Basic information

2005/2547(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on migrants on the island of Lampedusa in Italy and their expulsions to Libya **Subject** 1.10 Fundamental rights in the EU, Charter 7.10.08 Migration policy **Geographical area** Italy Libya	

Key players

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2664	2005-06-02

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/04/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0138/2005	Summary
14/04/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/04/2005	Debate in Parliament		
14/04/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/06/2005	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2005/2547(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 150
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B6-0251/2005	12/04/2005	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0254/2005	12/04/2005	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0262/2005	12/04/2005	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0263/2005	12/04/2005	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0267/2005	12/04/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0138/2005 OJ C 033 09.02.2006, p. 0501-0598 E	14/04/2005	Summary

Resolution on migrants on the island of Lampedusa in Italy and their expulsions to Libya

2005/2547(RSP) - 02/06/2005

The Council approved a series of conclusions on EU cooperation with Libya on migration issues.

In particular, the Council:

- shares the Commission's assessment that there is a need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to migration in the Mediterranean which encompasses dialogue and cooperation with Libya, other Mediterranean partners and main African countries of origin and transit, in full compliance with the objectives of the strategic framework established by the European Neighbourhood Policy referred to in the Hague Programme for the external dimension of asylum and migration;

- underlines that cooperation between the EU and third countries is guided by the principles of full respect for human rights, respect for democratic principles, the rule of law and the demonstration by those countries of a genuine commitment to fulfil their obligations under the Geneva Convention on Refugees or other relevant international conventions;

- calls on the Libyan authorities to demonstrate a genuine commitment to fulfil their obligations under the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa which recognises that the Geneva Convention on Refugees constitutes the basic and universal instrument relating to the status of refugees and which requires effective cooperation with the UNHCR and the respect of the principle of 'non-refoulement'. Invites the Commission to explore ways in which the Libyan authorities could be assisted in fulfilling their obligations;

- agrees to launch an ad hoc dialogue on migration issues between the EU and Libya and to gradually develop concrete cooperation on such issues with the Libyan authorities. The extent and development of such a cooperation will depend on Libya's commitments on asylum and fundamental rights as stated above;

- invites the Commission to engage, on the basis of the suggestions contained in the Annex and as soon as possible, in exploratory discussions with the Libyan authorities to identify practical measures to tackle illegal migration in areas such as training, reinforcement of institution building, asylum issues and increasing public awareness of the dangers of illegal migration, and to discuss the conditions under which such cooperation could take place;

- invites the Commission to report on the outcome of its exploratory discussions with the Libyan authorities in order for the Council to consider further action;

- stresses that as long as Libya does not fully integrate into the Barcelona process, any cooperation with Libya can only be limited in scope and take place on a technical ad hoc basis;

- calls upon the Commission to extend this cooperation to the main countries of origin and transit on the African continent in close relation with the relevant regional organisations to develop a wider approach to migration management on the African continent;

- calls upon the Member States and the Commission to implement swiftly the measures listed in the Annex, and calls upon the Member States to intensify, in particular in the framework of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union, their cooperation on maritime external borders in the Mediterranean area and invites the Agency to include among its priorities in the working programme for 2005 and 2006 concrete operational actions on this issue;

- invites the Commission to provide regular reports on progress in cooperation with the main African countries of origin and transit and in the implementation of the measures to intensify cooperation within the EU.

Resolution on migrants on the island of Lampedusa in Italy and their expulsions to Libya

2005/2547(RSP) - 14/04/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 51 votes to 50, with no abstentions, a resolution on Lampedusa.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the PES, ALDE, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups.

The Parliament expresses its concern at the collective expulsions of migrants from the island of Lampedusa in Italy to Libya carried out by the Italian authorities between October 2004 and March 2005. It calls on the Italian authorities and on all Member States to refrain from collective expulsions of asylum seekers and "irregular migrants" to Libya as well as to other countries and to guarantee that requests for asylum are examined individually and the principle of non-refoulement adhered to.

The Italian authorities are called upon to grant the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) free access to the Lampedusa detention centre and the people held there, who might be in need of international protection.

The Parliament is concerned about the absence in Italy of a law on the right to asylum and calls on the Commission, as the guardian of the Treaties, to ensure that the right of asylum is respected in the European Union, to put a stop to the collective expulsions and to insist that Italy and the other Member States comply with their obligations under EU law.

MEPs call for a delegation of members of the relevant committees to be sent to the Lampedusa refugee centre and to Libya to assess the magnitude of the problem. Libya is called upon to allow access to international observers, to call a halt to the expulsion and arbitrary arrest of migrants, to ratify the Geneva Convention on Refugees and to recognise the mandate of the UNHCR. MEPs also demand that any readmission agreement with Libya be made public.

Lastly, the Parliament recalls the need for a Community immigration and asylum policy based on an opening up of legal immigration channels and on the definition of a common standard of protection of the fundamental rights of immigrants and asylum seekers throughout the European Union.