



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JEF Europe, therefore,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Urges the EU to stop using readmission agreements as the main tool to fight irregular immigration, as this encourages violations of human rights such as the 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.**