Resolution on progress on UN Global compacts on safe, orderly and regular migration and on refugees

2018/2642(RSP) - 18/04/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution on progress on the UN Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and on Refugees.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups.

Migration is a complex human phenomenon. While refugees are specifically defined and protected in international law as people residing outside their country of origin because of a fear of persecution, conflict, violence, or other circumstances, and who require international protection as a result, refugees and migrants alike are bearers of human rights and often face increased vulnerability, violence and abuse throughout the migration process.

Both the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration are complementary processes that will require joint actions for their implementation.

Members strongly support the objectives of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the corresponding process for developing a global governance regime, for enhancing coordination on international migration, human mobility, large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations, and for putting in place durable solutions and approaches to clearly outlining the importance of protecting the rights of refugees and migrants.

They called on the EU Member States to unite behind a **single EU position** and to actively defend and advance the negotiations on the important issue of the UN Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and on Refugees.

Upholding rights: Members stressed that core international human rights treaties recognise the rights of all human beings, including migrants and refugees, regardless of their legal status, and obligate states to uphold them, including the fundamental principle of non-refoulement. They called for particular attention to be paid to people in vulnerable situations and in need of special medical or psychological support, including as a result of physical bias-motivated, sexual or gender-based violence, or torture.

Members called on the UN member states to make a standalone commitment to ensuring the protection of women and children in migration. Emphasis should also be put on addressing the diverse drivers of irregular migration and forced displacement (conflict, persecution, ethnic cleansing, generalised violence or other factors such as extreme poverty, climate change or natural disasters).

The resolution deplored the continued and widespread phenomenon of **statelessness**, which poses acute human rights challenges. It called for the EU and its Member States to ensure that this issue is adequately addressed in the current negotiations on the Global Compacts.

Funding: Members acknowledged that managing migration requires major investments, **adequate resources** and flexible and transparent instruments, and that well-designed, flexible and streamlined instruments to address migration challenges will be necessary in the coming years. They called for EU funding instruments to play a greater role in the implementation of the Global Compacts and for the next

multiannual financial framework (MFF) to include financial consistency and to review long-term budgetary support for migration and asylum policies and actions deriving from the Global Compacts. They stressed that development budgets need to remain focused on sustainable **poverty eradication**.

Returns and reintegration: Members underlined the importance of ensuring adequate support for voluntary return and for the reintegration of people returning to their homeland. They stressed that children should be returned only when it is in their best interests, and in a safe, assisted and voluntary manner, using child-specific country of origin information reports and offering long-term support for their reintegration.

The UN member states are called on to consider adopting detailed national or subnational action plans, promoting a whole-of-government approach for the implementation of the Compact recommendations in order to address the different dimensions of migration, including development, human rights, security, social aspects, age, and gender, and considering policy implications on health, education, child protection, housing, social inclusion, justice, employment, and social protection.

Lastly, the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy should keep Parliament fully informed at all stages of the process leading to the adoption of the Global Compacts.