European Parliament resolution on refugees: social inclusion and integration into the labour market

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,
– having regard to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Culture and Education (A8-0204/2016),

A. whereas the refugee crisis is partly a humanitarian crisis, caused and/or worsened inter alia by the European Union (EU) and its interventions in other countries’ affairs;

B. whereas this phenomenon is becoming financially unsustainable for the social and health services of local host communities and Member States, and whereas the immigration crisis will have a long-term impact on the labour markets and on civil society in the Member States and is on its way to becoming a structural phenomenon in the long term;

C. whereas in Europe 122 million citizens, 24.4 % of the population of the European Union, are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and almost 10 % of the population is suffering from serious material deprivation or living in households with a very low work intensity;

D. whereas by definition the word ‘refugee’ implies that the person will return to their country of origin once the conflict is over; any discussion about long-term integration is therefore unnecessary;

E. whereas accepting refugees in our communities must not and cannot be in unlimited numbers or for an indefinite period of time, but they must instead be provided with first aid interventions;

F. whereas the distinction between refugees and migrants must be clearly established, before they enter the Members States;
G. whereas the EU’s open borders policy incentivises and encourages more migrants to attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea;

1. Notes that in Europe there are more than 21 million unemployed, roughly 4 million of whom are young people under the age of 25; notes that in these circumstances, it is not clear how immigrants could be integrated into the labour market, given that a ‘European labour market’ no longer exists;

2. Underlines the fact that the Commission has completely failed to address the unemployment crisis and that it is not even able to provide European citizens with decent employment;

3. Rejects the idea that the integration of refugees into the labour market would be an opportunity for the EU;

4. Rejects the Commission strategy of forcing Member States to recognise the diplomas and qualifications of third-country migrants in order to integrate them into their education systems as teachers or professors; recalls that all matters related to education and instruction are the sole competence of the Members States; they are therefore the sole decision-makers on this matter;

5. Emphasises that, despite the unemployment and financial crisis affecting European citizens, the EU keeps on defending, against all logic, its open door policy, and fuelling initiatives whose purpose it is to import millions of workers to be exploited in the European labour market;

6. Notes that the social struggle between European citizens and refugees to obtain work will trigger a new wave of wage deflation and, ultimately, a social struggle between poor Europeans and poor migrants;

7. Notes with concern the social and psychological consequences for European citizens when newly arrived migrants are given jobs, housing and access to health care more quickly than the millions of unemployed Europeans who live in poverty;

8. Condemns President Juncker’s statement in his 2015 State of the Union address affirming his support for granting asylum seekers access to the labour market while their applications are being processed;

9. Recalls that in 2015 more than a million migrants crossed into Europe and notes with deep concern that many more migrants will continue to come to Europe in 2016; encourages the Member States, therefore, to close their own borders;

10. Stresses that the abolition of internal borders is one of the key elements that contributed to the massive uncontrolled migration flow, including the free passage of ISIS terrorists, into Europe;

11. Emphasises that the economic, financial and social situation of Members States does not in any case allow for more newcomers to be hosted;
12. Asks that the integration of unemployed European citizens remain the priority for the Member States, and above all else, the integration of young unemployed Europeans and long-term unemployed Europeans;

13. Underlines that the Union’s demographic deficit should be primarily addressed by giving incentives to Europeans to have more children, and not by importing migrants from third countries;

14. Strongly rejects any attempt to consider immigration a solution to the problem of an ageing population;

15. Insists that under no circumstances can the relocation of migrants be considered an acceptable solution to the demographic problems experienced by mountainous areas;

16. Insists that small and medium-sized enterprises should not have to bear the burden of this forced inclusion of migrants in the labour market;

17. Strongly and categorically rejects any attempt at creating a specific labour market for migrants;

18. Recalls that it is Member States and their regional and local communities that are the first to be impacted by the arrival of refugees on their territory and by the immigration crisis; it is therefore appropriate to allow each Member State to decide on its own migration crisis management policy;

19. Underlines the inconsistency of the Commission’s programme to achieve a targeted revision of the Reception Conditions Directive in order to ensure that persons seeking international protection have access to the labour market no later than six months after their application, while in the Member States young unemployed Europeans and long-term unemployed Europeans are not able to find a job;

20. Recalls that the Member States are already under pressure from Brussels to reduce their spending and that any investment required towards the integration of migrants would be contrary to the Commission’s own requirements;

21. Underlines the negative impact of the agreement between the EU and Turkey on the management of migrants, which will only aggravate the phenomenon of landings and arrivals in Europe;

22. Stresses the urgent need to ensure that unaccompanied minors receive particular protection against exploitation at work, violence and trafficking;

23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and the parliaments of the Member States.

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