



---

*Plenary sitting*

---

7.9.2015

B8-0842/2015

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission  
pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure  
on migration and the situation of refugees  
(2015/2833(RSP))

**Richard Howitt, Birgit Sippel, Claude Moraes, Sylvie Guillaume,  
Vincent Peillon, Josef Weidenholzer, Juan Fernando López Aguilar,  
Miriam Dalli, Patrizia Toia, Silvia Costa, Marlene Mizzi, Luigi Morgano,  
Kashetu Kyenge, Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Tonino Picula,  
Miltiadis Kyrkos, Elly Schlein, Flavio Zanonato, Daniele Viotti,  
Evelyne Gebhardt, José Blanco López, Eric Andrieu, Tanja Fajon,  
Marju Lauristin, Mercedes Bresso, Enrico Gasbarra, Udo Bullmann,  
Ana Gomes, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Afzal Khan,  
Simona Bonafè, Nikos Androulakis, Brando Benifei, Maria Arena,  
Pedro Silva Pereira, Pervenche Berès, Derek Vaughan, Andi Cristea,  
Maria Noichl, Liliana Rodrigues, Jonás Fernández, Hugues Bayet,  
Péter Niedermüller, Roberto Gualtieri, Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto,  
Demetris Papadakis, Pier Antonio Panzeri, István Ujhelyi,  
Michela Giuffrida, Tibor Szanyi, Isabelle Thomas, Elena Valenciano,  
Iris Hoffmann, Momchil Nekov, Kati Piri, Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță,  
Claudia Tapardel, Theresa Griffin, Viorica Dăncilă, Elena Gentile,  
Matthias Groote, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Isabella De Monte,**

**Gabriele Preuß, Susanne Melior, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann,  
Massimo Paolucci, Andrea Cozzolino, Renata Briano, Jutta Steinruck,  
Nicola Danti, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Caterina Chinnici, Jo Leinen,  
Lucy Anderson, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Arne Lietz, Damiano Zoffoli,  
Victor Negrescu, Nicola Caputo, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Knut Fleckenstein,  
Marita Ulvskog, Olle Ludvigsson, Anna Hedh, Jytte Guteland,  
Iliana Iotova, Javi López, Martina Werner, Neena Gill, Carlos Zorrinho**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on migration and the situation of refugees  
(2015/2833(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the Geneva Convention of 1951 and the additional protocol thereto,
- having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 12 December 2014 on migration in EU development cooperation, and of 26 May 2015 on a new Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015,
- having regard to the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative, or ‘Khartoum Process’, adopted on 28 November 2014 by African Union and EU Member States and institutions,
- having regard to the Commission’s European Agenda on Migration of 13 May 2015,
- having regard to its resolution of 29 April 2015 on the latest tragedies in the Mediterranean and EU migration and asylum policies<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 23 April 2015,
- having regard to its resolution of 17 December 2014<sup>2</sup> on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration,
- having regard to the speech made by the President of the European Parliament during his visit to Lampedusa of 2 and 3 October 2014 to mark the anniversary of the tragedy of 3 October 2013,
- having regard to the reports of its Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on the visits by its delegations to Lampedusa in November 2011, to Jordan in February 2013 to assess the situation of refugees from Syria, and to Bulgaria in January 2014 to assess the situation of asylum seekers and refugees, in particular from Syria,
- having regard to the debates in its plenary sitting of 9 October 2013 on EU migration policies in the Mediterranean, with particular attention to the tragic events off

---

<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2015)0176.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2014)0105.

