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4 October 2007

Concerns over the way in which irregular migrants are being “hunted” in Europe

Written Declaration No 404

This written declaration commits only the members who have signed it

The undersigned, members of the Assembly, make the following declaration:

1. European states are entitled to decide on which foreigners they may let enter into their countries and to return those who are in an irregular situation.
2. However in carrying out this, they must respect the human rights and human dignity of those in an irregular situation.
3. There are serious concerns as to the way in which irregular migrants are being rounded up in certain member states and being returned to their countries of origin, with families being split and insufficient regard being given to the right to family life, the degree of integration of families and onward going appeals concerning asylum claims.
4. In France, NGOs have been demonstrating outside the Council of Europe complaining of the climate of fear in France and of their offices being targeted by police who arrest people in the vicinity knowing that they are seeking assistance as irregular migrants.
5. France is not alone in taking firm measures against irregular migrants, but these measures should not affect the human rights and human dignity of irregular migrants, nor create an unnecessary climate of fear for these persons. Furthermore these measures should not affect the role of NGOs in carrying out their human rights and humanitarian mandate.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed¹:

VERMOT-MANGOLD Ruth-Gaby, Switzerland, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
BANOVIĆ Donka, Serbia, EPP/CD
DUPRAZ John, Switzerland, ALDE
ERR Lydie, Luxembourg, SOC
GERVEN Henkvan, Netherlands, UEL
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HAGBERG Michael, Sweden, SOC
JURGENS Erik, Netherlands, SOC
LINDBLAD Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD
MENDONÇA Ana Catarina, Portugal, SOC
MEULENBELT Anja, Netherlands, UEL
NAKASHIDZÉ Nino, Georgia, ALDE
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PERNASKA Lajla, Albania, EPP/CD
PLATVOET Leo, Netherlands, UEL
de PUIG Lluís Maria, Spain, SOC
RUPPRECHT Marlene, Germany, SOC
SYDOW Björn von, Sweden, SOC
VIS Rudi, United Kingdom, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC
YAZDANFAR Maryam, Sweden, SOC

Total = 22

¹ SOC: Socialist Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democratic Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: not registered in a group