

A FAIR MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICY FOR EUROPE



Izquierda Unitaria Europea / Izquierda Verde Nórdica
EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT GROUP
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**“THIS DOCUMENT IS AN
ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL
TO THE NEW PACT ON
MIGRATION AND ASYLUM
PRESENTED BY THE
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
IN SEPTEMBER 2020. AT
IZQUIERDA UNIDA WE
SUPPORT MIGRATION
POLICIES BASED ON THE
PRINCIPLES OF SOLIDARITY
AND WELCOMING PEOPLE”**

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2020



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1. INTRODUCTION

This document is an alternative proposal to the new Pact on Migration and Asylum presented by the European Commission in September 2020. Up until now, the European Union's action on migration and asylum has led, both inside and outside of its borders, to situations of extreme violence against those exercising their fundamental right to find safety in Europe, such as the situation which these European policies on migration and asylum have created on the external borders or in the Greek islands. This focus on the closure and externalisation of borders has led to thousands of people finding themselves trapped in countries where their most basic human rights are not respected, and has caused thousands of people to die or suffer physical and psychological violence whilst trying to reach our continent. The last population movement of this size that we have experienced in recent years was the result of armed conflict - the Second World War. Now these armed conflicts are carried out with the tactical support or the direct participation of EU Member States, as is the case of the wars in Mali, South Sudan or Afghanistan.

Within the EU the situation is also critical, with thousands of people surviving in refugee camps in improper conditions, and lack of access to the resources needed for appropriate inclusion is the norm. Moreover, this is happening in one of the richest regions of the planet where, however, most people (especially in the countries along the southern borders) have seen their living conditions deteriorate markedly after years of austerity. In the case of Spain, and this is repeated in other Member States, the infringement of rights which occurs within Detention Centres and in Immigration Short Term Holding Facilities - whose objectives are none other than to facilitate deportations and to extend the criminalisation of immigrants - gives an idea of the lack of or minimal adherence to protocols for psychological and health care - including medical checks, suicide prevention, provision of clothes and footwear for those that need them, suitable toilet facilities etc.; as well as violent situations, confinement of minors and sick people without medical attention, all of which is against the most basic of Human Rights.

Meanwhile, adding to these already existing situations, the recent crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic has caused extreme situations like those experienced after the fire in the Moria refugee camp in Lesbos (Greece), or has been utilised by some Member States as an excuse for refusing to be declared as a "safe port", in contrast to the attempts to consider a country such as Libya as a safe port, with an ongoing conflict and where there are clear violations of human rights.

Up to now, the only secure routes to access the EU for migrants and asylum seekers have been implemented by some Member States independently, such as humanitarian

corridors (resettlement with humanitarian visas), family reunification, work and educational mobility programmes - which show that these proposals are feasible and can be reproduced at the EU scale. Nevertheless these routes are insufficient, it is urgent to set an alternative political proposal in the European context. This proposal, also rooted in the perspective that we have from Spain being on the southern border of the EU, must be capable of combining a human rights approach with the reality of the host communities which are confronted with urgent material needs. Either we are able to put a concrete policy on the table, with numbers and realities, which takes into account the needs of all of the population, or it will be the extreme right which will win this ideological battle with its xenophobic narrative.

The proposed new Pact on Migration and Asylum presented by the European Commission, the objective of which is to reform the regional policy in this area and do away with improvised solutions, concerns us a lot for various reasons. Firstly, because it does away with the principle of European solidarity and does not propose any mechanism to oblige all Member States to take responsibility for taking in refugees. If in fact all of the Member States should be involved in the management of migration, each country can choose how to contribute to the countries with higher numbers: whether by taking in migrants or by the so-called “return sponsorship”, a mechanism by which return of migrants can be financed. This decision will mean that border countries like Spain or Greece, being countries of entry, continue as now to manage asylum requests alone.

Secondly, this proposal rests on greater control of the external borders of the Union and on accelerated border procedures

to manage deportations more quickly, which may come from a lack of guarantees for migrants and refugees who see their right to suitable legal help and a detailed study of each case infringed. For their part, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) will also come out of this strengthened, prepared for being the European border police, which means not only that the Member States give up a part of their key powers but also decreases public scrutiny of questions such as deportation or border control.

