



## TEN KEY PRIORITIES FOR A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MIGRATION

1: A stronger emphasis on border management, including a swift adoption of an effective FRONTEX Border Agency, with better border check facilities at the EU's external border. This includes the need for an updated proposal and new Smart Borders Package, as well as the adoption of the Macovei Report <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&reference=PE-578.659&format=PDF&language=EN&secondRef=01> on the reinforcement of checks against relevant databases at external borders. Confidence in the Schengen area can only be achieved as a consequence of effective external border control.

2: We call upon the European Commission to treat legal migration and asylum as two separate policy areas, unlike in the European Commission's EU migration policy. The two issues require different approaches.

3: We believe that the most sustainable and effective way of helping those most in need in conflict areas, and helping to resettle the most vulnerable first, is for the Commission to come up with an EU UNHCR operated resettlement system as soon as possible, while at the same time ensuring adequate funding for the refugee camps in third countries.

4: We believe that in order to create sustainable and effective asylum and refuge policies within the EU and to create a successful integration policy of those resettled, the overall numbers of persons arriving and being granted asylum needs to be stabilised. Therefore, the European Commission, the European Council and the External Action Service need to ensure that their negotiations with third countries on international agreements, cooperation agreements and the allocation of foreign aid go hand in hand with pursuing effective readmission and returns agreements and a sustainable and legal solution for EU border returns. Therefore any readmission or returns agreement should be conditional on accepting and recognising the EU returns travel document, see the Halla-aho Report. The Parliament also needs to agree as soon as possible on a common and ambitious list of recognised safe third countries for accelerated asylum procedures, and a comprehensive assessment by the European Commission of "more for more and less for less" in terms of EU aid for third countries.

5: We call for the European Commission to place far greater emphasis on the implementation of existing measures and ensuring all Member States following the rules. That means no 'pushing around' applications, fingerprinting all arrivals and ensuring dignified living conditions. It should be

noted that the asylum acquis is not a buffet to be chosen from, but is to be applied in a uniform manner by and in all Member States in order to ensure the functioning of the EU's asylum system. Thus it is for the European Commission to give advice and assistance where necessary, and to take swift action in case of non-compliance by Member States.

6: We call for a sensible and workable review of the Dublin Regulation. The ECR fully rejects any call to completely change the currently existing basic Dublin principles, if this results in simply redistributing all refugees and asylum seekers across the EU, without strict conditions or limits.

7: We call for a better exchange of information and interconnectivity between already existing databases in the EU, including the EURODAC, EUROPOL, FRONTEX, EASO, Schengen, and ECRIS systems. This is essential: if we are to achieve external border security, we need to know who is entering into and exiting from the EU. It also helps to avoid secondary movement of asylum seekers, and this way we can offer refuge and protection more quickly to asylum seekers. Furthermore, in order to maintain confidence in the Schengen area and to ensure border security, the adoption of measures such as those proposed in the Kirkhope Report, Exchange of information on third country nationals and European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) are important.  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-580.424+01+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

8: We call for the European Commission to conduct a full and horizontal review of existing EU legislation with regard to human trafficking and modern slavery, including establishing a common standard for establishing criminal penalties in all Member States. At present there are too many loopholes and not enough prosecutions, convictions and meaningful sentencing. No corner of the EU should provide a safe haven for these barbaric acts and exploitative crimes. In addition, the third and final phase of EUNAVFOR Med (Operation Sophia), to track down and destroy empty smuggling boats, needs to be initialised with the help of the newly formed Libyan government.

9: In order for any asylum policy to be successful across the EU, more emphasis needs to be placed on (civic) integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees. Therefore the integration fund and the sharing of best practices between Member States and through the European Commission need to focus on the sharing of skills, grass roots action, community cohesion and initiatives, and the learning of the official language(s) of the host country. In addition the European Commission needs to look at amending existing legal instruments such as the Qualifications Directive as to not hinder activation and integration policies at national or regional level.

10: In line with the ECR Group's focus on better Regulation, there should be full and regular reviews of all new instruments, in order to reflect shortcomings, changes in situation and improve ongoing implementation and monitor funding needs with a preference for budget neutrality. The ECR Group Coordinator suggests such a system for the current EU-Turkey agreement.

<http://ecrgroup.eu/news/kirkhope-ten-requirements-for-an-eu-turkey-agreement-on-migratory-flows/>

**Europees Parlements lid Helga Stevens,  
schaduwrapporteur voor 'The situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU  
approach to migration'**