



RESOLUTION:

YEPP STATEMENT AHEAD OF THE EU-TURKEY SUMMIT ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS

Presented at the YEPP Council, Budapest, Hungary, on the 5th of March 2016

Acknowledging:

- Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
- The Schengen acquis,
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- The Geneva Convention of 1951 and the protocol thereto,
- Its statement of October 2013 on the tragic events off Lampedusa,
- The ten-point action plan on migration of the Joint Foreign and Home Affairs Council of 20 April 2015,
- The conclusions of the European Council Special Summit on the Mediterranean refugee crisis of 23 April 2015,

- The Commission communication of 13 May 2015 entitled 'A European Agenda on Migration' COM(2015)0240,
- It's 7 proposals for the refugee crisis of 14 September 2015,
- The EU-Turkey joint action plan of 15 October 2015,
- The European Council conclusions of 15 October 2015,
- Its 2015 resolution in Kiev,
- The EU-Turkey Summit of 29 November 2015,
- The first Steering Committee meeting of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, held in Brussels on 17 February 2016,
- The European Council conclusions of 19 February 2016,
- The Commission communication of 15 December 2015 entitled "A European Border and Coast Guard and effective management of Europe's external borders",
- The large increase in people seeking international protection in Member States,
- NATO's decision to assist in the conduct of reconnaissance, monitoring and surveillance of illegal crossings in the Aegean,
- The unilateral actions of several EU Member States as well as EU candidate countries,
- The YEPP Proposals on migration for a European Coast Guard and asylum applications through embassies at the countries of origin, presented in Lampedusa in 2013

Recognising:

- European citizens have done their utmost to help refugees seeking protection in the EU, and are to be praised;
- The need for the EU to address the refugee situation with solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, while recalling Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which states that “implementation of policies [on border checks, asylum and immigration] shall be governed by the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, including its financial implications, between the Member States”;
- Given the new developments including the involvement of NATO, and the European Coast guard, as long as there is a common agreement at the European Council, unilateral actions should be avoided;
- Certain countries that have reached their limit according to the European Commission report on fair quotas were forced to take unilateral action, however other states that have not reached their limit cannot be justified in their actions;
- Recognising that the European mechanism on refugee distribution is not delivering the expected results. That certain European states have reached or surpassed their limits of capacity as to incoming refugees and illegal immigrants;
- Out of 1.100.000 refugees entering EU territory in 2015, more than 875.000 entered through the European borders between Greece and Turkey;

YEPP calls on:

- All EU Member States to respect all their obligations according to the Treaty, especially Article 80 TFEU, as well as the European Council decisions;
- All EU Member States to work towards a unanimous agreement at the EU-Turkey Summit on the 7th of March 2016; Calls on all Member States to fully respect, implement all parts of such an agreement and enforce it for the fair resettlement of refugees in order to avoid unilateral actions;

- The European Parliament and the Council to respond to the refugee crisis through the EU budget and upwards revise the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2014-2020) ceilings for Heading 3 (“Security and Citizenship”) and Heading 4 (“Global Europe”);
- The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to accelerate the creation of the new European Border and Coast Guard Agency with a high operational power;
- Turkey, as a member of NATO to stop blocking the Alliance’s operations in the Aegean sea;
- Turkey to fully implement all readmission agreements with EU Member States;
- Turkey and EU Member States together with Interpol to identify and take into custody members of organised crime who facilitate the smuggling of migrants into EU territory;
- For the swift return of migrants not in need of international protection;
- For a renewed commitment to the Schengen Treaty, the foundation of free movement of Europeans within the Union.