



## RESOLUTION

### **Strengthening the partnership between Africa and Europe as a crucial part of solving the migration crisis**

*Adopted at the 12<sup>th</sup> YEPP Congress in Athens, 03.11.2018*

#### **Recognising that:**

- According to UNHCR, in 2017 the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes worldwide raised above 68 million.<sup>1</sup>
- Migratory pressures on the Europe will remain high: according to the United Nations, the African population should double by the mid of this century to more than 2 billion and reach over 4 billion by the end of the century.<sup>2</sup>
- Africa offers a lot of potential for investment and for economic growth with many creative start-ups – in particular in the digital sector – providing solutions for emerging challenges. Economic growth in Africa gives young Africans a more sustainable outlook than migration.
- YEPP adopted resolutions on the topics “Reducing the migration flow along the Mediterranean Route” (Zürich, 23rd of September 2017) and “It’s in Europe’s interest: A common European - African Marshall Plan for Africa” (Milan, 17th of February 2018).

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- That we need to shift our focus concerning the migration crisis and concentrate more on external border protection, effective return mechanisms and assistance to countries of transit and origin.
- That an effective external border protection is crucial, if we want a Europe without borders inside the Schengen area and regain the trust of the European Citizens, in the policymaker’s ability to act.
- That we have to look to the sources of the migration challenge. Therefore, further social, economic and humanitarian aid to African countries and strengthening education and good governance is required to fight the causes of migration and flight.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2017/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/wpp2017\\_keyfindings.pdf](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/wpp2017_keyfindings.pdf)

- That opportunities for cooperation with North African countries were identified at the Conference on Security and Migration in Vienna in September 2018.
- That President Paul Kagame (Chair of the African Union) and Chancellor Sebastian Kurz (as the representative of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU) have concluded to invite for a High-Level Forum Africa-Europe which will take place in Vienna on 18th of December 2018.
- That in the new Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs announced by President Juncker in his recent State of the Union speech, inter alia highlighted the importance of unlocking the potential of the digital economy for Africa and Europe.
- The European External Action Service has an important and recognized comprehensive approach on its international missions with a strong impact in the civilian, humanitarian and security dimensions on the African continent.

#### **YEPP calls on:**

- The European Union and all European States to take concrete actions to strengthen the EU external border control, to step up the fight against smuggling of migrants, to implement an effective return mechanism for illegal migrants and to provide assistance to countries of transit and origin in Africa.<sup>3</sup>
- The European Union and all European States need to reinforce Frontex significantly in close collaboration with the affected states and endow it with a new mandate to stop illegal migrants at the external borders.
- The European Union and all European States need to take the extent and the quality of its cooperation with Africa to a new level, widening the debate to the common challenges and provide further humanitarian aid and foster economic partnerships.<sup>4</sup>
- The European Union and the African Union to reinforce their ties and cooperation in order to promote and make the most out of private investment, the reducing of commercial barriers, the strengthen of the rule of law, human rights and democratic values.
- The European Union and all European States should use the opportunities of digitization for new ways of cooperation between Africa and Europe.
- YEPP to strengthen their cooperation with youth organizations in Africa and establish a permanent platform for dialogue and interaction to ensure an

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<sup>3</sup> Cf. [YEPP-Resolution "Reducing the migration flow along the Mediterranean Route"](#) adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Zürich on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2017

<sup>4</sup> Cf. [YEPP-Resolution "It's in Europe's interest: A common European - African Marshall Plan for Africa"](#) adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Milan on 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2018

engagement of the youth in the future political dialogue between the two continents.