

Disclaimer: this is an unofficial translation of the document presented by the Italian Prime Minister Antonio Conte to the informal mini-summit on migration that took place in Brussels on 24 June 2018. Please note that the translation seeks to be, as much as possible, close to the Italian version of the text. All the words between square brackets [...] have been added by the translator to facilitate reading and understanding in English. The original text is available at this link: <https://goo.gl/oMfutr>

European Multi-Level Strategy for Migration

Europe is in front of a crucial challenge. If it does not realize an effective policy of regulation and management of migratory flows, the entire European construction risks to lose its credibility. It is necessary to implement an integrated, multi-level approach that conjugates rights and responsibilities. Italy wants to contribute to the establishment of such an approach in a constructive way.

We must move from the emergency to the structural management of the migratory phenomenon. This can be realized, first of all, by regulating primary flows (arrivals) to Europe, this is the only way to regulate secondary flows (intra-European movements) at a later stage.

1. Intensification of agreements and relations between the European Union and third countries of origin or transit of migrants and investment in projects. For example, Libya and Niger, with help of which we reduced departures by 80%.
2. [Creation of] international protection centres in transit countries to assess asylum requests and offer legal assistance to migrants, also with a view to voluntary returns. To this end, the EU must work together with UNHCR and IOM. This is why it is urgent to refinance the EU-Africa Trust Fund (needing 500 million euros of additional financial resources) which also has an impact in combating illegal immigration on the border between Libya and Niger.
3. Reinforcing external borders. Italy is already supporting EU missions (EUNAVFOR MED Sophia and Joint Operation Themis) and the Libyan Coast Guard, it is necessary to strengthen these initiatives.
4. Overcoming Dublin (more complex objective). Created for other purposes, it is now insufficient. Only 7% of migrants are refugees. Without an adequate intervention, we risk losing the opportunity to adopt a truly efficient European instrument. The Common European Asylum System is today based on a paradox: rights are only recognized if people manage to reach Europe, no matter at what cost.
5. Overcoming the country of first arrival rule. Those who land in Italy, land in Europe. [It is necessary to] reaffirm responsibility-solidarity as a pairing, not as separate principles. Schengen is at stake.
6. [Regarding] common responsibility among European States over people at sea, not all responsibility can fall on the shoulders of countries of first arrival. It is necessary to overcome the concept of 'illegal crossing' for people rescued at sea and taken ashore following SAR operations [and] to differentiate the concept of safe port of disembarkation from the State responsible to examine asylum applications. The obligation of rescue [at sea] cannot become an obligation to process asylum applications on behalf of all [other Member States].
7. The European Union must combat - through common initiatives that should not be entrusted to individual Member States - "trafficking in human beings" and fight criminal organizations which are fueling both trafficking [and smuggling] and the false illusions of migrants.
8. We cannot bring them all in Italy or Spain. It is necessary to establish reception centers in several European countries to safeguard the rights of those who arrive and avoid public order problems and overcrowding.

9. Combating secondary movements. By implementing the above principles, the intra-European movements of refugees would be purely marginal. Thus, secondary movements could become the object of technical agreements among the countries which are most concerned.

10. Every country shall establish entry quotas for economic migrants. It is a principle that has to be respected, but it is necessary to foresee adequate financial countermeasures with regard to States that do not offer to admit refugees.

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