

# PRESS RELEASE

## THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION POLICY VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS

**Strasbourg.** On Wednesday 26 November, the Collective for another migration policy\*, composed of around 50 human rights associations, is organising, for the second consecutive year, a demonstration in front of the European Parliament to bring back to the fore the debate about the migration policy, and to present a campaign FRONTEXIT. This demonstration, supported by the European deputies Marie-Christine Vergiat, Malin Björk, Eva Joly, Barbara Spinelli and Cornelia Ernst, was proposed during a press conference held in the heart of the European institutions.

**Bernard Klingenschmidt**, speaker for the Collective, explained the procedure: *“Last year we presented here at the European parliament a list of the 17 306 people who have died at the gates of the European Fortress. This year, we bring the survivors, who have joined a human chain of citizens and deputies in order to bring their human rights to Parliament. As European citizens, we reiterate that migrants do not present a threat to Europe but, on the contrary, bring richness to our society and a desire to build bridges, not walls”.*

Faced with this, the German European deputy, **Cornelia Ernst** from Die Linke, recalled: *“All those who died in the Mediterranean and those who are missing, they prove how much we need a fundamentally new approach of asylum and migration policies. What we need is less focus on the so called security of our borders and more focus on human rights and human dignity.”*

The Swedish deputy, **Malin Björk**, Vice-president of the group GUE/NGL at the European Parliament, stated: *“We must put an end to Dublin and form new policies on asylum and immigration, where human rights are at the centre. Now is the time to save lives, not mourn deaths with words and go on as if nothing happened”*

**Eva Joly**, a representative of the Europe Ecology – The Greens delegation at the Parliament, confirmed: *“The chaos of the world has thrown millions of men and women on to the path of migration. We cannot turn a blind eye to this, nor leave the populists of the borders to exploit their stories and journeys to further strengthen the European borders. Reinforcing the checks, sub-contracting the monitoring of borders to authoritarian regimes will only lead to making the means of migration more dangerous and multiply human losses. The European Union would do better to open legal channels of migration for all, to see in the migrants an opportunity rather than a threat.”*

**Marie-Christine Vergiat**, French euro-deputy, affirmed: *“The quasi-indifference of the members States towards the situation of migrants and asylum-seekers in the EU and the number of migrants drowned in the sea is insupportable. This is the result of the European Fortress policy. It needs to stop, and we also need to put to an end the fantasies, stereotypes and lies in the field of migration and rebuild new policies with those migrants who survived and of their rights as they result from international conventions”.*

**Barbara Spinelli**, Italian European deputy and the daughter of one of the founding fathers of the European Union, quoted the title of the third chapter of « Perpetual Peace » by Immanuel Kant : *«The Law of World Citizenship Shall Be Limited to Conditions of Universal Hospitality »*

**Eva Ottavy**, of the Euro-African network Migreurop and a representative of the campaign [www.frontexit.org](http://www.frontexit.org) said: *“For more than a decade, the European migration policies have had an exclusively security approach which treats the migrants as enemies. The European agency Frontex is a key player in this policy and has huge budgetary means, as well as military, and legal status which allows it to sign agreements with other countries. Frontex is without transparency, with little of the democratic control of civil society, euro-deputies or other European methods of control.”*

The Collective for another migration policy demands, among other things, the repeal of the current mechanism Frontex and the ratification by all European countries of the International Convention for the

\*Association des Travailleurs Maghrébins de France, ASTU, Artisans du Monde, CARES (Coordination des résidents étrangers de Strasbourg), CCFD-Terre Solidaire, CIMADE, Collectif judéo-arabe et citoyen pour la Palestine, Colecosol, Collectif Justice et Libertés Justice, Pastorale des Migrants, Association des tunisiens de Strasbourg, Les voix Libres, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, OXFAM, TEJE (Travailler ensemble jeunes et engagé-e-s), AMSED (Association Migration solidarité et échanges pour le développement), Mouvement pour une alternative non violente, Calima, Lune, Réseau Euromed France, Emmaüs Alsace et Fami Langues.

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protection of migrant workers and their families, which came into force in July 2003, but is not yet ratified by a single European country, which is deplorable.

The demonstration planned this Wednesday **26 November at 3pm**, will bring together citizens, locally elected officials and MEPs, who will carry placards presenting hard evidence of migrants as well as propositions so that the policies of the EU will no longer be in violation of international laws.

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