Lampedusa,

- having regard to the debates held in its Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs since the beginning of the current parliamentary term, in particular those of 22 July 2014 on the implementation of the communication on the work of the Task Force Mediterranean, of 4 September 2014 on Frontex activities in the Mediterranean and on the Task Force Mediterranean, and of 24 September 2014 on the Commission’s 5th Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum (2013) (COM(2014)0288) and on the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union (2013),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 4 December 2013 on the work of the Task Force Mediterranean (COM(2013)0869),
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 20 December 2013,
- having regard to the Commission working document of 22 May 2014 on the implementation of the communication on the work of the Task Force Mediterranean (SWD(2014)0173),
- having regard to the conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting of 26 and 27 June 2014, in which it defined strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning for the coming years within the area of freedom, security and justice,
- having regard to the political guidelines for the next Commission, presented by President Juncker at Parliament’s plenary sitting of 15 July 2014,
- having regard to the European Economic and Social Committee opinion of 11 September 2014 on European immigration policies,
- having regard to the commitments made by the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, at his hearing of 30 September 2014 before the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 10 October 2014 on taking action to better manage migratory flows,
- having regard to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) report of April 2012 entitled ‘Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: who is responsible?’,
- having regard to the annual reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, in particular the report published in April 2013 on the management of the EU’s external borders and its impact on the human rights of migrants, and the report published in April 2014 on labour exploitation of migrants,
- having regard to the EASO Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union (2014),
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. whereas the summer period has demonstrated once again that migration is not a temporary issue – the surge in refugee numbers looks set to continue as a result of the ever-increasing instability on Europe’s borders owing to conflicts in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa, coupled with blatant violations of human rights, a sharp increase in violence and terrorism and the devastating effects of climate change, pointing once more to the urgent need to do everything possible to save the lives of people who flee their country and are in danger, and to the need for the Member States to abide by their international obligations, including rescue obligations at sea;
- B. whereas Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Iraq were among the leading countries of origin of asylum seekers in February 2015, and whereas more than two thirds of those asylum seekers have the right to asylum or subsidiary protection;
- C. recalling the most recent European Council, of 25 and 26 June 2015, and the subsequent Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting of 20 July 2015 in Brussels, at which EU leaders failed to agree on a relocation and resettlement redistribution mechanism and instead settled for a voluntary mechanism;
- D. whereas European Council President Donald Tusk called on 3 September 2015 for at least 100 000 refugees to be redistributed;
- E. whereas, instead of the current ad-hoc decision-making, a longer-term approach to operations is necessary;
- F. whereas the various positions taken by different EU Member States continue to highlight the fact that the EU has 28 fragmented migration policies, including some questionable stands that need to be addressed sooner rather than later;
- G. whereas the current situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Serbia and Hungary highlights an embarrassing lack of solidarity towards asylum seekers, insufficient coordination and a lack of coherent action; whereas this situation is leading to chaos and ongoing human rights violations;
- H. whereas the leaders of some Member States and the far-right parties are using the current situation to fuel anti-migration sentiments while blaming the EU for the crisis, giving rise to growing numbers of violent actions against migrants;
- I. whereas the lack of unified asylum procedures and standards in the Member States lead to differing levels of protection, and in some cases even to inadequate guarantees for asylum seekers;
  - 1. Expresses its deep sorrow and distress over the current humanitarian crisis;
  - 2. Expresses its solidarity with the high number of refugees and migrants who are victims of an endless conflict, grave violations of human rights, tangible governance failures and harsh repression;
  - 3. Urges all the Member States and all the European institutions and agencies to take immediate action in response to the crisis in the Mediterranean and around the EU’s borders – action which should be based on solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility,

as set out in Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and on a holistic approach that takes into account all dimensions, including safe and legal migration, full respect for fundamental rights and fundamental values, cooperation with third (non-EU) countries and return in line with fundamental rights and the principle of non-refoulement, through the coordination of the EU's internal and external policies, in particular its common foreign and security policy and trade and development policy;

