

# PETITION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR THE RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW, EU VALUES AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

## URGENT IN NATURE

We, citizens of the European Union, associations, and people from third countries living in the European Union,

- Having considered the conclusions of the Extraordinary European Council of February 9, and in particular point 23 (e) thereof,
- Having considered the letter from the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to the Heads of State and governments the January 26, 2023 - which seems to indicate a change in the approach of the European Commission compared to the *Migration Pact* of September 2020, moving from the priority of international law, the principles and values of the European Union and the protection of fundamental rights to a Europe that rejects and excludes
- Having considered the requests of Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovakia
  
- Considering Articles 20, 24 and 227 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
- Considering Articles 77, 78, 79 and 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- Considering the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in particular Articles 1, 2, 4, 5, 15, 18, 19
- Considering the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951
- Considering the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue of 1985
- Considering the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950
- Considering that the Heads of State and Government of the 27 Member States have decided to focus on: strengthening external action; cooperation on return and readmission; control of external borders; contrasting the exploitation of migrants for political purposes; and cooperation with Europol, Frontex and Eurojust, thus confirming the principle that control of migrant flows is essentially a security problem
- Considering that nothing has been said about the reasons for population movements, which largely occur within the countries of origin, between sub-Saharan African countries and towards developing countries, that the so-called *pull factor* does not derive from the lack of pushbacks and repatriations of irregular migrants but from the unstoppable flight from internal conflicts, interstate wars, hunger, environmental disasters and land expropriation, and considering that repatriations are in many cases impossible due to the difficulty

of signing agreements with third countries, that many repatriations will result in the death or enslaving of migrants defined as irregular and that the European Union should have adopted a plan for the development of Africa some time ago

- Considering that nothing has been said about the added value welcoming economic migrants brings to European economies and to our culture, nor on the need to provide human and financial resources to local authorities to ensure inclusion policies, the only effective tools to guarantee the safety of those who arrive and of those who welcome

- Considering that the next Council of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs to follow up on the European Council conclusions will be held on March 9 under the Swedish presidency.

**We believe** that the European Parliament should reject the conclusions of the European Council using all the institutional instruments available to the Assembly, in particular paragraph 23, which states:

*“Calls on the Commission to immediately mobilize substantial EU funds and means to support Member States in reinforcing border protection capabilities and infrastructure, means of surveillance, including aerial surveillance, and equipment. In this context, the European Council invites the Commission to quickly finalize the European Integrated Border Management Strategy.”*

**We want to know** – as a movement of citizens-taxpayers – whether funding for the construction of walls and barbed wire will be excluded, from which budget lines will these funds be drawn, whether a supplementary and amending budget will be needed on which the assembly will have the final say, and how the relevance and necessity of the expenditure will be verified.

**We ask** to have these details since said considerable funds will have to be drawn from the European Union budget, which is financed by European citizens.

Rome, February 28, 2023