

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

30 June 2003

15/2003

WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mario Borghezio

on the creation of Lampedusa Natural Park and the setting-up of reception centres for refugees and asylum seekers outside the borders of the European Union

Lapse date: 30 September 2003

DC\502175EN.doc

PE 334.206
Or. it

EN

EN

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the continuous influx of illegal immigrants from North African regions to the island of Lampedusa is a problem which concerns the European Union as a whole;
- B. emphasising that the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa is a veritable jewel of nature of unsurpassable beauty located on the southern fringes of Europe and inhabited by a population faithfully carrying on its traditional activities and tourist accommodation activities;
- C. noting that the island of Lampedusa and the surrounding seas are an area of primary ecological importance, whose preservation is jeopardised by the passage of the highly polluting ‘sea carts’ which transport the illegal immigrants, and which are almost always abandoned in the waters around Lampedusa;
- D. welcoming the farsighted British proposal to establish reception centres for refugees and asylum seekers outside the borders of the European Union;
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to:
 - create a natural park comprising the island of Lampedusa and the surrounding seas that is closed to sea traffic and permits and preserves the traditional local activities;
 - invite the Italian Government to site the reception centre for illegal immigrants elsewhere, thereby freeing the island of Lampedusa from a servitude which bears the stamp of colonialism;
 - set up reception camps for asylum seekers in Tunisia, Albania, and Turkey, negotiating the conditions for these with the governments of the countries in question and threatening immediate and total suspension of European Union financial assistance should they refuse;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Commission and the Council.