4. Calls for the rapid and full transposition and effective implementation of the Common European Asylum System by all participating Member States, thereby ensuring common European standards under existing legislation;
5. Deplores the fact that the European Council has failed to implement the initiatives proposed by the Commission in its Agenda on Migration of 13 May 2015 by setting up a credible, EU-wide binding mechanism for solidarity which would encompass a compulsory resettlement scheme together with emergency relocations between Member States; considers it essential in the long term, in this context, to proceed to review and then overhaul the Dublin Regulation by way of EU-wide binding, permanent and compulsory relocation coupled with a fair redistribution mechanism; urges the Member States, in the meantime, to make full use of the criteria provided for in the Dublin III Regulation, such as the clauses concerning unaccompanied children and family reunification and the discretionary clauses, thereby ensuring common European standards under existing legislation;
6. Stresses that in 2014 nearly half of the asylum seekers arriving in Europe were entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection or were authorised to stay for humanitarian reasons; emphasises, therefore, the need to make increased use of safe and legal channels and to strengthen the provision of humanitarian visas in the Visa Code by calling on the Member States to make greater use of such humanitarian visas;
7. Stresses that, in addition to a strong resettlement programme and bearing in mind that a number of Member States lack the necessary human resources, Member States should agree to provide other legal avenues such as enhanced family reunification, private sponsorship schemes and flexible visa arrangements, including for study and work purposes;
8. Recalls that asylum is a fundamental human right guaranteed by international laws and obligations that are binding on all the Member States; stresses, therefore, that the Member States should make increased use of the procedures at their disposal for dealing with urgent protection claims, by making greater use of the existing legal framework, including the examination of applications for asylum lodged at their consulates in third countries;
9. Recalls that migration is a global and complex phenomenon which also requires a long-term approach that addresses its root causes, such as poverty, inequality, injustice and armed conflict; urges the EU, its Member States and the international community to reinforce their role in conflict resolution and in particular to help find sustainable political solutions in those countries in conflict, such as the Middle East countries, Syria and Libya, and to strengthen political dialogue, including with regional organisations, by encompassing all elements of human rights in order to support inclusive and

democratic institutions, to build the resilience of local communities and to foster social and democratic development in the countries of origin and among their peoples; urges the Commission, in this connection, to take a leading role and to bring together world leaders to address this issue as a matter of priority for the international community at large; looks forward to the Valletta Conference on Migration as an opportunity for constructive dialogue between the EU, the African Union and key countries which together can take decisive action to address the migration situation properly;

10. Calls for the establishment of humanitarian corridors throughout the countries of transit for refugees (in both the Mediterranean and the Western Balkans), with the aim of providing humanitarian aid and ensuring that the refugees' most basic needs are covered and their human rights respected; stresses that the humanitarian response to the refugee crisis should be part of a longer-term plan that includes humanitarian aid support for the countries neighbouring the refugees' countries of origin, strengthens their early recovery and protection capacities, reinforces the role of UN-related agencies and improves the political, social, human rights and economic situation in developing countries of origin and transition;
11. Asks the Commission to ensure that a new approach to migration is central to the new development framework and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN Summit in New York in September 2015;
12. Calls on the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) to convene an international conference on the refugee crisis, with the participation of the EU, its Member States, UN-related agencies, the USA, relevant international NGOs and Arab states, among others, with the aim of establishing a common global humanitarian aid strategy;
13. Calls on the Member States to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;
14. Takes note of the launch of the EUNAVFOR Med operation to combat smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean within the framework of broader efforts to tackle the crisis and save lives at sea, and of the proposal made by the VP/HR at the informal meeting of defence ministers of 3 September 2015 with a view to increasing the operation's capacity to operate in high seas in order to capture and dispose of the vessels used and to help arrest smugglers;
15. Calls on the Commission to create significant budgetary room and readiness within the 2016 budget and the provisions of the multiannual financial framework, thereby enabling swifter and more substantial support for those Member States in which most arrivals take place, together with support for Member States for the reception and integration of refugees;
16. Urges the Member States and the Commission to increase the level of funds and means set aside for responses to humanitarian crises inside and outside the EU;
17. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take urgent steps to combat violent actions and hate speech targeting migrants; also calls on the leaders of the EU and of its

Member States to take a clear stand in favour of European solidarity, respect for human dignity, and the rights of the asylum seekers;

18. Understands the value of the ‘Hotspot’ approach, as announced in the Agenda on Migration, in strengthening operational support when applicants first arrive, including for the registration and initial processing of arrivals, as long as this response also addresses the issue of how asylum seekers should be distributed among the Member States and clearly establishes effective, gender-sensitive mechanisms for identifying people with specific needs and referring them on to the relevant services;
19. Calls on the Council and the Member States to act now, and recalls that the purpose of this resolution is to implement the initiatives already announced by the Commission with the aim of increasing solidarity and responsibility-sharing among the Member States, including the new proposal for a permanent relocation mechanism on the basis of Article 78(2) TFEU, with a further increase in the number of relocation places being a first step in the right direction, bearing in mind that the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs is currently drafting a report which will reflect Parliament’s medium- and longer-term policy orientations on migration; stresses the need to give urgent priority to the refugee situation, which if left unmanaged will result in continuous and increasing irregular and life-threatening crossings to the EU;
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.