



Liberal solutions to tackle migration challenges

LYMEC stood up against a "Fortress Europe" as migration is a historical and natural phenomenon, and it is also a constituting character of European culture. To secure the free movement of people, the social rights should be transferable in the member states. **We support the establishment of a EU citizenship, which would be complimentary to national citizenship.**

Centre Party Students' Association LYMEC urges that **refugee policy as a whole be a common European issue that should be dealt with on a supranational EU-level**, that the common standards for **assessment of residence permit be more generous and humane than the national standards of most European states of today**, that Member States have the opportunity to keep or introduce more generous domestic rules than the common EU-standards, that assistance and **co-operation between EU-states in the field of refugee adoption become obligatory**, at least regarding refugees that fulfil the common EU-standards, that **the directive about obligation of carriers to stop refugees that lack valid travel documents immediately be abolished.**¹

LYMEC urges that all EU Member States to commonly introduce a **"humanitarian visa system" allowing refugees to enter the EU territory legally**, and thus be able to seek asylum on humanitarian grounds upon arrival. **To adopt common criteria for these visas**, and make it possible for asylum seekers **to apply to all of the EU countries in any EU embassy** by creating a common asylum policy at European level.²

Stressing the need to focus on a worrying growth in skills shortages and mismatches in supply and demand for labour, and the fact that **immigration can be in itself an effective way to deal with labour market imbalances**, including skill shortages; although the number of migrants in the labour force with low or no qualifications has been increasing since 1992 because they are meeting a demand in some specific sectors. With increasing regulations and discrimination on the labour market immigrants have been marginalised and trapped by unemployment and dependency on the welfare state. **With a liberal policy for the welfare state and the labour market this would change.**³

It is essential to **co-ordinate, to achieve and to ensure the transparency, within a EU framework, of migration policies and actions which at the moment are carried out by Member States** since they

¹ 1.09 Resolution "Tear down the Fortress of Europe!", p. 25

² 2.07 Urgent Resolution on Applying the criteria for Humanitarian Visa in all EU Member States, p. 73

³ 2.08 Towards a Common Migration Policy, p. 74

have an effect on other areas of EU policy. That will provide a background for the formulation of commonly agreed aims for channels of legal immigration. The **European Parliament must acquire a central role in the definition of this immigration policy** and the Commission in the achieving process.

LYMEC calls on the EU to approximate its 15 national legislations in a **liberal direction on the conditions for admission and residence of third country nationals**. The law should be based on a shared assessment of the economic (labour demand) and demographic developments within the Union, as well as the situation in the countries of origin. EU should ensure fair treatment of third country nationals and irregular people who reside on its territory. **A more intensive integration policy should be achieved, so that it could be guaranteed their rights and obligations comparable to those of EU citizens**. It should also enhance non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural life. EU should **take steps in order to prevent and combat racism and xenophobia and consolidate an area of freedom, security and justice**.⁴

LYMEC calls on the **EU to strengthen the partnership and co-operation with countries of origin**, developing co-operation **programmes for local and regional development**. This more open and transparent immigration policy would be accompanied by strengthening of efforts to combat smuggling and trafficking, especially by ensuring the application of labour legislation with respect to the third country nationals.⁵

Migration has always been a part and fundamental right of human nature. We should **introduce a job-seeker visa, allowing people to come to Europe in order to look for a job**, develop a **plan for reducing visa restrictions and the number of countries that need a visa to enter the EU**. **Open up for free labour migration, granting everyone who is offered a job in Europe work and residence permits**.⁶

LYMEC calls **EU to abolish the Dublin Regulation**. All **EU member states to contribute financially to the task of managing immigrants and asylum seekers**. The EU should form **an immigration policy that views immigrants as assets**, considering the shortage of labour force that will happen in the future. The Commission and the member states to introduce effective, long-term legal migration policies, as well as ensure genuine access to EU territory and to a procedure for **more flexible and coordinated rules governing asylum seekers, rather than focus all their efforts on preventing illegal immigration**.⁷

EU member states should **monitor the living and integration conditions of individuals repatriated to countries of origin and of transit and to take measures to provide those individuals with appropriate assistance**. All EU member states to **adhere to Council Directive 2003/9/EC** on minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers in member states, and for the Commission to rigorously enforce these standards. The **setting up of an independent verification body at a European level with responsibility for supervision of detention centres** as regards the protection of human rights, in accordance with European Parliament resolution 2007/2145(INI) on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union 2004-2008.⁸

⁴ 2.08 Towards a Common Migration Policy, p. 74

⁵ 2.08 Towards a Common Migration Policy, p. 74

⁶ 2.10 Tear Down Fortress Europe, p. 76

⁷ 2.11 A Common Approach to Asylum Policy, p. 77

⁸ 2.11 A Common Approach to Asylum Policy, p. 77 Should be: 2.12 A Liberal Commitment to Common Border Management

