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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on trafficking in human beings

European Parliament resolution on trafficking in human beings

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to its Article 13, which states: 'Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country',
 - having regard to the letter addressed to 'Europe's Members and leaders' by Yaguine Koïta and Fodé Tounkara, two Guinean children who perished in the undercarriage of a Sabena aircraft,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the free movement of people and immigration and asylum policy,
- A. profoundly shocked by the terrible death, in a lorry in the port of Dover, of 58 immigrants seeking entry to Britain,
- B. appalled at the deaths over the last few months of several hundred immigrants, shipwrecked in makeshift vessels, frozen to death in aircraft undercarriages or killed while trying to cross borders or being expelled,
1. Condemns unequivocally the criminal actions of all those who profit from trafficking in human beings;
 2. Believes it is vital to step up action to combat the criminal networks, often of a transnational nature, which are involved in trafficking in human beings, as well as the exploiters of clandestine labour, notably by means of closer cooperation between European countries and the imposition of deterrent punishments, while clearly distinguishing the victims from those responsible;
 3. Believes that illegal immigration is essentially due to the increase in inequality worldwide arising from capitalist globalisation, and to 'closed borders' policies thanks to which those fleeing poverty or repression are obliged to resort to all possible means, even those which endanger their health and life;
 4. Repudiates the existing immigration policies which, following the Schengen provisions, are erecting barriers and regulations in ever greater numbers to keep migrants out; refuses the notion that immigration policy can be reduced to a matter of border controls and spot checks on migrants within Union territory;
 5. Believes that the principle of the free movement of persons within the Union must also be applied to third-country nationals;

6. Calls on the Council to promote immigration and asylum policies based on respect for human rights and the free movement of persons and leading to improvements in asylum law, the protection of refugees and the conditions in which migrants are received;
7. Rejects all plans to impose immigration quotas, which are simply a means of pillaging human resources in order to obtain third-country labour to satisfy the circumstantial needs of industrialists in the countries of Europe;
8. Calls on the Member States to improve the conditions in which migrants are received and to encourage their integration by regularising those in an irregular situation, ending expulsions, abolishing detention centres and double jeopardy and ensuring equality of treatment as regards economic and social rights and the recognition of civic and political rights, notably the right to vote in local and European elections;
9. Calls on the education systems and the media to contribute more actively to informing European public opinion about communities of foreign origin and their history and culture, as well as their contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the Union;
10. Believes priority must be given to developing cooperation and solidarity with migrants' countries of origin, in particular by contributing in the fields of economic development, improved access to knowledge, more frequent exchanges between peoples, debt cancellation and the taxation of financial transactions;
11. Expresses its deep disappointment at the failure of the rich countries to act on the commitments they entered into at the 'social summit' in Copenhagen in 1995, as demonstrated by the Geneva summit of 26-30 June 2000; calls on the European Union to take initiatives to ensure that all the Copenhagen commitments are respected;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States.