Finally, it is unsettling that the European Commission, through this pact, seems to have taken on the anti-immigration narrative of the extreme right, which is a clear message to governments such as those of Hungary or Poland, who were demanding harder positions. This migration package, made up of nine legislative texts, should be approved now in the European Parliament and afterwards in the Council.

As of now there is a sufficient legal basis to give people asking for international protection a decent reception which guarantees their survival and their physical and psychological protection. Nevertheless, the Member States regularly fail to comply with directives such as 2013/32/EU or 2013/33/EU, concerning common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection; and the regulations for the reception of applicants for international protection, respectively. Far from advancing the defence of human rights, the Commission’s proposal moves away from the objective that the Member States should comply with their international obligations in human rights. Our proposal, which goes in the opposite direction, aims to contribute to this debate which is still a long way from being over.



EUROPPA

2. SEARCH AND RESCUE, AND BORDER CONTROL

In just the last five years, more than 10,000 people have lost their lives in the lethal border which the Mediterranean has become¹; deaths which are avoidable; much of these people were obliged to leave their homes for political, climate, health or economic reasons, where the EU and its action has a decisive role. In the first half of 2020, nearly a hundred boats, with a total of 4,500 people, have found themselves embroiled in emergency situations whilst trying to reach Europe by the central Mediterranean route, where they came across the support of civil society organisations in boats such as Sea Watch 3, Moonbird, Open Arms, Mare Jonio, Aita Mari and Ocean Viking². Unfortunately, more than a thousand of these people were intercepted by the Libyan coastguard and by cargo ships and private boats, and immediately forced to return to Libya. From January to May 2020 in Spain, 3,717 migrants and asylum seekers arrived by sea: 2,303 to the Canary Islands and 1,246 from the enclaves of Ceuta y Melilla. Faced with these situations, the response of the EU has been to make aerial sightings of boats at the disposition of the Libyan coastguard to prevent their arrival and to force "pushbacks"³, against the most basic of human rights. For those reasons,

- A **common landing protocol** needs to be established to end improvisation and to declare **all EU ports as safe**, and if this is not complied with then sanctions or vetoes on access to EU funds should be imposed.
- **The application of the border procedure included in the proposed Procedural Regulations⁴ for unaccompanied minors** should be avoided at all costs in order to protect the best interest of the minor.
- A **public and civilian search and rescue mechanism** should be implemented for this which substitutes, in a coordinated manner and in solidarity between Member States, the military missions and externalisation through third countries which is actually occurring in the Mediterranean. In this sense, services like the Spanish Maritime Rescue and Marine Safety Society, the only civilian rescue service in the EU, offers an example which can be extrapolated to all of the EU.
- The Member States must **end all attempts at criminalisation of the NGOs**, which faced with the lack of action by the EU governments, are carrying out rescue operations. Facilitating the movement of migrants cannot be considered a crime or be used to question or destroy the humanitarian aid work which they carry out in accordance with international maritime law⁵.
- Rescue missions, both at sea and on land, must include **clear and guaranteed protocols, on the use of drones from a civilian perspective** for its operations.

¹ <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/region/mediterranean>

² <https://alarmphone.org/en/2020/06/06/western-med-regional-analysis/>

³ <https://alarmphone.org/en/2020/06/17/new-report-aerial-collaboration-between-the-eu-and-libya-facilitates-mass-interceptions-of-migrants/>

⁴ *The reform of the Common European Asylum System of 2016 proposed substituting the Directive on Procedures for a directly applicable regulation imposing a number of new obligations on people requesting international protection which carried with it serious and disproportionate procedural consequences in the case of non-compliance. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-wedo/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementationpackage/docs/20160713/proposal_for_a_common_procedure_for_international_protection_in_the_union_en.pdf*

⁵ *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Article 98.*



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3. REGULAR MIGRATION

The coronavirus pandemic has shown, once more, that it is the migrant and refugee population which suffer the most from the disastrous effects of the policies of adjustments and cuts of governments in the areas of health, welfare, work and economics. In Spain alone, the nearly 600,000 people who are in an irregular situation have seen their living conditions worsen, with precarious working conditions, vulnerability and exploitation, as was stated by Philip Alston, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. Nevertheless, the secure and effective access routes to the European Union are insufficient, and do not manage to avoid thousands of people risking their lives crossing the Mediterranean, the fences of Ceuta and Melilla or the Balkan borders in very dangerous conditions. We have a historic opportunity to remedy situations like this and regulate migration as the human and social right that it is. For those reasons,

