Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 14314
02 May 2017

The legal and practical requirements for extra-territorial processing of asylum claims

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ and other members of the Assembly

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

The recent mass arrival of refugees and migrants to Europe has brought with it a growing recognition of the need for a new approach of distinguishing between economic migrants and asylum seekers; an approach which would allow for efficient identification of those in need of international protection and thus potentially dissuade them from undertaking a life-threatening journey across the Mediterranean Sea.

A concept which has been more and more widely discussed at different forums provides for the establishment of processing centres (hotspots) in the countries of departure and/or transit countries which meet a number of requirements and agree to host such centres. A number of hotspots were established in Greece and Italy in 2016; however, in order to reach them, over 4 000 people lost their lives last year. Several hundred have already drowned in the Mediterranean Sea since the beginning of this year.

The main concerns linked to the possible establishment of hotspots outside Europe are of a legal and practical nature and include the issue of responsibility for such centres, jurisdictional responsibility for processing, resettlement of recognised refugees, the problem of rejected applicants, and impact on countries which will host the centres. Of utmost concern is the question of ensuring real access to these centres for potential refugees.

The Parliamentary Assembly in its Resolution 2147 (2017) on "The need to reform European migration policies" has called on the European Union to explore possibilities for the establishment of hotspots outside Europe. The Assembly is well placed to ensure that a human rights dimension is integrated in any discussion on legal and practical requirements for extra-territorial processing. It should examine this issue and make appropriate recommendations before any decisions are taken.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC
BILDARRATZ Jokin, Spain, ALDE
CSENGER-ZALÁN Zsolt, Hungary, EPP/CD
DI STEFANO Manlio, Italy, NR
DUNDEE Alexander, [The Earl of], United Kingdom, EC
FEIST Thomas, Germany, EPP/CD
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
GAFAROVA Sahiba, Azerbaijan, EC
GENTVILAS Simonas, Lithuania, ALDE
HUSEYNOV Rafael, Azerbaijan, ALDE
KÖCK Eduard, Austria, EPP/CD
KORENJAK KRAMAR Ksenija, Slovenia, ALDE
MARQUES Duarte, Portugal, EPP/CD
OBREMSKI Jarosław, Poland, EC
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
PREDA Cezar Florin, Romania, EPP/CD
RIGONI Andrea, Italy, ALDE
TARCZYŃSKI Dominik, Poland, EC
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VARVITSIOTIS Miltiadis, Greece, EPP/CD

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group