



# migration and asylum

**S&D**

Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament

# 1

## **A system in line with our international human rights obligations**

Protecting the fundamental rights of all migrants is the paramount concern of our group. All EU Member States have signed the Universal declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Status of refugees and have a legal duty to promote and protect the human rights of all those arriving in the EU. Particular attention should be paid the situation of vulnerable or marginalised groups.

# 2

## **A strategic approach to migration and asylum based on solidarity and cooperation**

There are no easy-fixes to the current refugee and migration situation. We need to take a long-term approach based on solidarity and cooperation between Member States. We must work closely with the countries migrants come from and with transit countries in order to tackle the root causes of migration, which force people to flee in the first place, and to effectively address current migratory flows.

# 3

## **Safe and lawful routes into Europe for those seeking international protection**

The ability to claim asylum is a fundamental right. We should offer those who may be entitled to international protection safe and legal ways of accessing the Union's asylum system. This should include the creation of a humanitarian visa system, which will guarantee a safe transfer to Europe for those seeking international protection, as well as a well-integrated resettlement system.

# 4

## **Creation of a genuine common European Asylum System**

The current situation has shown that a national approach to asylum does not work. We need to see the current Dublin system – whereby a person must claim asylum in the first EU country they arrive in – replaced with a truly European system based on sharing responsibility fairly between all Member States.

# 5

## **More focus on integration of refugees and migrants**

A fair migration system is only the first step – we also need to work on better integrating refugees and migrants into European society. It is essential that they can work and contribute to their new societies on equal terms with those already there.

# 6

## **More effective external border control to ensure Schengen can function effectively**

Schengen is one of the great successes of European integration, it is not only a symbolic achievement but it makes people's lives easier and brings huge economic benefits. Closing internal borders is not the answer to the current crisis; we need a better-managed external border that treats those arriving in Europe with respect and dignity.

# 7

## **Better use of the EU budget to ensure a well-functioning migration and asylum system**

The EU budget is an important tool in managing our common challenges. It must be used to ensure solidarity with the countries that face the brunt of the current crisis and have to deal with the majority of new migrants and refugees. Promoting sustainable development, jobs and growth in partner countries can be better addressed through an ambitious external investment plan to which all Member States should contribute.

# 8

## **Comprehensive international response to the ongoing refugee crisis**

The EU must set up an international forum promoting a global response to the ongoing war and instability in Syria, and in Africa. We need a mutually advantageous EU-Africa partnership if we are going to address the migratory flows. We need to see long-term investment in peace, democracy, security and development if we want to prevent this becoming a permanent state of affairs.

# 9

## **More coordinated action to tackle illegal migration and human trafficking**

Thousands of people are benefitting financially from the misery and desperation of those fleeing war and persecution. If we want to tackle these people-smugglers we need a two-pronged approach – combating the criminal networks that are involved and offering safe and legal ways into Europe, so people do not have to turn to the smugglers in the first place.

# our view

The large influx of migrants and refugees to Europe in the last few years has shone a light on the weaknesses of the current EU migration and asylum policies and aspects of EU foreign policy. These desperately need revising to create a fairer and more sustainable system that works for EU countries, provides better protection for those fleeing war and persecution and provides legal routes into Europe for economic migrants.

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