



RESOLUTION:

Reducing the migration flow along the Mediterranean Route

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Zürich on 23rd September 2017

Recognising that:

- Treaty of Amsterdam laid out a common approach, in terms of asylum, migration and border surveillance among the European Union Member States.¹
- The European Council at its special meeting in Tampere on 15 and 16 October 1999 agreed to work towards establishing a Common European Asylum System, based on the full and inclusive application of the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 relating to the Status of Refugees ('the Geneva Convention'), as supplemented by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967 ('the Protocol'), thus affirming the principle of non-refoulement and ensuring that nobody is sent back to persecution.²
- The subject to the Directive of the European Parliament and of The Council of 13 December 2011 the European Member States agreed on applying shared standards and pre-defined procedures in terms of asylum.³
- The recognition of asylum is clearly defined in the treaties and conventions mentioned above and must be distinguished from migrants that have other incentives to migrate to Europe.
- The flow of migrants arriving to the EU has reached an unprecedented scale, challenging our capacity to cope at European, national and local levels.⁴
- The factors such as armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, fear of political or religious persecution, human rights violations, climate change, political instability or the lack of economic opportunity push the onward movement of refugees and migrants toward Europe.
- Every year since 2014 the number of refugees and migrants risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea has seen an increase. More than 90.000 refugees crossed the Mediterranean in the first half of 2017, while more than 2.500 people lost their lives

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/treaty/pdf/amst-en.pdf>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0095&from=EN>

³ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2011.337.01.0009.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2011:337:TOC

⁴ <http://www.epp.eu/papers/protecting-refugees-securing-the-eus-external-borders-stepping-up-action-against-irregular-migration/>

attempting the journey. In 2015 more than 3800 lost their lives attempting the journey, 2016 the death toll increased to 5.000.⁵ We cannot tolerate the continuation of an humanitarian catastrophe that represents the biggest failure of the European Migration policy.

- YEPP adopted a resolution on EU Member States to share the responsibility of protecting the borders to the European Union in Porto in May 2015.
- Schengen zone of free movement, is one of the biggest achievements of European integration, but due to the migrant's crisis this achievement is in danger.

Acknowledging that:

- The European Parliament and the Council approved the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, which has been operational since October 2016, to closely monitor the EU's external borders and work together with member states.⁶
- The Council extended the mandate of EUNAVFOR Mediterranean Operation Sophia until 31 December 2018 and the EU has had implemented other measures such as JO Triton and the Italian operation Mare Nostrum, in order to disrupt the business model of migrant smugglers and human traffickers in the Southern Central Mediterranean.⁷
- Several European leaders are supporting the concept of "hotspots". "Hotspots" can avoid people to take the risk of crossing the sea and can reduce illegal migration.
- Italy has asked all NGO's working from its ports to rescue migrants at sea to sign a code of conduct, this has been one of the most effective actions.

YEPP calls on:

- The EU to be stronger in important areas like foreign, security and defense policies and in securing the external borders together.
- The EU to continue improving the common policy on external borders to guarantee a Schengen zone of free movement.
- The EU Member states to focus on Humanitarian aid on-the-spot to make a significant contribution to reduce migratory pressure.
- EU Member States to help those in need of protection and who are refugees, but return economic migrants who do not qualify for international protection to the country of their origin.⁸

⁵ <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

⁶ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/migratory-pressures/strengthening-external-borders/>

⁷ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/07/25-eunavformed-sophia-mandate-extended/>

⁸ <http://www.epp.eu/papers/protecting-refugees-securing-the-eus-external-borders-stepping-up-action-against-irregular-migration/>

- The EU acting not only as a global payer vis-à-vis the refugees' countries of origin but develops into a global player, which takes appropriate steps vis-à-vis refugees' countries of origin, if the countries do not cooperate on migration issues.
- The EU to support setting up refugee "hotspots" as a point of first call along migrant routes in Africa to identify and register incoming migrants and redirect them either towards asylum or return procedures to the country of origin.
- The EU Commission to cooperate with Libya and Egypt in monitoring the coast and tackling the human traffickers that are active in the area.⁹
- The EU Commission to sign International treaties with Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt in order to monitor departures from North African coasts and regulate security checks in proximity with North African territorial sea.
- The EU Institutions to invest on projects focused at tackling the profitable business of human trafficking, which is today one of the major sources of employment in several North African countries. Such projects shall be aimed at developing a functioning economy and establish the rule of law; The EU Commission to launch a communication campaign in the departing countries of the illegal immigrants, in particular countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, depicting the real risks of migrating illegally and claiming that applying for visa at EU Consulates is the only viable way to enter the EU.
- If requested the EU could provide technical assistance to the countries of origin and create a specific border task force under the supervision of Frontex.

⁹ Call-Ons" that follow refer to the Fentimiglia Call 2017