Migration Policy Proposal: Contribution of DSC Berlin

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This is the contribution of the Berlin DSC to the development of a policy paper. We present the main principles migration policy should be based on in the first section, and we answer part of the questions in the second section.

I. Important Principles of Migration Policy

So far, migration has been a field of policy, **but now it is necessary to turn it into one of the guiding principles of the EU**. The members of the Berlin DSC's migration task-force agree that DiEM25 should work towards the dismantling of barriers preventing the movement of people, while at the same time it should put policies in place that allow people to remain in their place of origin, or settle in a different place, at any time they desire. The EU should develop as a post-modern state, converge (and not merge) people of the EU and to destroy the "*us vs. them*"- narrative of xenophobia and racism. Getting closer to the vision of one world and free movement for all requires the rejection of the "*clash of cultures*"- narrative, the acceptance of difference/diversity and a cultural and religious dialogue, which stops claiming the superiority of western value-systems. Following this perspective, we're convinced that DiEM25 should promote foreign policies that allow people to stay in their country of origin if they wish to, and do not compel them to leave their country in order to protect their own security and survival. This includes radical shifts in EU foreign, military and trade-investment policy.

We speak for non-intervention-politics and an EU-wide stop of weapon exports. The EU trade agreements and economic investment policies should support migrant-sending countries to develop a flourishing and diversified economy, a social welfare state and a public education system - and, accordingly, employment opportunities. Regarding trade agreements, it should be taken into account that free markets can have a destructive effect on less developed economies.

We should replace free trade-agreements and development aid programs run by the EU and its member states by fair trade-agreements: We should re-negotiate those agreements for mutual

benefit. The goal should be to achieve conditions, which are in the interest of development and emancipation of local economies. All countries (as well as other legal entities and voluntary federations) should be allowed to institutionalize (in a sociological sense) themselves. Liberal rights, democracy, constitutions etc. are to be decided by each individual country/legal entity in emancipated, voluntary dialogue. In the same spirit, EU countries should consider the environmental impact of international trade agreements and investment policies, as well as the disastrous impact of western patent politics on health and welfare of the poorer half of mankind.

Social policy in EU countries should overcome the distinction between political and economic migrant/refugee. This fictive distinction leads to discriminatory policies that deprive arriving people of agency and end up relegating them into underemployment and exploitation. We demand the abolition of detention camps and any related forms of detainment of people with the "wrong" passports. Migrating people in the EU should be considered as citizens and guaranteed civil, social and political rights, irrespective of their reason for migration, their country of origin and their socio-economic status. They should not be obliged to 'integrate' in the receiving country; rather, through the promotion of civil, social and political rights for all, both incoming people and receiving societies will be encouraged to a process of convergence.

In order to do this, it is essential that all EU countries deal with their colonial past at an institutional level. Education policies and the media should not promote the trope of EU society as white, Christian, homogeneous and static, but give space to historically grounded accounts of it. For example, compulsory school curricula should give appropriate space to the importance that non-Christian cultures have had on the cultural, economic and political development of Europe. The history of colonialism should be given appropriate space in compulsory school curricula in every EU member state. This also involves a critical examination of past and present development aid and NGO-based humanitarian aid. The respecting programs might be driven to a certain extent by points of view which could be referred to as post-colonial culture imperialism. Justice must replace charity. Compulsory education should offer to students the possibility of following non-EU language classes. These policies will gradually contribute to a lesser fear of the 'other'. It would also help to dispel the myth of 'western culture' as an essential, bound entity inherently different and superior to the beliefs and customs of incoming people. While presently different EU member

states base their policies on different ideas of citizenship, they should seek to gradually converge towards an inclusive definition of what it means to be a EU citizen. This idea might not be predicated only on the relationship between individual and the nation-state, but for example also on the relation between the citizen and a specific locality, or between the citizen and a specific region. In this prospect, regional policies should acquire a more central role in EU economic and social policy, counterbalancing the re-emergence of nation states as the primary agents of policy and law making.

II. Migration Questionnaire

1. *What could be a solution to stop death at sea?*
   a. Free and legal paths for migration: visa for refugees issued in their countries of origin, asylum via embassies, legal entry to the EU via plane/ship.
   b. On a long-term-view: open borders.
   c. Immediate implementation of sea-watching missions like „Mare Nostrum".
   d. Immediate legal corrections: rewarding fishermen who rescue refugees instead of punishing them.
   e. Improve the living conditions in the migrant-sending countries by
      i. EU-wide stop of weapon exports.
      ii. Non-intervention politics regarding military conflicts.
      iii. Fair trade agreements (e.g. supporting migrant-sending countries to back out of imposed free trade agreements).
      iv. Regulation of patent politics and foreign investments.

2. *The main aim of the European agency Frontex is to develop common border management. Do you think that the solution is to cancel Frontex, or to improve it in respects of human rights?*
   Human rights necessarily collide with the European border regime. Frontex cannot be part of the solution because it ideologically represents the "clash of cultures" narrative.

3. *How can we open legal ways of access in European countries?*
   a. Visa for refugees issued in their countries of origin.

b. Asylum via embassies.

c. Repealing the Dublin-treaty.

d. Implementation of EU-visa and EU-asylum.

4. *How would you improve a real integration and hosting system of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Europe?*

a. Involving migrants in the organization of the "hosting system".

b. "Investing" in migrants instead of maintaining an ineffective and restrictive help-system.

c. Closure of detention camps.

d. Providing democratic rights for everyone (based on residence, not on citizenship).

5. *What could be a solution to protect migrants, at European level, against labour exploitation?*

a. Minimum wages.

b. Unconditional basic income.

c. Unrestricted access to the labour market.

d. New deal (e.g. public investment programs).

e. Trainings (e.g. language trainings), recognition of foreign degrees and vocational diplomas and an investment in related services.

f. Not only migrants need to be protected against labour exploitation.

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