EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004 *2009*

Committee on Development

2006/2250(INI)

1.3.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on policy priorities for the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals
(2006/2250(INI))

Draftsman: Manolis Mavrommatis

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development 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:

1. Welcomes the communication from the Commission on policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals as a step in the right direction of establishing an EU strategy in concertation with neighbouring countries towards the effective management of migration flows, with the long term objective of a common EU policy in this field;

2. Welcomes the fact that the European Council of 14/15 December 2006 has once more recognised the need for a comprehensive European migration policy based on solidarity between Member States, partnership with third countries and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants and has agreed on concrete steps to be taken during the course of 2007 along these lines;

3. Believes, however, that a comprehensive European migration policy requires extending codecision with Parliament and qualified majority voting in Council to other areas, such as legal immigration or the integration of third-country nations, in accordance with Article 67 of the EC Treaty, as planned in 2004 by the Dutch Council Presidency, and calls on the Council to act accordingly;

4. Calls on the European Union to fight illegal migration by addressing the root causes of mass immigration, by fighting poverty and enhancing development, economic growth, good governance and social cohesion in countries of origin;

5. Notes, as an example of good practice, the fact that certain Member States have signed cooperation agreements on immigration with various African countries, identifying the link between migration and development; encourages the Member States and the Commission to step up cooperation and continue to develop programmes of this nature;

6. Calls on the EU Member States to implement their policies on illegal migration in full compatibility with fundamental human rights, in particular the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

7. Stresses that the fight against trafficking in human beings, more particularly inunaccompanied minors, and any form of slavery linked to illegal migration must be conducted as an EU priority and that adequate financial and political resources must be devoted to this action; considers that Member States should sign and comply with the relevant international conventions, including the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;

8. Calls on the EU and African countries to implement the Joint Africa-EU Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children, with particular

encouragement for cooperation between the countries of origin, transit and destination with regard to the victims in terms of identification, assistance, protection, repatriation and reintegration, as well as to promote the organisation of awareness campaigns targeted at the risks of illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings in the countries concerned;

9. Welcomes the launching of an EU Programme on Migration and Development in Africa of an initial amount of EUR 40 million, with the objective of creating new jobs in Africa, and asks the Commission to provide more information on practical modalities; applauds, in this context, the signing of the cooperation agreement with Mali by the Commission, with the support of Spain and France, with a view to the opening of the first Migration Information and Management Centre, to be created with funding from that Programme;

10. Stresses the need for cooperation between countries of origin and destination in the fight against illegal migration, and considers that the ACP-EU partnership is a particularly appropriate framework for putting forward joint responses to the migration issue, on the basis of Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement;

11. Asks the Commission and Member States, in partnership with countries of origin, to invest resources in information campaigns in the countries of origin of illegal immigrants in order to warn them of the physical risks and dangers of migrating illegally and of subsequent marginalisation in countries of destination; believes that such information campaigns should use all available channels such as the mass media, local radios and TV programmes;

12. Welcomes the fact that the European Council of 14/15 December 2006 agreed to ensure a coherent follow-up to the September 2006 UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, where the first meeting of the Global Forum on International Migration and Development, due to take place in July 2007 in Belgium, will be a vital step, and calls on the EU to ensure a strong participation in the Global Forum where the EU will take the lead in placing migration and development issues on the agenda; believes that Parliament must be involved in the preparation of the EU contribution to the Global Forum and must be appropriately represented in it;

13. Reminds the Commission that at least 90 % of the expenditure provided for under thematic programmes shall be designed so as to fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA) established by the OECD/ DAC, according to Article 2(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation[1];

14. Takes into consideration Council Directive 2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities[2], the EU Plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings[3] adopted in December 2005

[1] OJ L 378, 27.12.2006, p. 41.
[2] OJ L 261, 6.8.2004, p. 19.
[3] OJ C 311, 9.12.2005, p. 1.

and welcomes the Joint Africa-EU declaration of the EU - Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development hosted by Libya on 22-23 November 2006;

15. Calls on the EU and Member States to become parties to the UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons;

16. Calls on the Member States to include in their respective migration policies a high level of health protection of immigrants by providing preventive care and medical treatment.

PROCEDURE

Title	Policy priorities for the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals
Procedure number	2006/2250(INI)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 26.10.2006
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Draftsman Date appointed	Manolis Mavrommatis 6.11.2006
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	30.1.2007 28.2.2007
Date adopted	28.2.2007
Result of final vote	+: 30 –: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrietus van den Berg, Josep Borrell Fontelles, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Corina Crețu, Nirj Deva, Koenraad Dillen, Hélène Goudin, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Luisa Morgantini, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, Miguel Portas, Horst Posdorf, Toomas Savi, Pierre Schapira, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknas Uca, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Anna Záborská
Substitutes present for the final vote	Fiona Hall, Alain Hutchinson, Jan Jerzy Kułakowski, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Atanas Paparizov, Anne Van Lancker, Ralf Walter
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco
Comments (available in one language only)	