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Greek islands: more needs to be done

Written declaration No. 662

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

Welcoming the recent transferals of more asylum seekers from the Reception and Identification Centre at Moria and other Greek islands to mainland Greece, we do not believe that this is enough.

Due to lengthy procedures, most asylum applicants have to live for many months in tents, and even those in buildings do neither have sufficient room nor sufficient access to water and toilets. With the winter coming, people could again die of freezing temperatures and terrible hygienic circumstances in the camps.

The camp at Moria has approximately 9 000 inhabitants (300% above its capacity), because arrivals from Turkey considerably increased. People are exposed to life-threatening boat journeys and generally have to pay smugglers through forced labour and prostitution, while the perpetrators act with impunity due to inaction by law enforcement authorities.

Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants deserve our support, as well as the Greek people for their immense assistance provided to those arriving by boat and across the Turkish-Greek land border. The European Union is the biggest donor of refugee aid to the Greek government, but the European Anti-Fraud Office just opened investigations into alleged misappropriation of European Union funds.

We demand more action immediately in order to save human lives.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BILDARRATZ Jokin, Spain, ALDE
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BUSHATI Ervin, Albania, SOC
BUSHKA Klotilda, Albania, SOC
BUTKEVIČIUS Algirdas, Lithuania, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
COAKER Vernon, United Kingdom, SOC
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC
MASSEY Doreen, United Kingdom, SOC
MIKKO Marianne, Estonia, SOC
MONTILLA José, Spain, SOC
MUFLIH Haya, Jordan
MUNYAMA Killion, Poland, EPP/CD
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PISCO Paulo, Portugal, SOC
PRESCOTT John, United Kingdom, SOC
RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS Soraya, Spain, SOC
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SMITH Angela, United Kingdom, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
TOUHIG Don, United Kingdom, SOC
WHITFIELD Martin, United Kingdom, SOC
WILSON Phil, United Kingdom, SOC

Total = 33

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