



RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION

During the last century immigration has enriched Europe's societies. Different cultures came together and this led to tolerance, which is the bond of a peaceful Europe that we want. People had the opportunity to live and work in other countries in and many of them to have a better standard of living for them and for their family. YEPP wants to promote the modernization and continuance of a policy on immigration that makes Europe inclusive, based on principles of freedoms, rights and responsibilities.

The last decade, due to inequalities in our world, many people feel forced to migrate. Some of them are forced to flee by crises in their countries or natural disasters. European Union accepted them despite their different backgrounds and status. However migration poses several problems that need to be better tackled. The fact is that much stronger measures have to be taken to combat illegal immigration and to make an efficient management of migration flows and a fair treatment of third-country nationals.

We, the Youth of European People's Party believe that:

- European Union is an attractive target for both legal and illegal immigration. Therefore we strongly support the establishment of a common immigration policy.
- This common immigration policy must ensure a better managed system of receiving legitimate refugees, legal immigrants and those trying to migrate illegally. This system should be efficient, just, transparent and responsive to every member state and their varying need for immigrants. It is also vital that the system ensures solidarity amongst the member states in integrating refugees and legitimate asylum seekers, alongside a more resolute handling of illegal immigrants.
- The common policy especially needs to accelerate the combating of people who promote and facilitate human trafficking. The level of criminal sanction and institutional capability in this area lags far behind the threat posed by such forms of organized crime.
- Prevention of racism and xenophobia must be put higher on the agenda all around Europe. The negative trend in many parts of Europe demands better policies for integration at a national and local level, where this responsibility lies.
- Minimum standard for government obligations towards accepted refugees and asylum seekers is needed. YEPP is deeply concerned about the lack of successful integration evident in all member states.
- Special effort must be given to clarify the number of unregistered immigrants in cooperation with member states.

- Europe can help out in preventing many of the reasons for forced migration from developing countries. First of all by improving the international framework conditions such as trade, debt relief and foreign direct investments.

We, the Youth of European People's Party support:

- Programs for better control of the EU external borders. A European Corps of border guards can assist those member states, who cannot do it alone at a sufficient level.
- The creation of a European corps of coast guards in order to protect and ensure the security of the European coastline from illegal trafficking.
- Formal cooperation between this European Corps and other third countries, which will be necessary to ensure more effective and secure protection of the coastline in order to combat this method of human trafficking.
- People who wish to come to Europe and by working create a better life for themselves and to create a better Europe as a whole, should be welcome.

Adopted at Council Meeting, Rhodes (Greece), 31 July 2004