

Migration: a challenge for Europe

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 1 to 3 December 2017:

Is convinced that:

- confronted by the historic challenge represented by migratory movements Europe must transform the public narrative on immigration, difficult though that may be, from one made up of lies, fear and demagoguery, to a different story which, without denying the problems, is able to convince citizens that from an “emergency” migrants can instead become a great opportunity, even in economic terms for the European continent;
- well distributed quality reception and integration are able to expand citizenship rights, by making it inclusive and promoting cohesion and security for everyone.

Notes that:

- in the European Union, of more than 500 million residents of all ages (510 million), only 7% are immigrants (35 million), while the natives constitute the vast majority (93%, equal to 473 million); [1]
- of the 16 million refugees, only 1.3 million are hosted in the 28 European Union countries (8.3%), including Italy (118,000, 0.7%). [2] The countries hosting the highest number of refugees in 2015 were Turkey (2.5 million), Pakistan (1.6 million), Lebanon (1.1 million) and Jordan (664,000). The total arrivals by sea in Italy were about 170,000 in 2014, 154,000 in 2015 and 180,000 in 2016; [3]
- there is no model of reception for those seeking European asylum, nor are there existing instruments and mechanisms that impose coercive measures in case of default. The effective adoption of minimum common standards is an appropriate investment disconnected from the emergencies of the moment and are obligatory steps if one intends to respond to the migration phenomenon with a view toward the long term.
- neither the current financial burden of dealing with asylum seekers or the resources available to Member States are evenly or fairly distributed

Keeps in mind that according to Treaty of Lisbon: [4]

- “a common policy on asylum, immigration and external border control, based on solidarity between Member States, which is fair towards third-country nationals...” (art. 67);
- “the Union shall develop a policy with a view to: (...) (c) the gradual introduction of an integrated management system for external borders (art. 77.1);

Resolution:

Migration: a challenge for Europe

Year and Congress:

Amsterdam,
Netherlands 2017

Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

1

- “the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall adopt measures in the following areas: (a) the conditions of entry and residence” (art. 79.2);
- “the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, may establish measures to provide incentives and support for the action of Member States with a view to promoting the integration of third-country nationals residing legally in their territories, excluding any harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States” (art. 79.4).

Calls on all member parties of ALDE, to promote and support in their respective countries norms and policies on:

- Legal immigration channels: the current immigration laws in Europe and in many Member States do not foresee a permanent mechanism to allow entry to seek work. Provisions should be introduced to allow a temporary residence permit to look for work via public and private brokering agencies connecting employers and foreign workers or through a sponsor system;
- reception system directed towards social inclusion: it is essential to increase the system to protect asylum seekers with the aim of allowing a more widely distributed hospitality across the countries through the setting up of small reception centres, reinforcing the quality of the services provided, actively fostering and monitoring social inclusion;
- regularisation methods: methods of legalisation and regularisation, on an individual basis, should be explored for illegal immigrants whenever the existence of an employment or of family links can be demonstrated (as in the Spanish model of “rootedness”);
- electoral rights: the right to vote in local and European elections should be granted to all those immigrants who have been in residence with a regular EU long-term resident status following the principle of reciprocity;
- support and assistance to help refugees to return as and when the situation in their home countries improves sufficiently while leaving the door open to naturalisation or other forms of resident status for those who qualify.

Calls on all member parties of ALDE:

- to encourage their Member State to cooperate through international organisations, such as the UN, to prevent conflicts and their escalation that give rise to the refugee influxes in the first place.

Resolution:

Migration: a challenge for Europe

Year and Congress:

Amsterdam,
Netherlands 2017

Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

2

Sources:

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics

[3] <https://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-top-363348-2016-deaths-sea-5079>

Resolution:

Migration: a challenge
for Europe

Year and Congress:

Amsterdam,
Netherlands 2017

Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

3