PETITION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Subject: To promote in the implementation of the European Migration and Asylum Pact the 'Riace' model for the reception and inclusion of migrants.

The undersigned people

Taking note that on 12 June 2026 the Migration and Asylum Pact ([i]) must be fully operational and that, to this end, the European Commission has adopted a 'Joint Implementation Plan' ([ii]) in view of the fact that this 'Plan' includes precise deadlines ([iii]) and, above all, obligations for national authorities to involve regional and local authorities and civil society ([iv]) along the lines of what has already been successfully tried and tested in the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, which has enabled the reception and inclusion of millions of Ukrainians;

Deeply concerned by the fact that, at least as far as Italy is concerned, despite repeated formal requests ([v]) such involvement has not taken place to date ([vi]);

Convinced that this lack of involvement not only violates the principle of loyal cooperation between Member States and EU institutions, but also seriously undermines the credibility and operability of the national strategy that is about to be submitted to the European Commission in order to obtain substantial European funding;

Recalled the fact that European funding in the implementation of policies with shared (European and national) responsibility such as migration and asylum must comply with the principles of transparency and good administration especially when interventions affect people's rights;

Emphasising the fact that the Riace experience, born spontaneously at the end of the last century and affirmed through solidarity participation that has crossed national borders, has become in this first quarter of a century a global reference model of 'gentle' reception, i.e. based on inclusion without fractures between its inhabitants and immigrants, between the needs of the former and the latter, between the identities and values of the natives and the identities and values of the newcomers;

Convinced that this experience has 'become a system of "cross-fertilisation", a political and civil practice of solidarity, a place of brotherhood, encounter, coexistence, hope and community reciprocity, revitalisation of inland and fragile areas - and represents a challenge for the entire European Union to which the institutions and civil society must respond with urgency, effectiveness and solidarity, and that it is a response to the unstoppable demographic decline affecting our continent, and to the abandonment and degradation of its inland and fragile areas;

Reaffirming that the Riace model suggests the only possible way forward for a policy of reception and inclusion of people migrating to European territory, a policy that must cover in particular both asylum seekers and refugees to whom Article 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Article 78 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union apply and people to whom the right to temporary protection must

be granted in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and the promotion of a balance of efforts between Member States on the basis of Directive 2001/55/EC;

ask the European Parliament (in particular the parliamentary committees LIBE, CONT and BUDG)

1. to propose to the European Commission, on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, to draw up in 2025 a proposal for a policy for the inclusion of people from third countries living on the territory of the European Union, involving the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee in this initiative, on the basis of their opinion
2. pending this proposal to draw up a 'pilot project' to be included in an amending and corrective budget for the financial year 2025 involving local authorities and based on the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (FAMI) 2021-2027 as an instrument for building the Europe of bridges and breaking down the Europe of walls with a view to its renewal and reinforcement in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2032
3. to choose as its legal basis Article 79.4 of the Lisbon Treaty (TFEU), which gives the European Parliament and the Council the power to adopt, under the ordinary legislative procedure, political, legal and financial measures to encourage and support the action of Member States with a view to fostering the reception and inclusion of persons from third countries living in the European Union in accordance with the 'Riace model', by including them in the framework of economic, social and territorial cohesion policy
4. to promote an international conference involving European and national institutions together with representative organisations of civil society and the world of work and production, following which a protocol to the Lisbon Treaty should be adopted, providing for a wide-ranging review of asylum and immigration policies and mandating the European Commission to draw up a development cooperation plan for the entire African continent
5. to obtain from the Commission (DG HOME) as soon as possible the national plans submitted by December 2024 and to examine them in the light of the objectives that Parliament itself has set as legislator
6. to verify as budgetary authority (if necessary, with the support of the EP's Directorate-General for Research) the adequacy of the legislative, operational, and financial requirements indicated by the Member States in order to meet the obligations arising from the Pact
7. to make sure that the reorganisation at national level of these policies ensures the reception and integration of migrants as foreseen by art. 34 of the Geneva Convention, and that the 'fair treatment' of third country nationals is ensured
8. to implement the 'Easyrights' project for migrants (already promoted and financed under the Horizon programme [vii]) on a large scale in regional and local authorities
9. to relaunch the European Parliament's legislative initiative proposal on Humanitarian Visas (Lopez Aguilar Report)

10. to exclude any form of criminalisation of those who assist migrants for humanitarian purposes, by appropriately amending the legislative proposals pending before the European Parliament (so-called ‘Facilitation Package’)

Pier Virgilio Dastoli

Emilio De Capitani

[i] https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum/legislative-files-nutshell_it

[ii] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/HTML/?uri=COM:2024:251:FIN

[iii] Timeline of the implementation of the Migration and Asylum Pact

- by December 2024 Member States should have presented, in consultation with stakeholders and regional and local authorities, National Plans for the implementation of the Pact
- by June 2025 Member States should have adopted National Strategies on the basis of the first funds made available by the Commission (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund - AMIF - and Financial Support Facility for Border Management and Visa Policy - BMVI - on the basis of updated statistics reflecting the distribution key in the period 2021 2023);
- by mid-term review of the multiannual financial framework (MFF), the Commission will allocate part of the funding from the MFF mid-term review to Member States through the thematic instrument by mid-term review in 2025.
- by mid-2025, Member States should launch procurements for the purchase of equipment and construction activities.
- by mid-2025 Member States should start the recruitment process.
- by 2025 the Commission should adopt the first European Asylum Migration Strategy 2026-2030 and the Council on the Solidarity Pool with the first financial and operational Solidarity Cycle

[iv] The Plan ‘encourages Member States to interact with social partners, local and regional authorities, and other stakeholders, in particular representatives of civil society organisations, through regular exchanges and consultations. Such interaction helps to identify challenges, improve policy solutions and ensure broader ownership during the preparation of national implementation plans and subsequently during their implementation, phases in which these actors often play critical roles'.

[v] https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DJCy0XxJsDTJVLZC7PNN8P4_wsKQMy2z0GT8icyNZqI/edit?tab=t.0

[vi] https://www.amnesty.it/attuazione-del-patto-ue-in-italia-manca-un-piano-di-consultazione-civica/

[vii] https://www.easyrights.eu/