



# Motion

**Proposer:** PC3 (decided on: 03/30/2026)

**Title:** For a common migration and asylum policy

## Motion text

1 11 November 2023 (lapsing). Renewed for Federal Committee April 2026 Submitted  
2 by Political Commission 3: External Affairs & Global Governance

3 Conflicts, political turmoil, economic disparities as well as climate change  
4 generate migration towards Europe. The European Union (EU), so far, has proven  
5 itself totally unprepared to tackle the human rights violations and humanitarian  
6 crisis faced by refugees and migrants, especially at its external borders.  
7 Member States are reacting unilaterally and against the common European  
8 interest. Unilateral actions are ineffective and damaging to major European  
9 achievements and values, such as the Schengen Agreement, peaceful cooperation  
10 between Member States and human rights. The Young European Federalists urges the  
11 EU to give a stronger common response to this global challenge, in the field of  
12 migration, asylum and border control policies.

13 JEF Europe,

14 1. Acknowledging that recent refugee and migration patterns have been markedly  
15 different in both character and impact on different Member States;

16 2. Alarmed by the persisting human rights violations and humanitarian crises  
17 faced by migrants and refugees in Europe, especially taking into account wars  
18 and instability;

19 3. Noting that conflicts, war, human rights abuses, political persecution, lack  
20 of perspectives, climate change and growing economic disparities will continue

21 to lead to migrant and refugee arrivals in Europe if these root causes of  
22 migration are not seriously addressed;

23 4. Acknowledging that the charge of welcoming refugees is left to countries  
24 neighbouring conflicts or other humanitarian disasters and that these countries  
25 are often hosting numbers far beyond their capacities;

26 5. Highlights the need for further effective and tangible solidarity with Member  
27 States on the Union's external borders experiencing most of the arrivals to  
28 ensure that they can provide the highest standards of dignified immediate  
29 reception;

30 6. Deploring that the Member States have sidelined the EU in migration and have  
31 been unwilling to develop a serious common strategy, have been blocking  
32 Commission proposals for a common approach and have prioritised a shallow and  
33 populist understanding of the "national interest" at the cost of effective and  
34 reasonable common migration and asylum policy;

35 7. Further deploring that the present decision-making procedures are ineffective  
36 and exploitable, allowing a small minority, even a single bad-faith actor, to  
37 stall decision making indefinitely;

38 8. Believing that the Schengen area and the freedom of movement are two of the  
39 greatest achievements of the EU and that they should not only be preserved, but  
40 expanded;

41 9. Noting the successful conclusion and adoption of the EU Pact on Migration and  
42 Asylum, which will become applicable as of mid-2026, and acknowledging the  
43 decrease in irregular arrivals and asylum applications recorded in 2025, which  
44 has created a window for effective implementation;

45 10. Noting with concern the European Parliament's approval of amendments  
46 broadening the "safe third country" concept, removing the requirement of a link  
47 between the asylum seeker and the country of transfer, and eliminating the  
48 suspensive effect of appeals, thereby weakening procedural safeguards and  
49 triggering a race to the bottom in migrant protection standards;

50 11. Deeply concerned by the European Parliament's approval of a new return  
51 regulation allowing detention of migrants, including families and minors, for  
52 extended periods, expanding data surveillance, and paving the way for offshore  
53 deportation centres, which raises serious concerns about compliance with  
54 fundamental rights;

55 **12. Deploring that the EU is outsourcing migration management flows by entering**  
56 **into agreements with third countries (Albania, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia**  
57 **and Türkiye) often without adequate human rights safeguards;**

58 **13. Deploring the EU's plans to fund a Maritime Rescue Coordination Center in**  
59 **eastern Libya under Commander Khalifa Haftar's control, which would extend the**  
60 **"pullback mechanism" already operating in western Libya, resulting in**  
61 **interceptions at sea and returns to Libyan authorities where migrants face**  
62 **arbitrary detention, extortion, and inhuman treatment;**

63 **14. Condemning the continued formal and informal practices of migration**  
64 **externalisation that actively subvert the principle of non-refoulement,**  
65 **including pushbacks, as documented in judgments of the Court of Justice of the**  
66 **European Union, which strengthened Frontex's legal responsibility in pushback**  
67 **operations;**

68 **15. Regretting that the EU has given billions of euros to Türkiye since March**  
69 **2016 to detain migrants and refugees in degrading conditions, while**  
70 **acknowledging that the agreement helped to control migration streams at its**  
71 **peak;**

72 **16. Condemning the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and**  
73 **Tunisia, signed in July 2023 which paid little regard to the ongoing gross human**  
74 **rights**

