

Compromise Draft Resolution

1 | **THE EU (AND THE EUROPEANS) CAN DO MORE FOR REFUGEES**

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4 | In 2015, the armed conflicts in the Middle-East, in particular in Syria and Iraq, but also Libya ~~and~~,
5 | Afghanistan ~~and Somalia and difficult situation in Eritrea~~, and the lack of any serious perspective of a
6 | solution in the short or even medium term, brought about an increased ~~influx-numbers~~ of refugees to the
7 | European Union (EU). Member State' governments reacted to this development in divergent and often
8 | controversial ways. These events have exposed the deep divisions and insufficient will of the EU Member
9 | States governments to work together in order to deal with the realities of refugees and migrants, which
10 | are a complex process.

11 | ~~We denounce the rampant populist discourse against the refugees and migrants, and its growing~~
12 | ~~contamination of mainstream political forces; on the other hand, we are convinced that the increased~~
13 | ~~numbers of refugees are a challenge, but that it is possible for the EU to deal with it in a human and~~
14 | ~~adequate way, if the right policies are implemented and resources are found by both the EU and national~~
15 | ~~governments. Failing to do so would lead to increasing divisions and tensions in our societies and would~~
16 | ~~contribute to create new physical and emotional borders between and within our countries. The cohesion~~
17 | ~~and legitimacy of the EU risks to very much deepen the dividing lines in our societies, to breed fear and~~
18 | ~~hostility and create new physical and emotional borders between our countries, reawakening a sentiment~~
19 | ~~of resentment amongst the people of Europe if not dealt with adequately.~~

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21 | Unfortunately, many governments fail to recognise this risk and continue to uphold the illusion of stopping
22 | this process with repression, cumbersome procedures, fences and even outright human rights violations.
23 | This short-sighted approach over the years has led to wrongful priorities and insufficient resources being
24 | set aside for positive actions and is today not only ~~costing the lives of thousands of innocent people, it is~~
25 | ~~also~~ filling the pockets of smugglers and criminal gangs, ~~but much more tragically costing the lives of~~
26 | ~~thousands of innocent people~~. It is transforming the legal obligation of protecting people in danger into a
27 | conditional option, left to the good will of governments.

28 | It is giving enormous political and media scope to xenophobic tendencies and extreme right forces and
29 | groups, which are trying to dig into and to exploit and foster people's fears. The bringing down of
30 | Schengen or the externalisation of the management of the refugees at the EU borders are no acceptable
31 | answers. And are ~~also~~ leading to an indiscriminate closing of ~~legal~~ migration and residence for third
32 | country citizens who do not flee from war or persecution, irrespective of the positive economic and social
33 | impact they have in many EU countries.

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35 | We want to express again our firm condemnation of any human right violations being perpetrated against
36 | those seeking refuge, in particular the acts of violence, unjustified coercion and arbitrary detention which
37 | are becoming more and more routine in numerous European countries. It is a situation that we as
38 | Europeans cannot and should not tolerate.

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40 | ~~In~~By contrast ~~with inefficient and inadequate actions of the EU Member States~~, we are encouraged by the
41 | ~~great show~~overwhelming of solidarity by citizens and civil society organisations, which is visible in many
42 | parts of Europe, within and outside the EU. We are moved by the way in which many, ~~e.g.~~ German citizens,
43 | local and regional authorities accepted the challenge of welcoming refugees instead of closing their doors
44 | to them. We praise those who continue to give their time and effort to overcome the lack of means and
45 | will of most EU governments, but we know that this is not enough. We are convinced that Europe can deal
46 | with these challenges and find adequate solutions, but we need a deep and swift change of attitude, policy
47 | and of priorities in the way in which the EU and its Member States deal with the migration and protection
48 | of refugees. To put it into one sentence: we have to combine ~~compassion-solidarity~~ with concrete actions,
49 | knowing full well how great a challenge this is for our societies.

