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For a left-wing migration policy in Europe!

During the last European elections, the European socialists have not been able to propose to the voters a progressive vision of the migratory policy. This caused heavy consequences: no changes in the European migratory policy are to be noticed, contrary to the economic policy, where an investment plan has been announced.

The Young European Socialists expect another migratory policy in Europe. We must defeat the vision of a Fortress Europe: Europe cannot cut itself off from the rest of the world. European socialists and social-democrats must propose a fairer migratory policy that respects the Human Rights and contributes to the emergence of a true European citizenship.

The impossible Fortress Europe

In the world there are 230 million migrants which accounts for 3% of the world population. These migrations are mainly from South to South but Europe is also part of it. European countries are truly attractive! Would-be migrants from everywhere hope to find security, jobs and a better way of life in Europe for themselves and their family. Refugees try to escape difficulties as dictatorship, war, consequences of exploitation by the North leading to poverty or natural catastrophes which create more and more climate refugees.

But today the reality of immigration in Europe is marked by a growing rejection of Member States. Thousands of would-be migrants die each year trying to cross the EU borders. Circa 3500 migrants trying to reach the shores of Southern Europe died in the Mediterranean Sea in 2014. The Lampedusa tragedy is a symbol of this terrible reality. The determination of the would-be migrants, who are ready for anything to settle in Europe.

We must analyse the failure of such a policy. The current European migratory policy is paradoxical as it is aimed to close EU borders – through FRONTEX agency – while welcoming, regularization conditions and access to citizenship process are not uniformed. The lack of solidarity between member states leads southern Europe countries to be in charge of the enforcement of this policy when they cannot even afford it. And the lack of an assumed alternative policy of the Left finally helps far-right movements to monopolize the debate around their ideas.

A common migratory policy to serve a European citizenship

The Young European Socialists urge the Union member states to adopt a common migratory policy funded by the states and giving the same rights to all migrants.

First of all we have to harmonize criteria for asylum access. We cannot accept that some countries refuse to do their part by not welcoming asylum-seekers in decent conditions when

natural catastrophes and tensions are growing across the world. The Young European Socialists also ask the European Parliament to vote a limitation of the maximal retention period in the member states. Then, we want to make the signature of the Schengen Agreement a requisite to join the European Union. Free circulation of people is not flexible!

Finally, the European common policy should allow the emergence of a true European citizenship. For the moment, this citizenship is the automatic consequence of national citizenship. We want to reverse this logic to make the European citizenship attractive: we must implement a European residence permit! It will guarantee the same rights to migrants in the whole EU. We must also think about a European birth right citizenship and about migrants' integration policy in European societies, which means that we must maintain public services.

Generalizing the co-development logic

Today, the European development aid to migrant's countries of origin is conditioned to the readmission of illegal migrants. Although we should not ignore the difficult situation for "illegal" migrants in the way we welcome them, we should not use our development aid as a mean of pressure. The socialists and social-democrats should refuse and fight such a blackmailing.

More generally, migrants' integration and development aid deserve states decisions to increase investments in common policies under the EU responsibility. A budget financed by a European income tax will be needed to achieve this goal.