75 **abuses by the regime against asylum seekers in the country as well as against**  
76 **its own citizens;**

77 **17. Noting the launch of the new Mediterranean Pact, which aims to strengthen**  
78 **ties with Mediterranean countries, while civil society organisations have raised**  
79 **concerns about limited consultation and insufficient attention to human rights;**

80 **18. Condemning smugglers of migrants and human traffickers for the inhuman**  
81 **treatment, exploitation and endangerment of innocent lives purely for financial**  
82 **profit;**

83 **19. Further concerned that externalisation strategies might be more broadly**  
84 **replicated by other countries bordering the EU, instrumentalising refugees and**  
85 **migrants for financial gain and leverage over the EU;**

86 **20. Deeply concerned that some Member States have denied their responsibility,**

87 refused to welcome in their ports ships rescuing the lives of migrants and  
88 refugees, and sometimes have gone as far as actively repelling ships, putting  
89 lives at risk and possibly breaching international law;

90 21. Convinced that EU-led search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean and  
91 in the Aegean Sea are necessary to save lives;

92 22. Condemning the criminalisation of NGOs operating in search and rescue  
93 activities in the Mediterranean Sea made by several EU Member States'  
94 governments;

95 23. Emphasising that the fundamental rights and duties of a human being declared  
96 in the European Convention on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human  
97 Rights, the 1951 Geneva Convention and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the  
98 European Union must always be respected;

99 24. Recognising that various pieces of EU legislation have been adopted in order  
100 to create a common asylum policy in line with the objective set out in Article  
101 78 TFEU, including Directive 2011/95 ("Qualification Directive") and Directive  
102 2013/33 ("Reception Conditions Directive");

103 25. Welcoming the European Commission's first European Asylum and Migration  
104 Management Strategy, presented in early 2026, which sets out a five-year  
105 framework to support Pact implementation;

106 26. Welcoming the establishment of the EU Talent Pool in late 2025, the first  
107 EU-wide platform supporting international recruitment of skills and talent from  
108 third countries at all skill levels, and the opening of the European Legal  
109 Gateway Office in India in early 2026 to facilitate legal migration pathways for  
110 ICT professionals, students, and researchers;

111 27. Noting the European Commission's new visa and migration strategy unveiled in  
112 early 2026, which proposes enhanced control of visa-free regimes, new  
113 restrictive measures for non-cooperative states on readmission, and prioritised  
114 visa procedures for "high value-added" individuals at EU level;

115 28. Acknowledging that Member States have committed significantly fewer  
116 resettlement places for 2026-2027 compared to previous years, and that  
117 relocation commitments have similarly fallen short of the European Commission's  
118 targets, while return rates have increased in recent years.

119 **JEF Europe, therefore,**

120 **1. Insists on the need for a common EU policy on migration, asylum, subsidiary**  
121 **protection and temporary protection which fully complies with binding**  
122 **obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and respects the non-**  
123 **refoulement principle;**

124 **2. Mandates the EU and its Member States to ensure the swift and effective**  
125 **implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, which will become applicable**  
126 **in mid-2026, with a focus on operational readiness at borders, fair and**  
127 **efficient procedures, and credible solidarity mechanisms;**

128 **3. Demands that the solidarity mechanism under the Pact be implemented in a way**  
129 **that ensures genuine responsibility sharing between Member States, with**  
130 **transparent reporting on relocations, financial contributions, and alternative**  
131 **solidarity measures;**

132 **4. Requires the European Commission to closely monitor the implementation of the**  
133 **Pact and to consider infringement procedures against Member States that fail to**  
134 **comply with their obligations, including respect for human rights;**

135 **5. Exhorts the EU to accelerate the phasing out of the Dublin regulations and**  
136 **adopt a true European asylum policy, fully respecting EU values, human rights**  
137 **and Articles 78–80 TFEU, and relying on solidarity and responsibility sharing as**  
138 **well as on extra assistance to the countries of entry;**

139 **6. Calls on the EU to include a European refugee status for political dissidents**  
140 **in its migration and asylum policies;**

141 **7. Demands that in the future, asylum decisions and decisions on return be taken**  
142 **based on unified EU-wide standards, rather than disparate standards defined at**  
143 **the national level;**

144 **8. Furthermore, calls on the European Commission to consider infringement**  
145 **procedures and financial sanctions against non-compliant Member States in the**  
146 **framework of migration and asylum policies;**

147 **9. Urges the EU to stop using readmission agreements as the main tool to fight**  
148 **irregular immigration, as this encourages violations of human rights such as the**  
149 **non-refoulement principle guaranteed by the 1951 Geneva Convention;**

