**8th March 2020**

**S&D Group Meeting with Ylva Johansson**

**Ylva Johansson (EC)**

* More than 2 million people have come to the EU in 12 days. This is same number of refugees than in 2015-2016. And more will come.
* There is no report of any discrimination at EU borders to anyone. One issue we had at the Ukrainian border was that they were stopping all men, not just the Ukrainian nationals. But that has been solved in few days.
* We have received 130 000 third country nationals and I’m not counting the Moldavians. The main nationalities of those are: Indians, Nigerians, Turks, Azeris, Morocco. Country of origins will take them back.
* So far, less than 10 000 people applied for asylum.
* The people that have come by now have the means or relatives that can host them in Europe. This will change.
* We going to receive people with less resources and we need to be ready for that.
* We proposed the temporary protection directive without consulting member states and we successfully agreed to it without much amendments. This is unique that all member states agreed to protecting millions of people.
* We should use the momentum to make progress on the pact.
* Biggest challenge is funding. We need a lot of money. These people need money to buy food, for housing, for schools, for healthcare. This money is needed now.
* Second challenge is children. We don’t have statistical of how many children we received but it could be half. They need normality, they need to go to school.
* We have unaccompanied minors who are so vulnerable. Member States are overwhelmed.
* Criminals take advantage of trafficking these children and sell them for sexual purposes. We have reports that criminals go to orphanages in Ukraine and take children from there and bring them over to be trafficked.
* **I spoke to the Moldovan Interior Minister and she said that they cannot protect the borders and that everyone goes through. They see criminals with weapons coming to Moldova then going further to the EU via Romania.**
* They see right wing extremist moving in trying to use the situation.
* **We also seen right wing extremist; I spoke to Victor Negrescu today saying they are sending text messages directly to Romanian citizens.**
* These right-wing extremists that exist in Ukraine, we should not be naïve about it. They can take advantage of the situation and they are supported by Putin.
* Helping Moldova to protect borders is important.
* Security issues might come quicker on the agenda.
* We can allocate non used MFF funds for integration of these people.
* We need to set up a trust fund or something like that. If 8 million people come, we will need unprecedented fundings.
* Most people are ordinary refugees but there will always be some criminals who will try to use the situation to come.
* People are being registered but it doesn’t seem that it’s being done in a coherent way. They come visa free so they are not registered in EURODAC.
* People will go where there is a diaspora (PT, ES, IT, PL, GER, CZE).
* Use the momentum to find common ground on the Pact. French Presidency doing a great job on it. It seems promising, I’m quite optimistic that we will have progress.
* In 2015 there was no EU, it was absent, that was my impression. Now I am committed to have an EU response and deal with it together.
* There will be a fatigue of solidarity after a while. We need to see the support we can do.