



RESOLUTION:

**THE EU'S RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUED HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

Adopted at the YEPP Council of Presidents  
In Athens, Greece, on the 6th of the December 2014

**Recognising:**

- That Italy has ended its Mediterranean Sea rescue mission, known as “Mare Nostrum”. This mission has saved the lives of at least 100,000 migrants over the last year;
- The European Union is starting a new operation, known as “Triton”. Frontex leads the operation where 22 European nations will contribute;
- “Triton” has less manpower, covers a smaller area and has a budget that is less than a third of that of “Mare Nostrum”.

**Acknowledging:**

- The humanitarian crisis on the EU's border is a common European problem for which all EU and Schengen countries have a responsibility.
- That several NGOs have raised their concern that “Triton” will not be sufficient to substitute “Mare Nostrum” and that there will inevitably be more deaths.
- That under “Triton” there will be uncovered areas in the Mediterranean.
- The regions surrounding the Mediterranean are witnessing the worst humanitarian situation since the Second World War, with over 10 million refugees in Syria alone.
- That the original intention behind “Mare Nostrum” and “Triton” are different, where “Mare Nostrum” was a rescue mission that did not prevent people from trying to cross the Mediterranean, “Triton” is targeted on border control.

**YEPP calls:**

- For the extension of “Triton” so that it will cover the same area as “Mare Nostrum”.
- On the European nations and the European Commission to urgently increase their contribution, both in terms of financial resources as well as material resources to secure lives through “Triton”.
- Cooperation with other nations surrounding the Mediterranean in order to reduce the number of migrants trying to cross the sea by boat.
- The nations of Europe to share the burden of receiving refugees.