



EP 05 – Resolution on the Challenge of Irregular Immigration at the External Borders of the European Union

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- Considering that migrations are a socioeconomic phenomenon inherent to human nature with a deeply rooted influence on the shaping of human history and geography;
 - Deeply concerned about the recurrent events at the Southern borders of the EU.
 - Deeply concerned about the most recent but, regrettably recurring events in the
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- Increasingly worried by a trend among political leaders, reinforced by media, to criminalise migrations by focusing on repressive policies and border control, disregarding the fundamental importance of migrants in the present economic situation and in the enrichment of societies based on citizenship,

15 JEF calls on European Union and on all European governments to regard migrations as a complex reality needing a complex compound of sound policies reaching from border control to social aspects such as housing, health and education.

On the particular reality of irregular migrations, JEF wishes to state that:

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- That the EU should oppose any attempt to create any "migration camp" in a non-EU country in order to manage regular or irregular immigrant influxes towards the EU.
 - While acknowledging the efforts of the European Union to propose a new Directive regarding the common standards for irregular immigrants, JEF-Europe also bears in mind the reality of the challenges that are at the moment being faced by the
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- Southern external borders of the continent from the continual influx of irregular immigrants and asylum seekers.
 - While JEF-Europe welcomes the attempts of the European Union to cooperate with and aid the countries from which the irregular immigrants hail from, often travelling through the Mediterranean sea in inhuman, degrading and dangerous conditions, circumstances show that this has proven to be not enough. Southern European Members States are facing a situation that is slowly becoming unsustainable and the European Commission's response has been viewed as slow at best, and at times even sluggish.
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- JEF-Europe is concerned that the lack of clear solutions by the European Union to all countries concerned, being the recipients of irregular immigrants, and the countries from which they travel might lead to unilateral action by National Governments such as those in practice already – indeterminate detention, repatriation or re-allocation to countries where the record of respect of human rights is unfortunately dubious. These practices go against the human rights &
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- freedoms so fundamental to the European Union and should therefore stop.
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Therefore JEF-Europe demands:

- that the European Union Institutions give the rightful attention to the situation of irregular immigration and the plight faced by citizens of countries outside Europe

5 who are forced to request asylum from countries which do not have the geographical or economic facility to provide it, and thus to have a more pro-active approach on the issue. The right approach would be the revitalisation of the ineffectual Barcelona process by dealing with its shortcomings and false hopes it raised in the past decade. In this respect the EU should reinforce its aid and political dialogue within the existing mechanism of the Euro-Med partnership

- 10 • that the European Union comes up with a strategy that would limit the irregular departure from Northern Africa of their citizens by a stricter enforcement of the Cotonou agreement clause regarding immigration policy and the negotiations on repatriation and readmission agreements.
- that the responsibility of irregular immigration is shared by all Member States through the offer of aid and cooperation in the form of offers of reallocation, and policies towards the integration of these asylum seekers in Europe, in line with the solidarity principle.
- 15 • coherence between the EU's internal policy (such as the Customs Union) and its external policy towards third countries (such as the Cotonou Agreement) to ensure an improved trade policy, which would lead to a flourishing of their economic development.