



2019 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Summary of views

Towards an European asylum and migration policy based on protection, solidarity and responsibility

AN EUROPEAN RECEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BASED ON SOLIDARITY AND RESPECTFUL OF ASYLUM RIGHT

2018 was marked by multiple crises questioning the obligations of rescue and reception of distressed persons. Behind the immediate and essential issue of rescue, this situation has exacerbated the failures of the European asylum system and the divisions between Member States on the reception and the protection of asylum seekers. In this context, **Forum réfugiés-Cosi recalls the imperative to enhance the respect of migrants' fundamental rights and the access to a procedure that assesses the international protection needs.**

1. Implement a fair and responsible mechanism to manage arrivals
2. Put in place a genuine distribution system for asylum seekers

A HARMONIZED AND PROTECTIVE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

The revision of the common European asylum system started in April 2016 has not yet led to an agreement between the both European legislators, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. **According to Forum réfugiés-Cosi, all reflections on the revision of existing norms must be led as part of the international asylum engagements of the European Unions and its Member States.**

3. Define a monitoring and control mechanism for the implementation of the European asylum system
4. Ensure a dignified reception and living conditions for all asylum seekers
5. Guarantee the access to a fair asylum procedure
6. Prohibit deprivation of liberty on the only basis of asylum request
7. Reinforce identification and care provisions related to specific needs of the most vulnerable asylum seekers

LEGAL AND SAFE PATHWAYS FOR PERSONS IN NEED OF PROTECTION

The European Commission has initiated in September 2017 a resettlement program of 50 000 places until 2019. In March 2019, 24 000 refugees were resettled. This effort is warmly welcomed but it still remains very low relative to evaluated needs by the UNHCR. **Forum réfugiés-Cosi recommends Member States to implement multi-year resettlement programs and develop complementary legal pathways in addition to resettlement.**

8. Expand the protection area thanks to a sustainable resettlement mechanism
9. Ensure effectiveness of family reunification
10. Develop a reception policy for refugee students
11. Develop an European approach of the humanitarian visa

AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Even if the integration of beneficiaries of international protection is under national competencies of Member States, the European Union can develop a common and harmonized framework in this field through provisions related to asylum request, European funds, and action plans. **According to Forum réfugiés-Cosi, the general provisions related to the legal stay and access to social rights for refugees must allow a durable integration in host societies, and socio-professional integration mechanisms must be developed.**

12. Enable a durable legal stay and an effective access to social rights for beneficiaries of international protection
13. Support the socio-professional integration of refugees

RETURN PROCEDURES RESPECTFUL OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Defined by the Return directive currently under revision, the European policy related to return must be in line with the European protection norms of fundamental rights. The global approach of Member States and the revision proposed are however marked by an extensive use of detention and a reduction of procedural guarantees. **Forum réfugiés-Cosi recalls that the objective to implement a more efficient return policy cannot be done at the expense of human rights and the third country nationals' dignity. This is why the use of detention must be reconsidered, and alternatives to detention must be widely developed and favored.**

14. Include procedural guarantees in the return procedures
15. Give priority to alternatives to detention

AN EXTERNAL POLICY BASED ON RESPONSIBILITY AND PROTECTION

Migratory challenges has taken an increasing place in external policy of the European Union. **According to Forum réfugiés-Cosi, there is an urgent need to replace the actual approach of cooperation with third countries which aims at maintaining persons in needs of protection in these countries, by a protective, responsible and durable approach.** The European Union must strongly recall its commitment to the asylum right and related fundamental rights, as guaranteed in the 1951 Geneva Convention, the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union, and the European Convention on Human rights.

16. Ensure that fundamental rights are taken into account in the cooperation policy on migration
17. Give up the concept of “safe third country”
18. Ensure a monitoring of European external policies

MORE INFORMATION

► See the propositions in details (in French) : <https://bit.ly/2Uzlnsj>

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