

## **Strengthening European Cooperation in Managing Migration and Border Security**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in The Hague, Netherlands. 13/04/2024*

### **Recognizing that:**

- Immigration has become a pressing issue within the European Union, with recent events highlighting the challenges faced by Member States in managing migratory flows effectively, while acknowledging the inherent dignity and rights of migrants.
- The recent surge in illegal immigration has placed an intolerable burden on frontline Member States, stretching their resources and endangering the safety and well-being of their citizens.
- The recent surge in illegal immigration has put significant pressure on the resources and capabilities of frontline Member States, raising concerns about the security and stability of the entire Union.
- The influx of migrants from unstable and economically disadvantaged regions poses a direct challenge to the cohesion and prosperity of European societies, jeopardizing the welfare of both native populations and newcomers alike.
- The need to address the root causes of migration, including political instability, economic disparities, and environmental degradation, is paramount to achieving long-term solutions.
- It is imperative to reaffirm the sovereignty of Member States in determining their immigration policies while upholding the principles of solidarity and cooperation among EU nations, in a manner consistent with shared European values and international human rights standards.

### **Acknowledging that:**

- The European Parliament recognizes the importance of enhancing border security and preventing illegal crossings to safeguard the integrity of the Schengen Area and ensure the safety of EU citizens.

- Efforts to combat illegal immigration must be complemented by comprehensive strategies addressing socio-economic inequalities, promoting education and integration, and fostering dialogue with countries of origin and transit.
- The challenges posed by irregular migration require a multifaceted approach, encompassing humanitarian assistance, law enforcement measures, and cooperation with international partners.
- The rise of nationalist and extremist ideologies underscores the urgency of promoting inclusive societies, fostering mutual understanding, and combating discrimination and xenophobia.
- The European Union must reaffirm its commitment to the values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, both within its borders and in its external relations.

**YEPP calls on:**

- The European Union to strengthen its external borders while upholding its commitment to refugee protection and asylum rights, ensuring a balanced and humane approach to migration management.
- The deployment of enhanced border security measures to deter illegal crossings and protect European citizens from the threats posed by uncontrolled migration. If necessary, physical barriers on borders could be considered under the condition that an accessible legal opportunity to request asylum is provided.
- The establishment of bilateral agreements with migrant-origin and transit countries to facilitate the repatriation of undocumented migrants and enhance cooperation in combatting irregular migration and human trafficking.
- Member States to strengthen cooperation and coordination in managing migration flows, including through the allocation of adequate resources and the implementation of common asylum and immigration policies.
- The EU to reinforce Frontex and other relevant agencies to enhance border surveillance, facilitate legal migration channels, and combat migrant smuggling and trafficking networks.

- Member States to establish partnerships with third countries based on mutual respect, dialogue, and shared responsibilities, aiming to address the root causes of migration and improve border management capabilities.
- The EU to align its own financing to NGO's and international bodies with common migration policy.
- Member states to ensure NGO's compliance with EU border policy and/or law, and to undertake legal action against NGO who fail to comply with EU regulations.
- Member States to adopt measures to combat discrimination, racism, and xenophobia, including through awareness-raising campaigns, education initiatives, and legal reforms.
- Member States to enhance cooperation with international organizations, civil society groups, and local authorities to address the humanitarian and security challenges associated with migration.
- Calls for the development of comprehensive strategies to address the socio-economic factors driving migration, including poverty alleviation, job creation, and sustainable development initiatives.