



EUROPEAN COUNCIL

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COVER NOTE

form: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations
Subject: **EUROPEAN COUNCIL
22/23 APRIL 2015**

CONCLUSIONS

Delegations will find attached the conclusions of the European Council (16/17 April 2015).

PREAMBLE

Saddened by yet another humanitarian tragedy, as evidenced by the recent accident, we urge EU Member States to intensify their efforts in order to help all refugees coming to Europe. We urge the Council of European Union and the European Parliament to swiftly introduce relevant laws. We call on European Commission to spare no effort in facilitating this by issuance of relevant acts as well as closely monitoring the situation.

AGREEMENTS

1. The Council invites a comprehensive review on the EU Common List of Safe Countries of Origin as endorsed by the European Commission. After the review and respected amendments are recognized, fellow Member States are strongly recommended to adopt the list as their first priority and indication for the assessment of asylum seekers' applications.
2. The Council reaffirms the importance of human dignity and basic survival needs as the fundamental principles of migration crisis management in all Member States, in that, to provide temporary shelter, medical care, and nutritional supply by cooperating with relevant NGOs, IGOs, as well as UN agencies and programs such as UNICEF, UNHCR.
3. With respect to human rights, Member States are highly encouraged, to the best of their capabilities, to provide counselling, education, employment and cultural integration, to the migrants whose legal status has been recognized by a Member State, to facilitate long term settlement.
4. The Council invites the European Commission to initiate legislation to establish a joint-institutional information system, based on the existing ones such as EURODAC, Schengen Information System (SIS), etc., especially to enhance personal identification of asylum seekers/refugees.
5. The Council urges the EU to strengthen the external border control in cooperation with neighboring countries by setting up the following actions:
 - a. Inviting non-EU Balkan countries to allow asylum seekers to pass through their territories in search for shelter in EU;
 - b. Strengthening border cooperation with North African countries which share maritime borders with the EU;
 - c. Establishing transitional refugee camps for the temporary settlement of asylum applicants in accordance with European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCU);
 - d. Extending the current EU funding [Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and Internal Security Fund (ISF)] for Greece to other frontline countries including Italy.
6. To tackle illegal migration and terrorism, the Council proposes the introduction of internal border control under the condition of emergency as stipulated by Schengen acquis - Articles 23, 24, and 25. The internal borders will remain open to Schengen citizens and Schengen visa holders. The duration (and intensity) of such controls, in accordance with Schengen acquis –

Article 26, will depend on the effectiveness of the external border control, especially the actions taken by European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

7. Member States of relocation should reply to relocation requests within a specified time*. Member States of relocation are strongly recommended to apply additional checks, particularly security interviews, to duly justified cases, i.e., grounded and motivated suspicions that the person may fall under one of the rejection grounds. Member States of relocation should only apply systematic security interviews under strict interpretation of the extensive application of the exclusion clause of the Council Decision. The rejection reasons should be communicated as early as possible to the relevant Member States.

*such timeframe shall be determined by the Council of Ministers in due cause.