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Human rights of refugees and migrants - the situation in the Western Balkans

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Annette GROTH and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

During recent months, hundreds of thousands of refugees have entered the countries of the Western Balkans, hoping to find protection in the European Union. The closure of the external borders of the Schengen system, symbolised by the fences built by Hungary at its borders with non-Schengen neighbours, has blocked the refugees' onward journeys. In the space of a few months, the countries affected have become first countries of transit and now countries of destination for unprecedented numbers of refugees. Their national asylum systems have been completely overwhelmed. The refugees themselves are very often unable to access adequate reception facilities or effective asylum procedures.

In order to assess the effects on the human rights of these refugees and migrants, and on the countries now hosting them, it is important to examine in detail the situation in the Western Balkans and the interaction between the countries concerned, and the European Union and its member States. This would enable the Parliamentary Assembly to make recommendations on what is needed to protect the refugees in this region and to improve the co-operation between the European Union- and non-European Union-countries concerned.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
FILIPPOV Kancho, Bulgaria, ALDE
GHASEMI Tina, Sweden, EPP/CD
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
KYRIAKIDOU Athina, Cyprus, SOC
MAHOUX Philippe, Belgium, SOC
MITCHELL Olivia, Ireland, EPP/CD
NICOLETTI Michele, Italy, SOC
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
PÂSLARU Florin Costin, Romania, SOC
PREDA Cezar Florin, Romania, EPP/CD
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD
STROE Ionuț-Marian, Romania, EPP/CD
TAKTAKISHVILI Chiora, Georgia, ALDE
VLASENKO Sergiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
VORUZ Eric, Switzerland, SOC

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left