- The Member States should increase and ensure **common stable, accessible and safe procedures, to issue visas in European embassies in countries of origin and of transit** so that people can obtain asylum in the EU without needing to go through third countries. In addition, they should facilitate transit visas where necessary.
- **The Council of the EU urgently needs to approve the European Resettlement Framework**, which establishes a mechanism to move especially vulnerable people from conflict zones or humanitarian emergencies.
- Given that the existence and need for humanitarian corridors comes from urgent and exceptional situations which should be eradicated at their origin (that is, the armed conflicts which cause them), our proposal in the long term must include an **impetus for programmes of sustainable and institutionalised mobility of labour and for education** which regularises immigration and normalises human mobility as a right.
- We advocate a **more inclusive definition of family reunification**, which extends this right to other family models such as children of previous relationships, co-habitants, adopted people, dependents etc.; as well as spouses, daughters and sons who are minors and parents.
- **Labour mobility programmes should be expanded and reinforced** so that all migrants, and not just asylum seekers, should be covered whether their documents are in order or not.
- **A definition of climate refugees** should be legally recognised at the European level.

“THE SAFE ACCESS ROUTES OF THE EU ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH AND DO NOT PREVENT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE RISKING THEIR LIVES ON A DAILY BASIS”



4. PROCESSES FOR ASYLUM, RECEPTION, RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT⁶

Europe has contributed to the crisis of the right to asylum as set out in international law, with the EU increasingly deaf to the requests of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and which has led to a downward harmonisation of asylum and reception systems. After the arrivals of 2015, at the beginning of the year we again saw 115,000 refugees remaining trapped in Greece (40,000 in the islands and 75,000 on the continent) without the European Commission offering an effective response to guarantee relocation of asylum seekers in other Member States. In 2015 a system was established to move people from Greece and Italy based on the population of the country (40%), its GDP (40%), the number of asylum requests received in previous years (10%) and the unemployment rate (10%).

Equally, there is lack of political will to promote resettlement policies - one of the legal means which allows asylum to be given to people in third countries where their living situation is completely unsustainable - which would avoid migrants setting off to sea or having to pay large quantities of money to the mafias. For those reasons,

MEMBER STATE	REFUGEES TO BE RECEIVED
Austria	2.66%
Belgium	3.12%
Bulgaria	1.54%
Croatia	1.27%
Cyprus	0.88%
Czech Republic	2.23%
Denmark	2.15%
Estonia	0.95%
Finland	1.95%
France	13.9%
Germany	17.94%
Greece	2.27%
Hungary	1.99%
Ireland	1.82%
Italy	11.68%
Latvia	1.01%
Lithuania	1.13%
Luxembourg	0.97%
Malta	0.83%
The Netherlands	4.54%
Poland	5.56%
Portugal	2.54%
Romania	3.03%
Slovakia	1.5%
Slovenia	1.07%
Spain	8.41%
Sweden	3.09%

⁶ Resettlement: a programme or instrument of protection for refugees by which a country agrees to receive people who, for various reasons, find themselves temporarily in a third country. These reasons may be that in the country of origin their basic rights have been denied or they have been in danger, and for this reason they have had to leave for a second country, but this temporary host country has not been able to guarantee them safety as refugees (for example people leaving Syria and temporarily hosted in Lebanon). This legal and safe route leads to a long lasting solution, nevertheless it is rarely used. Relocation: this is not a legal and safe means, rather an emergency mechanism to move migrants from those EU countries with an external border or receiving a greater number of migrants, to other Member States with lesser flow of migrants. This is a temporary measure.

- Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including those who have shown their willingness to be protected without having formalised it, should be **guaranteed a decent reception** which can be given immediately with the help of the current Temporary Protection Directive, which establishes temporary immediate protection for migrants and asylum seekers who cannot return to their countries, especially for reasons of war, violence or human rights violations.
- The enabling of this Directive should be accompanied by the launch of a **compulsory relocation process in solidarity** between the different Member States, which must guarantee the right of asylum within the European Union in comparable and non-discriminatory living conditions for people received in all destination countries.
- This relocation must be carried out **immediately for the most vulnerable, especially unaccompanied minors**, considering criteria for family reunifications.
- An obligation to establish **mandatory quotas for relocating people** for Member States is needed, with a veto on access to EU funds if they are not complied with. For this, criteria for family reunification and criteria such as population and GDP of Member States should be considered as a priority, as well as **those countries at the borders of the Union which because of their particular geography** receive a greater number or arrivals.
- The Government of Spain should join forces with other Member States with external borders to **avoid the obligation to register and make a first analysis of the asylum request in the country of entry into the EU being imposed**, and to promote the sharing of this responsibility with other Member States.
- In addition, the **requirement for visas for people coming from countries with armed conflicts should be removed**. In this way, we will be able to dismantle the business of the mafias and this will enable asylum seekers to travel normally, so avoiding the chaotic situations in European border regions. Likewise, it is essential to **reform the Directive on the recognition of refugee status** with the aim of guaranteeing that the definition of refugees includes those persecuted for reasons of sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression, misogynist violence (with special protection measures for victims of sexual exploitation), or motivated by the destruction of their livelihoods, whether for reasons of climate change⁷ or by the overexploitation or destruction of natural resources by multinationals and similar cases.
- The Member States should establish a **regulatory framework on humanitarian visas which facilitate protection** by this method, in line with the Resolution of the European Parliament of 11 December 2018, with recommendations for the Commission on humanitarian visas.⁸ When checking the eligibility criteria foreseen in the Qualifications Directive⁹, **the responsibility on the burden of proof should always be shared between the applicant and the decision-making authority**. Applications based on circumstances created by the applicant after having left his/her country should never be denied.
- Likewise, **the ending of the responsibility of Member States 12 months after the date in which the unauthorised border was crossed, recognised in the reform of the Dublin Regulation**, must be maintained. Its suppression, as expressed in the proposal to modify the Dublin Regulation, would go against the principle of solidarity and place Member States with external EU borders in an unequal position.
- Moreover, the current version of the Dublin Regulation concerning the decision of any Member State to **examine an international protection application which might be presented to it even when this evaluation does not concern it**, must be guaranteed, including assuming responsibility for humanitarian and cultural reasons.
- **Making economic resources available** from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for state, regional and local authorities is urgent in the implementation of reception programmes based on criteria agreed within the EU, which must fix a framework for the development of policies on behalf of other administrations with other resources.
- As Izquierda Unida we propose to reformulate Spain's budget to allocate **60% of these funds to Asylum, 40% for Inclusion and Regularisation and to eliminate the fixed quantities allocated to deportations**, which should be aimed at putting in place policies that ensure that those who come to Europe seeking asylum do so in decent conditions.
- Also, to promote **policies of public investment to finance projects** to stimulate social and labour integration, incentives for hiring, housing and social inclusion, so that these people can contribute a positive socioeconomic impact at the local level, especially in areas affected by depopulation and aging.

⁷ <https://www.unhcr.org/497891022.pdf>

⁸ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0494_ES.html#title1

⁹ Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and Council of 13 December 2011 by which regulations were established on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted. Its objective is, according to CEAR, to ensure that Member States apply common criteria for the identification of people needing international protection; and to ensure that these people receive a minimal level of services - access to employment, education, health care and housing.



5. DEPORTATION POLICIES

Since the Return Directive of 2010 came into force, the EU has continually increased the deportation budget. The EU has allocated, through the European Return Fund, 676 million euros to promote deportations during the period 2008-2013¹⁰; adding to that the 164 million euros allocated to the Frontex agency for support operations for deportation between 2017 and 2019¹¹, which have returned more than 50,000 migrants to their country of origin or transit since 2016¹². The possibility of deportation to transit countries has continuously increased and has made possible deportation to countries where the deported person has no connection or any protection. This agency which receives more and more money and powers, has been carrying out actions which have received many criticisms and a condemnation by the European Court of Human Rights for carrying out mass expulsions. Also since 2016, the joint EU-IOM initiative has received 357 millions of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa to promote the wrongly named voluntary returns, which are nothing more than a way of persuading migrants to return to the misery and violence from which they were fleeing¹³. According to Eurostat, just in 2019, the Member States have issued almost half a million deportation orders, of which 85% are from ten Member States¹⁴. Nevertheless, these figures are not reliable, due to the different methods used for deportations, while some “hot returns” are not included, some migrants receive orders more than once. In the light of this policy of exclusion:

