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Externalising asylum increases the risk of undermining the system of international protection

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Andrea ORLANDO and other members of the Assembly

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

In November 2023 was signed the Memorandum of Understanding between Italy and Albania that provides for the construction of two centers to process asylum seekers' applications on Albanian territory. The Memorandum "raises several human rights concerns", said the Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, "impacting on search and rescue operations, fairness of asylum procedures, identification of vulnerable persons, the possibility of automatic detention without an adequate judicial review, detention conditions, access to legal aid, and effective remedies".

The Memorandum is indicative of a wider drive by Council of Europe member States to pursue various models of externalising asylum, that significantly increases the risk of undermining the European and global system of international protection. The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons during its meeting on 23 January 2024, held a discussion on "The UK-Rwanda deal and its consequences in Europe".

The Parliamentary Assembly, in its [Resolution 2461 \(2022\)](#), has already dealt with the role of safe third countries for asylum seekers, but a new report should be prepared to examine these recent attempts to "outsourcing" asylum seekers and the risk of restricting access to international protection, as well as breaching the principle that procedural safeguards shall be guaranteed for migrants.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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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
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group