

## Draft Emergency Resolution

1 *Tabled by EGP Committee*

### 2 3 **The Mediterranean must not be a graveyard**

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5 Late on the night of April the 18<sup>th</sup>, more that 800 people died near Europe's maritime borders,  
6 marking the deadliest drowning incident in the Mediterranean Sea since World War II. But the  
7 tragedy of deaths at sea has been going on for more than two decades, and has cost the life of no  
8 less than 30,000 people. This situation will not change unless the EU changes its ways. The  
9 ongoing conflicts in the neighboring regions of Africa and Asia 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  
13 migrants and refugees to enter into their territory, and have increasingly tried to seal off their  
14 external borders against irregular migration – doing so without providing any possibility for legal  
15 access. This policy has contributed to the nurturing of a criminal and dangerous business of  
16 human smuggling (worth at least 20 billion Euros per year), without stopping the arrival of  
17 vessels.

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19 It disproportionately focused on repression and on the protection of frontiers, thus taking out  
20 precious resources from integration and social policies. The “Fortress Europe” approach today  
21 appears to be particularly ineffective and cruel, when hundreds of thousands of people are being  
22 forced out of their homes by violence and war. The disappointing results of the Special EU  
23 Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2015 demonstrate that the priority of EU Member States remains to  
24 keep out as many people as possible, and not to remedy the increasing loss of life and human  
25 suffering.

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27 On the other hand, the proposals presented by the European Commission on May the 13<sup>th</sup> finally  
28 showed some will to use its power of initiative, and to address some very controversial issues  
29 like the redistribution and relocation of refugees. It however falls dramatically short in terms of  
30 numbers, and does not give any indication to a policy on legal migration.

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32 The European Greens:

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- 34 • Express their deep sorrow and solidarity with the victims and their families.
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  - 36 • Consider that it is time for the EU to face up to its responsibility and act in order to bring  
37 about a stop to the deaths at sea, and to consistently increase its role in helping refugees  
38 and migrants. The EU must find the resources necessary to develop an action plan  
39 coherent with the values of solidarity and with its international obligations. Such an action  
40 plan should be based on four major axes:
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  - 42 I. A EUROPEAN MARE NOSTRUM: The immediate establishment of a humanitarian  
43 European search and rescue operation, which, like Mare Nostrum, should also operate in  
44 international waters and be equipped with a consistent budget in order to stop the deaths  
45 at sea. Such an operation should also include effective instruments to counter human  
46 trafficking. The tripling of the Triton budget decided by the EU Council is not enough, as

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- 47 it will not have the effect of diminishing casualties unless its resources, its scope and  
48 operational plan are changed.  
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- 50 2. **FULL USE OF THE EXISTING LEGAL INSTRUMENTS TO ENSURE SAFE AND LEGAL**  
51 **ACCESS.** These include: The swift completion of negotiations on the Visa code, currently  
52 blocked at the Council; the granting of Humanitarian visas; the application of the 2001  
53 temporary protection directive, notably to address the Syrian crisis; the immediate lifting  
54 of visa requirements for Syrian refugees; better funding and an easier implementation of  
55 measures like family reunification, private sponsorship programs, study and labour  
56 migration schemes.  
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- 58 3. **A MORE AMBITIOUS RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME.** On April the 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015, the EU  
59 council agreed to resettle 5,000 refugees. On May the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Commission proposed to  
60 trigger art. 78(3) of the Treaty, a proposal for a temporary distribution scheme of  
61 refugees already in the EU territory (relocation), and to resettle 20,000 displaced  
62 persons. Even if this is an improvement in relation to the past, it remains a completely  
63 inadequate measure, considering that UNCHR for asked at least 130,000 resettlement  
64 places. It is urgent to put forward a substantial program for sharing the responsibility by  
65 relocating refugees from Italy, Greece or Malta to other member states. It is also  
66 necessary to put in place alternatives to the current Dublin regulation, to make the  
67 system more fair to both asylum seekers and Member States. This includes bringing  
68 forward proposals to allow for the mutual recognition of positive asylum decisions and  
69 the transfer of international protection status within the EU.  
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- 71 4. **CHANGE THE FOCUS OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND STOP**  
72 **FINANCING DICTATORS.** The EU trade and fisheries policies have been blamed for  
73 being among the structural causes of migration from many African countries. It is  
74 therefore necessary to re-assess those policies. The European Greens oppose the  
75 proposal to set up European asylum centres in third countries, because of a complete  
76 lack of guarantee for the respect of rights of would-be refugees.