

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2004/2121(INI)

22.11.2004

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the managed entry in the EU of persons in need of international protection and the enhancement of the protection capacity of the regions of origin - 'Improving access to durable solutions'
((COM(2004)0410 – 2004/2121(INI))

on the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 'A more efficient common European asylum system: the single procedure as the next step'
((COM(2004)0503 – 2004/2121(INI))

Draftsman: Ioannis Kasoulides

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas there is a need to conclude agreements between the EU and third countries in order to improve access to durable solutions for refugees or persons in need for protection or political asylum based on the principle of shared responsibility,
- B. whereas protracted refugee situations and lengthy processing of asylum claims may undermine personal security of genuine applicants, especially in crisis situations, and impel them to resort to illegal means of travel,
 1. Stresses the necessity of cooperation of third countries with the EU for a comprehensive and balanced EU asylum and migration policy. The partnership with third countries can be implemented through existing instruments, such as the European Neighbourhood Policy and its pending individual Countries' Action Plans, designed in a flexible and situation specific manner, as well as other Community programmes - the Aid to Uprooted People in Asia and Latin America, MEDA, CARDS, EDF and Aeneas Programme;
 2. Calls on the EU to demonstrate in a visible and consistent way its readiness to assist third countries in the regions of origin to enhance their protection capacities according to UNHCR Convention Plus initiative and other recommendations;
 3. Believes that the European Union should be better prepared to provide urgent assistance to the countries neighbouring to the states in crisis, in order to help them to address sudden and numerous migration in consequence of crisis situations according to the international standards;
 4. Maintains that parallel to the efforts expected from third countries in the regions of origin, the EU should be seen by third countries as ready to proceed to:
 - the creation of a Common European Asylum System, as called for in Tampere, with special attention given to improving the timing of processing special asylum claims in emergency situations,
 - the preparation of a fully fledged Regional Protection Programme by December 2005,
 - and an resettlement scheme on the basis of the main features as set out in this Communication;
 5. Calls on the EU to ensure that the necessary budgetary means, other than those already envisaged as development aid to third countries, would be made available to enhance the financial and institutional protection capacities in developing countries, ready to share responsibility with the EU in this field;
 6. Stresses that the enhancing protection capacity in the regions of origin and creation of the Protected Entry Procedures leads to ensuring an orderly and anticipated manner of entry into the EU, while further maintaining the existing right of application for asylum upon spontaneous arrival in an EU Member State.

PROCEDURE

Title	Asylum procedure and protection in regions of origin
Procedure number	2004/2121(INI)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Enhanced cooperation	No
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Ioannis Kasoulides 20.10.2004
Discussed in committee	22.11.2004
Date suggestions adopted	22.11.2004
Result of final vote	for: 40 against: 2 abstentions: 0
Members present for the final vote	Vittorio Emanuele Agnoletto, Angelika Beer, Panagiotis Beglitis, Bastiaan Belder, Monika Beňová, Emma Bonino, André Brie, Philip Claeys, Simon Coveney, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Véronique De Keyser, Anna Elzbieta Fotyga, Maciej Marian Giertych, Alfred Gomolka, Klaus Hänsch, Richard Howitt, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Jelko Kacin, Georgios Karatzaferis, Ioannis Kasoulides, Helmut Kuhne, Vytautas Landsbergis, Cem Özdemir, João de Deus Pinheiro, Paweł Bartłomiej Piskorski, Michel Rocard, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Hannes Swoboda, István Szent-Iványi, Jan Marinus Wiersma
Substitutes present for the final vote	Philip Bushill-Matthews, Glyn Ford, Ğirts Valdis Kristovskis, Ioannis Matsis, Doris Pack, Dariusz Rosati, Aloyzas Sakalas, Inger Segelström, Jean Spautz
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Marios Matsakis