

CEA(R)

Comisión Española
de Ayuda al Refugiado

NEW EUROPEAN PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM



NOVEMBER 2019

Ursula Von der Leyen, new President of the European Commission, put forward the political guidelines document entitled My Agenda for Europe at the European Parliament, and announced a fresh start on migration policy, resulting in a new **Pact on Migration and Asylum**.

JULY 2020

Germany took over the Presidency of the EU Council and published a programme that calls for a reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), an effective return policy, greater cooperation with the countries of origin, host and transit, more efficient protection of external borders, new measures relating to the Schengen system and better opportunities for legal migration.

NEW EUROPEAN PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

Issues raised in the document My Agenda for Europe that may be addressed by the new Pact on Asylum and Migration

- 1** **REINFORCEMENT** of external border control.
- 2** **REFORM** of the Common European Asylum System.
- 3** **A NEW WAY OF BURDEN SHARING.**
- 4** **BETTER PROSPECTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** in the home or transit countries.
- 5** **DISMANTLING THE BUSINESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING** using all tools at the disposal of the EU.
- 6** **COOPERATION WITH REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES** to provide human and decent conditions, supporting the opening of humanitarian corridors.
- 7** **A STRONGER COMMITMENT** to resettlement and other legal migration channels.
- 8** **EUROPE WILL ALWAYS UPHOLD ITS VALUES** and assist all refugees fleeing persecution or conflict; this is a moral obligation.
- 9** **A MORE SUSTAINABLE APPROACH** to defining search and rescue functions. There is a need to move from current case-by-case solutions to a more permanent response.
- 10** **UPDATING THE EU RULES** on return has to be part of the solution.

RISKS



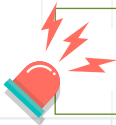
Creation of a pre-screening mechanism to review the applications for international protection at external borders: procedural guarantees could be compromised due to the tight deadlines. The responsibility could lie exclusively with the Southern border Member States.



Lack of an agreement on safe disembarkation and mandatory relocation.



Adoption of agreements with third countries where migrants and refugees are not granted protection.



Increase of returns to unsafe countries.

STOP



Use of the situation caused by COVID-19 as an excuse to extend restrictive measures: closing of borders, suspension of resettlement, relocation and family reunification arrangements, increased difficulty in safely disembarking people rescued from the Mediterranean Sea.

OPPORTUNITIES



Guaranteeing the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between the Member States.



Promoting a guarantee-based Common European Asylum System.



Boosting and reinforcing the commitment to create safe and legal channels for refugees to access protection.



Ensuring access to the asylum procedure with every guarantee.



Putting an end to “push-backs” and to the conditioning of development aid on border control.



Ensuring the saving of lives at sea and the improvement of search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea, by promoting a safe and efficient disembarkation protocol with the subsequent mandatory relocation.



Ensuring that, even under exceptional circumstances such as the COVID-19 crisis, migrants have access to the territory and the asylum procedure, and that there is an adequate system of relocation and resettlement, with alternatives to detention.