

LET'S OPEN A NEW PHASE OF EUROPEAN RIGHTS-BASED MIGRATION POLICIES

The idea of halting the migration flows of women, children and men - fleeing from regions where people are dying of wars, starvation, environmental disasters and the expropriation of land from farmers to introduce the same forms of intensive agriculture that are destroying the environment in developed countries - is progressively winning over almost all governments in the European Union who adopt or spread the false narrative that these flows vastly exceed our economic, social and cultural capacities for reception, hospitality and integration.

Associated with this narrative is the idea that the increase in migration flows is caused by the pull factors of our migration policies and not by the factors that drive people to flee (push factors), and that the flows must be stopped at the origin or, rather, in the transit countries to the European Union that, hypocritically, governments regard as "safe countries."

Based on this narrative, the European Commission and the Council have shared, facilitated or promoted agreements first with Turkey and then with Libya not to mention Chad and Niger where it is known that people entitled to international protection are subjected to inhumane treatment in total disregard of international law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights that also applies to asylum seekers.

The recent memorandum of understanding between the European Union and Tunisia signed in Carthage by a heterodox and self-constituted "Team Europe"- considered by Giorgia Meloni to be a great success of the Italian government but also a model for relations with Africa and endorsed at the same time by Ursula von der Leyen seeking her re-election to the presidency of the European Commission and outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte - is not only written in the sand because the European financial assistance to Tunisia is at least hypothetical for now being contingent on an even more hypothetical agreement with the IMF, but because it is based on support for the internationally discredited Tunisian government and the violent naval blockade operation on the Tunisian coast led by Matteo Piantedosi and his Tunisian colleague Kamel Fekih.

So far no one in Brussels, Strasbourg, Vienna or Warsaw or Geneva - neither the Council, nor the European Parliament, nor the European Fundamental Rights Agency, nor Frontex, nor the UNHCR for Europe - has authorized or endorsed the MOU and indeed the European Parliament recently adopted a resolution strongly condemning European policy in the Mediterranean in violation of international and European norms.

In these days in Tunis many nongovernmental organizations are gathering to condemn the European policies adopted in violation of human rights and denounce the violence of the Al-Saied regime while in Rome the Africa Counter Summit is taking place on the theme "No deals on our skin" at the same time as the International Conference on Migration convened in Rome by the Italian government to consolidate and tighten the policy of blocking the flows of asylum seekers in a line of unacceptable continuity with the bilateral agreements signed with Turkey, Libya and now

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Tunisia. At the same time, the Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (ASGI) released a text denouncing the memorandum of understanding signed between the European Union and Tunisia¹.

The European Movement shares the condemnation and denunciation of nongovernmental organizations and calls on the European Parliament to demand that the European Commission abandon the Memorandum of Understanding with Tunisia in order to open a new phase of European migration policies based on human dignity and respect for fundamental rights.

Rome, July 21, 2023

¹ <https://www.asgi.it/asilo-e-protezione-internazionale/tavolo-asilo-e-immigrazione-laccordo-con-la-tunisia-e-contro-il-diritto-internazionale-e-i-diritti-umani/>