



FEDERATION OF
YOUNG EUROPEAN GREENS

A Europe That Saves Lives – Towards a Humane Asylum and Migration Politics

Adopted by FYEG General Assembly at its meeting in June 2015 in Tbilisi

The same scenario repeats over and over again: Boats filled with refugees try to reach Europe, yet drown, unidentified, in the Mediterranean instead. The European strategy has been one of indifference and cruel cynicism for all too long. We are ashamed of Europe that lets people drown at its shores in order to prevent others from coming. We are ashamed of European leaders for whom more than 20.000 dead in last 15 years were not enough to take the necessary actions to finally protect lives of refugees and migrants at High Seas. Europe cannot and must not let people die at its doorsteps. A Europe that leaves people dying at its shores is not the Europe we want and not the Europe we need and we can live in. FYEG believes that freedom of movement is a human right, migration is not a crime and no human is illegal. We strive for the complete abolition of borders and the unquestionable right for everyone to choose a place of residence and of work.

We, the young European Greens, are calling upon the governments of *European countries*, the Council of European Union, the European Council, the European Commission as well as the European Parliament and other relevant actors to take all necessary steps towards the adoption and implementation the measures listed below.

Measures to be adopted urgently:

1. To establish a **robust European rescue operation at High Seas** based on financial and material contribution of all EU Member States, with a broad mandate and clearly defined responsibilities of the parties involved.
2. To widen options for **family reunification** as to include more distant family relatives.
3. To create new **legal ways to Europe** through the extension of the existing and creation of new **visa regimes**, including among others but not limited to scholarships and grants for students from the Global South.

Measures to be adopted without any unnecessary delay:

1. To establish a European quota a system **for regular refugee resettlement** (from third countries) and **refugee redistribution** (among EU countries), which will, however be envisaged as an offer and not an obligation towards the asylum seekers; consequently, a mechanism guaranteeing refugees their free choice of the country of destination is a necessary precondition of the quota system.

2. To take all the necessary steps towards the establishment of a system for **humanitarian visa**, enabling people to reach European soil safely for the purpose of launching an asylum application.
3. EU should work on a legal migration policy.
4. EU should work on a post asylum policy.
5. The possibility should be created for refugees to apply for asylum in other countries rather than country of arrival. This could be done in refugee camps, embassies, country of origin or strategically positioned places such as but not limited to refugee camps. Security for the asylum seeker should at all times be guaranteed. It is the responsible of the EU to oversee the human rights in these places where they can safely apply for asylum.
6. To **abolish Frontex**. while acknowledging that this EU body participated in a range of controversial operations at High Seas in the past, involving serious human-rights violations and presumably also push-backs of potential asylum seekers and that financial resources of the EU are spent better if Frontex is in the long run replaced by a humanitarian rescue operation at High Seas. At the same time, possible **human-right violations committed by Frontex should be investigated**, invoking if necessary the individual criminal responsibility of high-level officials involved.
7. To **abolish Dublin(III)-Regulation**. Asylum seekers need to be granted the right to freely decide where they launch their asylum application. Enabling to apply for asylum in countries where they have family connections, support of their community or know the language will ease their inclusion into host societies. Needless to say that the Dublin(III)-Regulation is in contradiction to the idea of European solidarity as it asymmetrically puts responsibility for asylum seekers on countries on the external border to the EU.

Measures to be avoided:

1. To **abstain from** measures causing unnecessary harm and potential civilian casualties such as any **military action against people smugglers** or their boats in recognition such measures would make it impossible for most of the refugees to reach Europe at all.
2. To **abstain from** any **measures** directly or indirectly **aiming at preventing voluntary migration**, as the free movement of persons is a natural process and the very basis of the European Union.

Long-term measures:

1. To **tackle causes of forced migration** which have their **roots in the countries of Global North**, such as changes in natural habitats related to climate change and above all the highly irresponsible conduct of transnational companies operating in the countries of Global South, including poor working conditions, demand for cheap labor, tax evasion and tax dodging, land grabbing, excessive exploitation of local natural resources and at times gross human rights violations and complete destruction of nature. At the same time, focus should be also on individual responsibility of populations of Global North as regard their consumer behavior, i.e. the demand for cheap goods and services, notably

clothing.

2. To make further efforts towards **stabilising the countries and societies neighbouring Europe** especially through but not limited to supporting local non-governmental organisations and grassroots initiatives financially as well as through specific know-how, alliance building, and experience sharing.

3. To take measures to **support refugees** in any way necessary to help them **normalizing their ways of life**, especially through the inclusion in education systems, providing psychological and health support that takes into account the individual reasons for flight, language courses etc.

Reclaiming global justice means standing up for a world where everybody has the right to pursue happiness. We are calling upon FYEG's member organizations to take the necessary steps to advocate for the above indicated measures in their communities and above all with their respective governments.