The EU has to work together to even out the differences in **financial responsibility of member states in managing the external border** in order to make sure that no country feel that it is necessary to outsource border control to non-EU countries. All EU member states to contribute financially to the task of managing immigrants and asylum seekers.⁹

In another resolution, LYMEC again demands for the **abolishment of the Dublin-II regulation and an end to the nationalization of asylum policy in general**. LYMEC **proposes the constitution of a European Agency for Asylum and Migration** responsible for the examining of asylum applications. This agency has the responsibility to coordinate the national asylum agencies, increase the efficiency and grant for the rights of refugees by consistently applying existing European standards. In an area with common borders and freedom of movement, there is no need for 27 different asylum procedures and agencies. LYMEC concludes the **replacement of the “one state only” principle with a more flexible system for asylum policy**. Situations like the one in Greece must be avoided in the future.¹⁰

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon nation states and the EU **to go against ban of religious symbols** that are not harmful to fellow citizens. Governments and the EU **to adhere from institutional display of religious symbols in public schools and universities**, while recognising the right of any individual to display their private religious affiliation. Nation states should emphasize **education on religion as a historical, and cultural phenomenon and general discussions on ethics, free of any preaching**, in order to create mutual understanding. The LYMEC Bureau to **promote a Europe where religious diversity is respected**. The EU and the nation states should **respect the freedom of expression and freedom of religion for their government employees**. Countries should **respect the religious diversity and become a secular state**.¹¹

We must ensure that **sufficient resources are allocated to the Asylum and Migration Fund**, which will include the former asylum and refugee funds, in the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. The **EU member states should share the responsibility of receiving refugees and asylum seekers more equally** in order to avoid disproportionate stress on some countries asylum systems, especially at times of sudden asylum flows.¹²

LYMEC therefore calls upon **the ALDE group to push for allocating sufficient resources in the EU budget for the common asylum system to be functional and humane, and capable of dynamic asylum flows**, on a long term basis. That **EU asylum measures and resources are implemented based on a human rights and protection approach** within the member states. That the ALDE group works on ensuring that the **EU external aid priorities and fundings are coherent with the ones of the Asylum and Migration fund**.¹³

LYMEC stress the importance **of the creation of a European search and rescue patrol, which will be financially supported by all EU countries**, and that the force should be based on a rotating responsibility between the coastal countries of Europe. That the patrol will be a humanitarian effort, and that this effort will not be a part of Frontex. This to **ensure that the humanitarian**

⁹ 2.12 A Liberal Commitment to Common Border Management, p. 78

¹⁰ 2.15 A Truly European Asylum System, p. 81

¹¹ 2.36 Stop the Islamophobia and Respect Religious Diversity, p 2.37

¹² 2.52. Strengthening the European Refugee Fund, p. 123 2.52

¹³ 2.52. Strengthening the European Refugee Fund, p. 123 2.52

responsibilities will not conflict with border guarding duties. A common effort to allow more refugees into the European Union.¹⁴

LYMEC calls upon ALDE **to reallocate the UN Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) resources** in order to focus on urgent action and empowerment of refugees instead of building long term dependency structures. We need **to invest in accommodation and education in the region of conflict areas**, in order to prevent the development of a lost generation in refugee camps and to **guarantee refugees a safe place to stay**. LYMEC calls upon ALDE to provide for a legal and safe alternative to irregular migration, in order to prevent smuggling, human trafficking and fatal accidents on the sea, for example by making it possible **to start the asylum procedure outside of potential host states within the EU and making it possible to apply for humanitarian visas at all EU embassies**. LYMEC urge the EU **to eliminate its Dublin System and replace it by a balanced, common asylum policy based on solidarity and justice**, which allocates asylum seekers according to their individual skills as well as the capacities and resources of potential host states to make sure the burden of refugees does not lie only with countries at the European borders.¹⁵

The European liberal youth calls for the national governments of the EU-Members **to get refugees access to special language courses**. At the very least, **colleges and universities should provide rooms and equipment to voluntary language teachers**. In addition, colleges and universities should actively **consider supplying interpreters to refugee students** on the short term and changing the course language in order to give refugees the linguistic prerequisites **to be included in education as soon as possible**. Calls for Europe's colleges and universities to **give ECTS-points to students pursuing a Certificate in Education or in their national language for teaching their national language to refugees**.¹⁶

¹⁴ 2.59 – A common European, humanitarian search and rescue mission to the Mediterranean, p. 130 2.62

¹⁵ 2.60 Resolution on a harmonized common EU asylum policy, p. 131 2.63

¹⁶ 3.22 A welcoming student culture – establishing language courses for refugees, p. 160