**  
538843

**Your reference**  
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Date 16 July 2014  
Concerning Syrian refugees

*Please quote date of letter  
and our ref. when replying. Do  
not raise more than one  
subject per letter.*

Dear colleagues,

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frans Timmermans, and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Lilianne Ploumen, join me in thanking you for your letter of 23 June calling on Europe to give a stronger signal of solidarity with the Syrians.

The Netherlands shares your assessment that the crisis in Syria is potentially the greatest humanitarian disaster the international community has ever experienced. The impact of this crisis is devastating: the country is in ruins and the lives of its people are shattered. The Netherlands is strongly committed to finding a sustainable solution to this crisis and to alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable victims of the Syrian crisis. To that end, we have contributed € 83,5 million in humanitarian aid to assist internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities. Although the Syrian people are paying the highest price for the crisis in their country, hosting these vast numbers of refugees is becoming a heavy burden for the neighbouring countries to bear. On numerous occasions, most recently at the high-level meeting on 27 June on resettlement and other forms of admission for Syrian refugees, the Netherlands has expressed its gratitude to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq en Egypt for their hospitality they have shown to Syrian refugees.

Because of the unspeakable suffering in Syria, The Netherlands grants asylum in The Netherlands to the vast majority of applications made by Syrians. Since the outbreak of the crisis, until May this year 4090 Syrian applicants have been granted asylum status as a basis for their stay in the Netherlands.

In addition, the Netherlands has responded to the earlier call of UNHCR for the resettlement of Syrian refugees by providing 250 resettlement places for Syrian refugees in The Netherlands in 2013 and 2014. In cooperation with UNHCR staff, our services are still in the process of meeting the target of 250 Syrian refugees. Last January, a resettlement mission visited Jordan and selected around 100 refugees for resettlement in The Netherlands. At the moment a resettlement mission to Lebanon is taking place with a view to meeting the target of 250 refugees.

The Netherlands will finalise its resettlement planning for 2015 this autumn. There is a considerable likelihood that we will continue to provide places for resettlement of Syrian refugees in the years ahead.

**Directorate-General for  
Immigration**  
Migration Policy Department

I look forward to working with you on these urgent matters.

**Date**  
16 July 2014

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Yours sincerely,  
The Minister for Migration,



Fred Teeven