

## 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 the lack of any serious perspective of a solution in the short or even medium term,  
6 brought about an increased influx of refugees to the European Union (EU). Member State' governments  
7 reacted to this development in divergent and often controversial ways. These events have exposed the  
8 deep divisions and insufficient will of the EU Member States governments to work together in order to  
9 deal with the realities of refugees and migrants, which are a complex process.

10 The cohesion and legitimacy of the EU risks to very much deepen the dividing lines in our societies, to  
11 breed fear and hostility and create new physical and emotional borders between our countries,  
12 reawakening a sentiment of resentment amongst the people of Europe if not dealt with adequately.  
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14 Unfortunately, many governments fail to recognise this risk and continue to uphold the illusion of  
15 stopping this process with repression, cumbersome procedures, fences and even outright human rights  
16 violations. This short-sighted approach over the years has led to wrongful priorities and insufficient  
17 resources being set aside for positive actions and is today not only costing the lives of thousands of  
18 innocent people, it is also filling the pockets of smugglers and criminal gangs. It is transforming the legal  
19 obligation of protecting people in danger into a conditional option, left to the good will of governments.

20 It is giving enormous political and media scope to xenophobic tendencies and extreme right forces and  
21 groups, which are trying to dig into and to exploit and foster people's fears. The bringing down of  
22 Schengen or the externalisation of the management of the refugees at the EU borders are no acceptable  
23 answers. And are leading to an indiscriminate closing of legal migration and residence for third country  
24 citizens who do not flee from war or persecution, irrespective of the positive economic and social impact  
25 they have in many EU countries.  
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27 We want to express again our firm condemnation of any human right violations being perpetrated against  
28 those seeking refuge, in particular the acts of violence, unjustified coercion and arbitrary detention which  
29 are becoming more and more routine in numerous European countries. It is a situation that we as  
30 Europeans cannot and should not tolerate.  
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32 By contrast, we are encouraged by the great show of solidarity by citizens and civil society organisations,  
33 which is visible in many parts of Europe, within and outside the EU. We are moved by the way in which  
34 many German citizens, local and regional authorities accepted the challenge of welcoming refugees instead  
35 of closing their doors to them. We praise those who continue to give their time and effort to overcome  
36 the lack of means and will of most EU governments, but we know that this is not enough. We are  
37 convinced that Europe can deal with these challenges and find adequate solutions, but we need a deep and  
38 swift change of attitude, policy and of priorities in the way in which the EU and its Member States deal  
39 with the migration and protection of refugees. To put it into one sentence: we have to combine  
40 compassion with concrete actions, knowing full well how great a challenge this is for our societies.  
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42 Reaffirming our resolution on the matter at the Council in Zagreb, the European Green Party:

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44 I. Strongly reiterates that all European states have obligations not only to refugees as defined under  
45 the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, but also to those protected against return under  
46 international human rights law and customary international law; reminds Member States of the  
47 broad duty of *non-refoulement*.  
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2. Considers that it is possible and necessary to limit continuous suffering and avoid unacceptable loss of lives by swiftly setting-up safe and legal ways of entry for refugees: concrete measures such as the issuing humanitarian visas, suspending carrier sanctions like in Directive 51/2001, the implementation of the temporary protection Directive, the waiver of visas for Syrians and the organisation of a substantial resettlement programme would largely limit the need for those seeking refuge to make dangerous journeys putting their life at risk.
  3. Calls to strengthen the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and to enable it to treat the asylum applications of incoming refugees fairly and coherently, ensuring them adequate housing and respecting their rights; a common asylum system will also end the fragmentation and divergences in the application of asylum regulation among member states. Asks in the context of the progressive implementation of the common system, for the mutual recognition of positive asylum decisions in order to allow for the internal movement of recognised refugees and the transfer of international protection status within the EU.
  4. Demands the establishment of a permanent and binding distribution system at EU level, which takes into proper account the preferences of refugees, notably in terms of language, community and family links, as well as the need to reduce current imbalances between MS in terms of arrivals and final destinations. As a transitory measure, we welcome the proposal to establish a permanent relocation mechanism for emergencies and the decision to relocate 160,000 refugees from Italy and Greece, but consider the number of persons involved by no means sufficient. Furthermore, this must not be a pretext for delaying the indispensable reform of Dublin.
  5. Calls on all EU member states to honor the pledges of political, financial and administrative support they have taken. This includes pledges to help easing the situation of refugees in their native countries or countries in the neighborhoods
  6. Is convinced that the EU has a particular responsibility in liberating the necessary resources to facilitate such relocations and in reconsidering some of the budgetary constraints for some member states, to allow a dignified support of migrants and refugees.
  7. Considers that the establishment in Greece, Hungary and Italy of so-called “hot spots” in the presence of EU experts, Europol, FRONTEX and the European Asylum Support Office, can play a positive role if and only as long as a substantial relocation from these hotspots to EU countries takes place swiftly. Is concerned that those “hotspots” might turn into deportation and detention centres, as openly envisaged by some member states.
  8. Denounces the often appalling conditions of migrants and refugees consigned to camps in Calais, Italy, Greece, Hungary and Bulgaria, 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 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

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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, and continue wasting human and financial resources in building fences will not make us safer nor will it stop the influx of people escaping from war, poverty or climate disasters. We are convinced that only sustainable solutions to the on-going conflicts, a complete change of direction in the EU agricultural and trade policy, 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.