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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Stefano Zappalà, Lorenzo Cesa and Amalia Sartori,  
on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

Cristiana Muscardini, Roberta Angelilli and Romano Maria La Russa, on  
behalf of the UEN Group

and Borghezio

on Lampedusa

**European Parliament resolution on Lampedusa**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Lampedusa is a small 20 km<sup>2</sup> island located in the middle of the Sicilian Channel, with a population of 5 500, which has obvious limits to its capacity to receive and host the mass of immigrants and asylum seekers who regularly land on its coast, often in desperate conditions,
- B. whereas, in spite of obvious difficulties, the local population and police force, as well as the national authorities, have always taken action to alleviate the conditions of the immigrants, saving many human lives,
- C. whereas on 13 March 2005 more than 1 000 people of various nationalities landed by boat in Lampedusa and were immediately transferred, after receiving first aid, to a temporary holding centre for foreign nationals, where their situations were duly examined,
- D. whereas those who asked to be regarded as refugees (over 500 immigrants) were transferred from Lampedusa to the Crotone centre, because of the impossibility for a small island to host such a wave of immigrants,
- E. whereas on 16 March the Italian Home Affairs Minister informed the Italian Parliament that Italy was acting lawfully, stating that all the immigrants had been properly processed and that only 494 out of 1 235 had been returned to Libya,
- F. whereas the return to Libya was carried out on the basis of the agreement between Italy and Libya which has its counterpart in agreements with other southern Mediterranean countries,
- G. whereas Libya has ratified the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) convention which recognises the 1951 United Nations Convention on refugees,
- H. whereas the same minister reported that on this occasion many immigrants had escaped from the Crotone centre and injured a number of policemen, and that afterwards only a few of them were recaptured,
- I. whereas all the measures taken by the Italian national authorities are based on Article 10 of Italian Law 286/98 (the ‘Turco-Napolitano law’), which has not been modified by the ‘Bossi-Fini law’ on immigration,
- J. whereas the matter or the return of these immigrants has been brought before the Court of Justice, but the Court has not so far taken any decision on the case and will probably contact the Italian authorities to ask for further information,

1. Notes that the special case of Lampedusa demonstrates the need to address illegal immigration at European level and requires appropriate Community funds;
2. Recognises that the Italian authorities are making every possible effort to rescue all immigrants arriving on Italian shores and that they always check the situation of each immigrant on a case-by-case basis;
3. Stresses that the European Parliament should refrain from holding a 'political trial' since the case is still being discussed in the Court of Justice;
4. Proposes to send a delegation of members of the European Parliament to Lampedusa to verify the legitimacy of the actions of the Italian authorities;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.