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51 Reaffirming our resolution on the matter at the Council in Zagreb, the European Green Party:

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- 53 1. Strongly reiterates that all European states have obligations not only to refugees as defined under
54 the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, but also to those protected against return under
55 international human rights law and customary international law; reminds Member States of the
56 broad-duty strict obligation to respect the principle of non-refoulement.
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- 58 2. Considers that it is possible and necessary to limit continuous suffering and avoid unacceptable
59 loss of lives by swiftly setting-up safe and legal ways of entry for refugees: concrete measures such
60 as the issuing humanitarian visas, suspending carrier sanctions like in Directive 51/2001, the
61 implementation of the temporary protection Directive, the waiver of visas for Syrians; the setting
62 up of humanitarian corridors, better funding and easier implementation of measures like family
63 reunification; a humanitarian European search and rescue operation able to operate in
64 international waters and be equipped with an appropriate budget on the model of Mare Nostrum,
65 and the organisation of a substantial resettlement programme would largely limit the need for
66 those seeking refuge to make dangerous journeys putting their life at risk. Reject the policy to
67 pursue a military operation under the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) against
68 smugglers in the Mediterranean including in Libyan waters and even on Libyan soil.
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- 70 3. Calls to strengthen the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and to enable it to treat the
71 asylum applications of incoming refugees fairly and coherently, ensuring them adequate housing
72 and respecting their rights while offering the opportunity to get an education and a job and giving
73 special attention to women and children, who are specially vulnerable groups;~~a. A common asylum~~
74 system will also end the fragmentation and divergences in the application of asylum regulation
75 among member states. Asks in the context of the progressive implementation of the common
76 system, for the mutual recognition of positive asylum decisions in order to allow for the internal
77 movement of recognised refugees and the transfer of international protection status within the
78 EU.
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- 80 4. Demands the establishment of a permanent and binding distribution system at EU level, which
81 takes into proper account the preferences of refugees, notably in terms of language, community
82 and family links, as well as the need to reduce current imbalances between MS in terms of arrivals
83 and final destinations. As a transitory measure, we welcome the proposal to establish a permanent
84 relocation mechanism for emergencies and the decision to relocate 160,000 refugees from Italy
85 and Greece, but consider the number of persons involved by no means sufficient. Furthermore,
86 this must not be a pretext for delaying the indispensable reform of Dublin.
87
- 88 5. Calls on all EU member states to honor the pledges of political, financial and administrative
89 support they have taken. This includes pledges to help easing the situation of refugees in their
90 native countries or countries in the neighborhoods
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- 92 6. Is convinced that the EU has a particular responsibility in liberating the necessary resources to
93 facilitate such relocations and in reconsidering some of the budgetary constraints for some
94 member states, to allow a dignified support of migrants and refugees.
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- 96 7. Considers that the establishment in Greece, ~~Hungary~~ and Italy of so-called “hot spots” in the
97 presence of EU experts, Europol, FRONTEX and the European Asylum Support Office, can play a
98 positive role if and only as long as a substantial relocation from these hotspots to EU countries
99 takes place swiftly. Is concerned that those “hotspots” might turn into deportation and detention
100 centres, as openly envisaged by some member states.

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8. Denounces the often appalling conditions of migrants and refugees consigned to camps, among others, in France (Calais), Italy, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria, notably because ~~(among other reasons)~~ of the highly inefficient treatment of asylum applications; we are convinced that in many countries a deep reform of national regulations and practices is needed; asks the Commission to exert pressure on non-complying states and to financially support those who intend to upgrade and improve their reception facilities.
9. While considering that transit countries need to be supported financially because of the increased numbers ~~large influx~~ of refugees, especially the neighbouring countries of Syria, ~~(we)~~ insist that such agreements should not condone the ill treatment or human rights violations in such places; is particularly concerned about the deal with Turkey that offers political support to Erdogan in exchange for stopping refugees
10. Strongly rejects the intention of several member states to link the management of the influx of refugees and the challenge to internal security to the re-establishment of systematic internal border controls within the Schengen area. Getting rid of one of the most successful and visible achievements of the EU, the freedom of circulation/movement, and to continue wasting human and financial resources in building fences will not make us safer nor will it stop the influx-increasing number of people who escaping-escape from war, poverty or climate disasters. We are convinced that only sustainable-stable solutions to the on-going conflicts, (notably) through diplomatic efforts involving all parties including the EU; a sustainable development policy and a robust commitment to the 0,7 target, a complete change of direction in the EU agricultural and trade policy/priorities, a serious fight against climate change as well as support for mitigation and adaptation would make living conditions more acceptable in countries of the global south.