- 150 **10. Calls for an EU policy for the Mediterranean region and beyond, ensuring**  
151 **broad and intensified cooperation with third countries through the Union for the**  
152 **Mediterranean and other multilateral fora in order to fight human trafficking**  
153 **networks, while insisting that such cooperation must include binding human**  
154 **rights clauses, independent monitoring mechanisms, and oversight by the European**  
155 **Parliament;**
- 156 **11. Demands that the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) operates**  
157 **in full compliance with EU values and fundamental rights, and that the agency's**  
158 **legal responsibility for pushback operations, as affirmed by the Court of**  
159 **Justice of the European Union, is fully respected and enforced;**
- 160 **12. Insists that Frontex is tasked with search and rescue in the Mediterranean**  
161 **and the Aegean Sea and demands the transformation of Operation Themis into a**  
162 **wider and focused EU search and rescue operation of people in distress;**
- 163 **13. Mandates the establishment of a dedicated, civilian-led EU Sea Rescue**  
164 **Agency, separate from Frontex, with a sole mandate to coordinate and conduct**  
165 **search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean, ensuring that lifesaving is**  
166 **not subordinated to border control objectives;**
- 167 **14. Invites the EU and its Member States to provide transit countries with**  
168 **extended assistance and further humanitarian supplies to be dedicated to the**  
169 **reception of asylum seekers and refugees;**
- 170 **15. Calls on the EU to enhance legal and humanitarian pathways to safely reach**  
171 **the EU, without being forced to rely on illegal human trafficking, such as**  
172 **humanitarian visas to refugees;**
- 173 **16. Calls for the establishment of common European asylum offices in third**  
174 **countries that respect European standards of treatment and human dignity;**
- 175 **17. Demands with immediate effect the decriminalisation of private sea rescue by**  
176 **EU states;**
- 177 **18. Encourages the EU to open legal channels for economic migration;**
- 178 **19. Requires the further expansion of legal migration pathways, including**  
179 **through the EU Talent Pool, the European Legal Gateway Office model, and Talent**  
180 **Partnerships with third countries, with a focus on matching skills with labour**  
181 **market needs while ensuring fair recruitment practices and protection of**

182 workers' rights;

183 **20. Demands the EU to further facilitate cross-border mobility for cultural and**  
184 **educational exchanges with third-country nationals;**

185 **21. Condemns any proposal regarding migration and asylum policy that relies on**  
186 **building walls and fences, and urges the EU and its Member States to build an**  
187 **open continent instead of a Fortress Europe and internal barriers;**

188 **22. Demands that the Schengen Agreements are safeguarded at all times, borders**  
189 **be reopened where they have been closed and border controls are put to an end**  
190 **without delay;**

191 **23. Mandates the EU to review and renegotiate externalisation agreements with**  
192 **third countries, including the EU-Türkiye deal and the Memorandum of**  
193 **Understanding with Tunisia, to ensure they fully respect the 1951 Geneva**  
194 **Convention, include binding human rights clauses, and provide for independent**  
195 **monitoring and accountability mechanisms;**

196 **24. Urges the EU to withdraw from plans to fund maritime control centres in**  
197 **Libya, including the proposed centre in Benghazi, given documented human rights**  
198 **abuses by Libyan authorities and militias, and to instead prioritise dedicated**  
199 **EU-led search and rescue operations;**

200 **25. Demands significantly stronger political will towards the Union for the**  
201 **Mediterranean (UfM), among other fora, to forge the necessary partnerships with**  
202 **Southern Neighbourhood states needed to overcome the short-term vision of the EU**  
203 **and its Member States to make development assistance primarily conditional on**  
204 **migration cooperation to the detriment of EU values as well as the quality of**  
205 **broader development goals;**

206 **26. Urges European leaders to change radically their migration and asylum**  
207 **narratives to make space for more sustainable and humane approaches;**

208 **27. Commits itself to explore opportunities for cooperation and exchange with**  
209 **young migrants and youth organisations working with refugees and migrants;**

210 **28. Requires the establishment of effective mechanisms to assess and match the**  
211 **skills of migrants with the labour market needs of Member States, facilitating**  
212 **seamless integration and contributing to the overall prosperity of the EU;**

213 **29. Mandates Member States to prioritise integration policies, including**  
214 **language training, education, housing, and labour market access, as essential**  
215 **components of a sustainable migration system that ensures social cohesion and**  
216 **public confidence;**

217 **30. Demands the expansion of youth mobility and civic engagement programmes,**  
218 **ensuring that refugees and vulnerable groups have access to student exchanges,**  
219 **volunteering initiatives, and youth projects with optional financial support**  
220 **from the EU.**