



RESOLUTION:

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Brussels, Belgium
On the 26th September 2015*

Recognizing:

- Europe is facing an unprecedented flow of refugees and migrants seeking asylum in EU Member States, bringing many of them to the brink of their ability to receive and absorb more people. We, the YEPP, based on our Judeo-Christian and humanist values, are committed to living up to our international obligations and humanitarian standards and to receiving refugees with humanity. In the ongoing crisis, Europe's citizens have been generously helping and supplying those in need, but citizens are also demanding political leadership and effective migration management, if not durable solutions, as they will be directly challenged with absorbing and integrating asylum seekers as new neighbours and members in their communities.
- The European Union is a union of highest humanitarian standards and achievements. It is the brightest example of a successful peace project that recommends itself as a model and partner for many regions in the world. European values are non-negotiable. Our asylum and migration policy is an opportunity to promote them anew.

Acknowledging:

- Major root causes of massive migration flows in the Middle East and Africa are conflict, terrorism, chaos, corruption and poverty.
- We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of ever growing numbers of refugees and migrants caused by inhumane migrant smugglers. According to the International Organization for Migration, about 500 migrants died in 2012 and 700 migrants in 2013, **crossing the Mediterranean Sea during trafficking into the EU**. After the beginning of the large-scaled rescue efforts, 3,250 migrants died respectively in 2014 and 3,279 in 2015 by August 18th. Europe has a duty to rescue the ones in distress in the Mediterranean Sea; unfortunately, the efforts are an incentive for migrants and human

traffickers to use this dangerous trafficking route at the same time.

- The policies on asylum and migration differ a lot between the EU Member States and the burden and responsibilities are very imbalanced between them. The European Union is missing a joined policy to solve the crisis. Determined and concerted European action is needed as much as solidarity among European nations for bringing an effective common asylum and migration policy to bear fruit swiftly.
- YEPP is committed to ensuring that the right to seek asylum is being respected for those in need of protection, while swift and effective return, readmission and reintegration policies have to be put in place for those who do not qualify for protection. Cooperation with countries of origin and transit regarding illegal migrants, human trafficking and return procedures must be reinforced, including through development aid. In addition, YEPP advocates strengthening FRONTEX in supporting and initiating joint return operations and calls for the further implementation of EU readmission agreements.
- YEPP remains committed to the Schengen treaty and the open borders of the European Union, considering freedom to travel and the free movement of persons within the EU a key achievement of European integration for the benefit of EU citizens. In return, securing and reinforcing EU's external borders and improving the frontier's management must be our common priority. Border control must be stepped up significantly both on sea and land in the Southern Mediterranean, the Aegean Sea and along the so called "Balkan route".
- Taking into account the fact that two thirds of all asylum applications in Europe are rejected, those hotspots will also facilitate the quick return of illegal migrants. The procedures for genuine asylum seekers will speed up significantly. Unguided movements of refugees into selected Member States create not only structural and organisational problems for the states concerned but will also boost local anti-European populism, harming Europe as a whole. Primary evaluation in the initial reception centres will identify which applicants should be immediately rejected (e.g. from countries classified as safe). Following this the considerable imbalances of asylum pressure between the Member States must be eased and a sustainable mechanism to share the burden should be implemented

YEPP calls on:

- Deeply saddened by the tragic death of ever growing numbers of refugees caused by inhumane migrant smugglers, YEPP calls on stepping up the fight against fast-growing migrant smuggling networks and organised crime. Rapid action and comprehensive and concrete action plans with third countries are needed to combat these structures at all levels. In particular, police cooperation and support for local authorities needs to be enhanced along the smuggling routes in the Western Balkans.
- YEPP calls on the European Council to take the lead in establishing a Post War Development Fund in order to help rebuild Middle Eastern countries struck by war and therefore encourage and facilitate the safe return of refugees. We call on the European Union to take a proactive approach and be prepared to deal with the post war situation to avoid rushed decision making, like in the case of the current refugee crisis. We urge the European Union to involve wealthy Arabic States and the world's leading countries in establishing the aforementioned fund.
- YEPP calls on offering safety and humanitarian assistance as close as possible to the places of origin. Regional protection programmes ("safe zones") should be rapidly expanded in third countries to build up local capacities to deal with mixed migratory flows. Following an initial screening, asylum seekers and migrants would be advised on asylum criteria and legal ways (e.g. the "Blue Card") to enter Europe or other safe countries as well as on the risks of illegal migration.
- YEPP calls on Member States to implement the European Commission's proposal on establishing "hotspots"
- YEPP calls on the European Union and the European Commission to begin negotiations with the states in Northern African about installation of reception centres. Migrants being rescued in the Mediterranean Sea should be brought accordingly e.g. to reception centres in Northern Africa, where an application of asylum will be evaluated. Only after a positive decision should asylum seekers be brought into the European Union. This would save the lives of many migrants, because the incentive for migrants trying to enter

the European Union illegally over the Mediterranean Sea would clearly diminish.

- YEPP calls on a more active common EU Foreign and Security Policy as well as Development Policy that tackles the root causes of massive migration flows. Cooperation with third countries should be strengthened by all means available in the diplomatic portfolio. Together with the US and other international partners, the EU should initiate efforts to convince other countries in the region such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran, of the need for a common strategy towards this global challenge, while also developing a new approach towards Africa through better opportunities for trade and development but also through pressure on countries such as Eritrea. Countries of origin and transit should be supported through supply for refugee camps but also aid for stabilising and strengthening statehood, building institutions and fostering conflict resolution and mediation.
- YEPP considers a joint European list of safe countries of origin and transit as an important prerequisite for relieving our asylum systems and discouraging further economic migrants. It will allow us to focus our asylum and reception capacities on those who are truly in need of protection.
- YEPP calls on the swift integration and inclusion of new legal migrants in order to preserve social cohesion and security in our Member States. While training and job opportunities will be the key for successful integration, we also encourage all religious, cultural and ethnic communities in Europe to embrace our common European values and to see their responsibility in promoting peace and security by clearly opposing radicalism and all forms of violence. The EU should also draw value from migrants' presence and learning capacity, regardless of their assessment status and point of contact with the EU, to encourage also those rejected, on adequate levels, to peace- and democracy-building, emancipation, entrepreneurship and innovation in their home countries.
- We call on the United Nations to take responsibility on Syria. Military intervention under the coordination of NATO must be on the table both against the Assad regime and the ISIS threat. The refugee crisis will not stop unless stability is brought to the region with the help of the international community.