Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Solidarity with Sea-Watch

Written declaration No. 680

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.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

As members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, we hereby express our support and solidarity with the Search and Rescue NGO Sea-Watch and its recent decision to enter Italian waters. After two weeks of odyssey on the Mediterranean Sea with over 50 rescued and traumatised people on board, Sea-Watch had to take this decision, regardless of the Italian blockade. We acknowledge that the current Italian policy of isolation creates new problems rather than solving any. The Italian Government refused other European Union countries' offers to take in refugees rescued at sea. They cynically risk the well-being of these refugees rather than opening their ports.

We cannot accept the fact that people are dying in the Mediterranean Sea and European Union member States are hindering search and rescue. We need solutions for the political deadlock within the European Union regarding any potential common answer to the humanitarian crisis. The Dublin system is a system of failure which member States have to overcome by creating a system of fair shared responsibility.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

AMTSBERG Luise, Germany, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BOSCHI Maria Elena, Italy, SOC
BRANDT Michel, Germany, UEL
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KILIÇ Akif Çağatay, Turkey, NR
KILJUNEN Kimmo, Finland, SOC
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
LOGVYNSKYI Georgii, Ukraine, EPP/CD
NICK Andreas, Germany, EPP/CD
ORLANDO Andrea, Italy, SOC
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHMIDT Frithjof, Germany, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
ŠEŠELJ Aleksandar, Serbia, FDG
YENEROĞLU Mustafa, Turkey, FDG

Total = 20

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1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
FDG: Free Democrats Group
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group