

Compromise Draft Emergency Resolution

1 Tabled by EGP Committee

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3 **The Mediterranean must not be a graveyard**

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5 Late on the night of April the 18th, more that 800 people died at Europe's maritime borders, marking the deadliest
6 drowning incident in the Mediterranean Sea since World War II. But the tragedy of deaths at sea has been going on
7 for more than two decades, and has cost the life of no less than 30,000 people. This situation will not change unless
8 the EU changes its ways. The ongoing conflicts, the increase of inequalities and exacerbated climate change effects in
9 the neighboring regions of Africa and Asia, often aggravated by Western interests, are likely to create an even greater
10 mass influx of displaced peoples.

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12 Over the years, the EU and its Member States have consistently made it more difficult for migrants and refugees to
13 enter into their territory, and have increasingly tried to seal off their external borders against irregular migration –
14 doing so without providing any possibility for legal access. This policy has contributed to the nurturing of a criminal
15 and dangerous business of human smuggling (worth at least 20 billion Euros per year), leading to without stopping
16 the arrival of even more vessels.

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18 It disproportionately focused on repression, and on the protection of frontiers and the; cynical use of deterrent
19 effects of such tragedies, thus taking out precious resources from integration and social policies.

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21 The “Fortress Europe” approach today appears to be particularly ineffective and cruel, when hundreds of thousands
22 of people are being forced out of their homes by violence and war. National practices violating EU and international
23 law, which often involve asylum seekers, such as on-the-spot deportations in the area of Melilla's bordering fence
24 must be brought to an end.

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26 The disappointing results of the Special EU Council on the 23rd of April 2015 demonstrate that the priority of EU
27 Member States remains to keep out as many people as possible except for those considered as being useful, and not
28 to remedy-respond to the increasing loss of life and human suffering. This ignores the legitimate urge for people to
29 find a safe place to live. Instead, the EU needs to create legal routes for migrants seeking to come to the EU to live
30 and work : wWe also therefore strongly oppose the militarization of the European approach towards refugees.

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32 On the other hand, the proposals presented by the European Commission on May the 13th finally showed some will
33 to use its power of initiative, and to address some very controversial issues like the redistribution and relocation of
34 refugees-asylum seekers. It however falls dramatically short in terms of numbers, and does not give any indication
35 ofto a policy on legal migration. It still concentrates too much on border controls, as demonstrated by the proposal
36 of the Commission to extend the mandate of Frontex to return migrants.

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38 The European Greens:

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40 — Express their deep sorrow and solidarity with the victims and their families.

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42 — Consider that it is time for the EU to face up to its responsibility and act in order to bring about a stop to
43 the deaths at sea, and to consistently increase its role in helping refugees and migrants. The EU must find the
44 resources necessary to develop a common action plan coherent with the values of solidarity and respect of
45 human rights with its international obligations. Such an action plan should be based on five our major axes:

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47 1. A EUROPEAN MARE NOSTRUM: The immediate establishment of a humanitarian European search and
48 rescue operation, which, like Mare Nostrum, should also operate in international waters and be equipped
49 with an appropriate consistent budget in order to stop the deaths at sea. Such an operation should also
50 include effective instruments to counter human trafficking. The tripling of the Triton budget decided by the
51 EU Council is not enough, as it will not have the effect of diminishing casualties unless its resources, its
52 scope and operational plan are changed.

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54 2. FULL USE OF THE EXISTING LEGAL INSTRUMENTS TO ENSURE SAFE AND LEGAL ACCESS. These
55 include: The swift completion of negotiations on the Visa code, currently blocked at the Council; the granting
56 of Humanitarian visas; the application of the 2001 temporary protection directive, notably to address the
57 Syrian crisis; the immediate lifting of visa requirements for Syrian refugees; better funding and an easier

- 58 implementation of measures like family reunification, private sponsorship programs, study and labour
59 migration schemes. The European Greens oppose the proposal to set up European asylum centres in third
60 countries, because of a complete lack of guarantee for the respect of rights of would-be refugees.
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- 62 3. A MORE AMBITIOUS RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION PROGRAMME. On April the 23rd 2015, the
63 EU council agreed to resettle 5,000 refugees. On May the 13th, the Commission proposed to trigger art.
64 78(3) of the Treaty, a proposal for a temporary distribution scheme of refugees already in the EU territory
65 (relocation), and to resettle 20,000 displaced persons. Even if this is an improvement in relation to the past,
66 it remains a completely inadequate measure, considering that UNCHR ~~for~~ asked for at least 130,000
67 resettlement places. It is urgent to put forward a substantial program for sharing the responsibility by
68 relocating refugees from Italy, Greece or Malta to other member states. It is also necessary to put in place
69 alternatives to the current Dublin regulation, to make the system more fair to both asylum seekers and
70 Member States. This includes bringing forward proposals to allow for the mutual recognition of positive
71 asylum decisions and the transfer of international protection status within the EU.
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- 73 4. CHANGE THE FOCUS OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND STOP FINANCING
74 DICTATORS/AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES. The link between trade, agriculture, fisheries, and investment
75 policies on one hand, and development and migration on the other hand, should be acknowledged and be at
76 the center stage of the political agenda. One of the medium and long term policies of the EU should be the
77 eradication of all the factors that cause people to flee their countries: unfair trade and development policies,
78 support of non-democratic regimes, arms trade, climate change and so on. Instead of cutting development
79 aid, there is an urgent need to increase it. EU policies must aim for sustainable living conditions also for
80 youth and skilled people in African countries.
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- 83 5. REJECTING MILITARIZATION OF MIGRATION POLICIES Reject the policy proposed by High
84 Representative Mogherini and the Commission and supported by the European Council to pursue a military
85 operation under the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) against smugglers in the Mediterranean
86 including in Libyan waters and even on Libyan soil. We consider that to be a dangerous military adventure
87 when what we need would be a save and rescue mission. Furthermore, this policy sends a disastrous signal to
88 other parts of the world; one current example being the tragic incident near the South East Asian coast. The
89 EU trade and fisheries policies have been blamed for being among the structural causes of migration from
90 many African countries. It is therefore necessary to re-assess those policies. The European Greens oppose
91 the proposal to set up European asylum centres in third countries, because of a complete lack of guarantee
92 for the respect of rights of would-be refugees.
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