- the EU should **immediately stop its policies of returning and of mass expulsions** which, far from protecting those who come seeking refuge for whatever reason, condemn these people to falling in the hands of human traffickers, torturers or situations of penury and shortages.
- The EU should **urgently stop its policy of promoting opaque protocols of readmission with third countries for deportation** of its citizens, being originally from this or from other countries, as well as **automatic returns**, contrary to international law and human rights,
- In this sense, we must **ban the inhumane policy of encouraging returns** which are carried out by means of economic programmes or money offered as compensation for receiving certain quotas of migrants, asylum seekers or refugees.
- On the contrary, the Commission should **veto access to European AMIF funds for those governments whose practices infringe human rights on the borders of the EU.**

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/return-fund_en

¹¹ <https://frontex.europa.eu/publications/2019-in-brief-d2bgPl>

¹² <https://frontex.europa.eu/publications/2019-in-brief-d2bgPl>

¹³ <https://www.euronews.com/2020/06/19/paying-for-migrants-to-go-back-home-how-the-eu-s-voluntary-return-scheme-is-failing-the-de>

¹⁴ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/LIBE-PR-653716_EN.html?redirect



6. MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Both international and European law obliges EU Member States to guarantee human rights to all people under its jurisdiction, including migrants whether or not they are in a regular situation. These rights include access to health care (especially for pregnant women and minors), as well as access to education and justice¹⁵. Nevertheless, despite these limited rights often what migrants receive is lack of attention, lack of institutional protection including xenophobic aggression, as many organizations have been denouncing. Because of this, measures such as the following should be increased and implemented.

NO DETENTION OR CRIMINALISATION

- It is essential that migrants or asylum seekers who have not committed any crime **are not deprived of liberty at any moment during the process of application for asylum or regularisation.**
- Member State authorities will ensure that migrants and refugees **do not suffer violence or discrimination at any time.** Additionally they will fight against the proliferation of extreme right mafias used to dissuade migrants from reaching or staying in the EU.
- After the temporary closure of Detention Centres because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this experience is demonstrating that these centres can be closed. Therefore the EU governments should **adopt similar measures of definitive closure for these kind of centres which deprive people of their liberty,** including Immigration Short Term Holding Facilities, whose purpose is only to facilitate deportation.
- In any case **alternatives to detention** should be considered based on respect for human rights and the dignity of migrants, which encourage the inclusion of these people in society and avoid deportations.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- Also, migrants and asylum seekers who arrive in Europe should have the **freedom of movement between Member States guaranteed** with the same guarantees as citizens of the Union.
- Any measure designed to avoid secondary movements **between Member States should be adopted with a view to positive incentives in the receiving countries,** such as the facilitation of integration or family reunification. Sanctions should never be applied to migrants such as using accelerated asylum procedures - less protective than the ordinary ones - or the denial of asylum application because of leaving the country of arrival.
- In this respect a **reform of the Schengen Code is necessary to avoid any abuse at possible border controls which are becoming more frequent at internal borders** of the EU with the sole purpose of controlling migrant movements.

REGULARISATION

- The EU governments should start a process of regularisation of all migrants in irregular situations. This **regularisation should begin urgently, to be permanent and unconditional**, not only for those who have a specific work or personal situation.
- **Nobody should be denied their choice to access the labour market or to social welfare**, including those who are in a regularisation period or are applying for asylum.
- When recording migrant data, it must be considered that any changes to the Eurodac Regulations concerning personal data must be justified by need and proportionality, and guarantee the protection of sensitive data of migrants. All databases with **information concerning asylum and migration should be administered by public authorities** in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and civil society as sources of information, in order to guarantee open and free public access.

LEGAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE, AND INTERPRETATION SERVICE

- People who are applying for asylum need to be able to **access legal and psychological assistance for free**, including a translation and interpretation service.
- **Access to individual legal assistance** should be available during the whole process - the registration of application, examination and appeal.
- Additionally, the exclusion of the right to free legal assistance **in the case of applications** which are considered unfounded or later applications should be stopped because it violates access to effective judicial protection guaranteed by Article 13 of the European Charter of Human Rights.
- Mental health should be considered as well as possible traumas suffered: physical risks, mourning for family or friends, loss of culture and language, post-traumatic stress etc. **Specialised support is needed** from the start of the process of international protection, as well as support in the treatment of those with chronic illnesses.

“BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LAW OBLIGE THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EU TO GUARANTEE HUMAN RIGHTS TO EVERYONE UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION, WHICH INCLUDES MIGRANTS, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE IN A REGULAR SITUATION”

15 https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/1848-FRA-Factsheet_FRIM_ES_BAT.pdf



7. THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF EMIGRATION

- Migration is a constant theme of human history and happens for all kinds of reasons. These movements of populations do not happen by themselves. Many are the **direct consequence of policies, much of which come from Brussels** and are directly linked to an unsustainable economic model.
- **Our foreign and trade policy should be reshaped to convert us into an international player which works for peace and cooperation** with all peoples, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. This cooperation should happen in a universal way, **and never be subject to policies which intervene or promote the acceptance of demands** which are only in the interest of European elites.

- We build peace **not only by not taking part in or promoting conflicts, but also by avoiding selling arms to those involved**, that comes by a full process of conversion of the armaments industry which guarantees the preservation of jobs and the productive fabric of the countries.
- Amongst the exports of arms which should be stopped those to **countries which take part in wars in third countries** are also included, for example, the interventions of Turkey in Syria or Libya or those of Saudi Arabia in Yemen.
- In order to guarantee fairer and more collaborative international relations, it is crucial the **defence of multilateral forums as spaces to find agreements and which favour the**

free and equal movement of people, in which cooperation agreements which are beneficial for all sides are reached. Only through a logic of cooperation can we overcome the dynamics of free trade agreements which nowadays destroy the natural resources of large areas of the world, force their population to emigrate, and promote the exploitation of workers.

- This logic should **promote cooperative policies instead of the current agreements to externalise borders**. Currently, the EU and its Member States have this kind of cooperative agreement with countries such as Turkey, Morocco and Libya, which act as policemen for the EU in exchange for supplying resources to regimes which violate human rights on a daily basis. Whilst Spain is removing razor wire in Melilla, it is put up on the Moroccan side.

- Given the current urgent situation, it is also imperative to promote the stature of an independent European institution **defending migrants and asylum seekers** which looks after the respect and compliance of these proposals.
- Multilateralism is also urgent in view of the confirmation of a climate emergency which, as experts from around the world are warning, is now causing large population movements and will do so even more in the future. The climate policies of any country has repercussion across the planet and **the EU should be a key actor which promotes and deepens the climate agreements reached** in successive UNO summits.
- Only by considering the humanitarian, economic and environmental components of migration movements will we manage **to avoid forced migrations**.

“OUR FOREIGN AND TRADE POLICY SHOULD BE RESHAPED TO CONVERT US INTO AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYER WHICH WORKS FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION WITH ALL PEOPLES”

@Álvaro Minguito



Madrid, 4 September 2015. More than 500 people, convened by various social organisations and political parties, came together at about 7 p.m. in front of the offices of the European Parliament in Madrid, at 46, Paseo Castellana. Under the slogan "4 a Responsible Europe", the protestors chanted in solidarity with refugees - "No human being is illegal", "They are not deaths, they are assassinations" and "The delinquents are here".

@Álvaro Minguito



The Melilla fence where it meets the sea. Its construction began in 1998 on Spanish soil. It is about 12 kilometres long, and completely surrounds the city of Melilla.

@Álvaro Minguito



Placard against Frontex during a counter summit of the G20 in Hamburg in 2017. The member countries of the G20 met on the 7th and 8th of July. The G20 is a forum of 19 countries and the European Union, where heads of state, governors of central banks and finance ministers have been meeting regularly since 1999. The counter summit to the G20 brings together a renewed anti-capitalist and anti-globalisation movement which is similar to other summits of heads of state.

@Fernando del Berro



Humanitarian emergency in Lesbos. A family of refugees is walking along the hillsides of the north coast of the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the 10 km of the Aegean Sea which divides the Turkish and Greek coasts in a plastic boat. Lesbos (Greece) 2015.

@Fernando del Berro



From Italy to France over the Alps. Soleyman (on the left, 18 years old, from Ivory Coast) and Boubacar (on the right, 19 years old, from Senegal) are trying to cross from Italy to France on the Alpine hillsides of the Colle della Scala, a summit of nearly 1800 metres which is the natural border between the two European countries. This first attempt failed due to bad weather. Two days later they came back to try again. This time they succeeded. Bardonecchia (Italy) 2018.

@Fernando del Berro



Humanitarian emergency in Lesbos. A group of Syrian refugees make land on a beach on the north of the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the 10 km of the Aegean Sea which divides the Turkish and Greek coasts in a plastic boat. Lesbos (Greece) 2015.



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