

Motions

Motion number	To be completed by EFA Secretariat
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Elisabet Nebreda
Member party	Esquerra Republicana
Title (of the Motion)	A fair and humanitarian asylum system for the EU
<p><u>A fair and humanitarian asylum system for the EU</u></p> <p>All member states have an obligation to uphold the 1951 UN Geneva convention and its 1967 protocol, to provide legal protection to asylum-seekers—not to return them to countries where their lives or freedoms are threatened (the <i>non-refoulement</i> principle).</p> <p>According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), at least 1,146 people died attempting to reach Europe by sea in the first six months of 2021.</p> <p>According to UNHCR, so far in 2021 alone, at least 500 other people have drowned or gone missing in the Central Mediterranean. This is a significant increase compared to the same period last year when some 150 people drowned or went missing on the same route.</p> <p>Since January, in bad weather and rough seas, hundreds of people have been rescued from the Atlantic while trying to make the perilous journey from Africa to the Canary Islands. Many more have drowned. Thousands, many of them children, attempted to enter the Spanish territory of Ceuta in May. Most were immediately returned to Morocco.</p> <p>Eyewitness reports describe illegal pushback operations by Greek border guards, forcing exhausted refugees back into the sea.</p> <p>In the aftermath of the latest developments in Afghanistan and the Taliban’s takeover, Afghan civilians at heightened risk of persecution are in urgent need of evacuation and international protection abroad. According to UNHCR, over half a million people have already been displaced by the violence in Afghanistan so far this year. Some 80 per cent of nearly a quarter of a million Afghans forced to flee since the end of May are women and children. This latest situation is only adding more suffering to an already tragic situation, in which over 5 million Afghans are displaced in the country and across borders.</p> <p>In September 2020, the European Commission published the new European Pact on Migration and Asylum to reform the EU migration and asylum system. The Pact, which</p>	

consists of five legislative proposals and four recommendations, focuses pointedly on restricting access to Europe and on stepping up returns of people who are unable to get international protection. Instead of upholding human rights and adopting a more humanitarian approach, the proposal is, in reality, reinforcing policies of border control, detention and deportation, while at the same time revealing the disunity and lack of solidarity among member states.

We believe Europe can and must do better.

Therefore, the European Free Alliance:

- Calls the EU to swiftly adopt and implement a **united, humanitarian and efficient European asylum system, with an equitable distribution of people seeking refuge among member states.**
- Calls on Member States to step up **resettlement schemes**, as resettlement enables vulnerable refugees to **safely and legally travel** from a third country to the host country.
- **Calls on Member States to issue humanitarian visas** to at-risk Afghan human rights defenders, women's rights activists and politicians, journalists and other highly visible women being targeted for their refusal to conform to Taliban-dictated gender norms. EFA also calls on the Commission to offer coordination and support for such initiatives promoted by Member States.
- Calls on the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament to **trigger the 2001 Directive on Temporary Protection**, which could establish an **emergency mechanism to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons** from third countries who are unable to return to their country of origin.
- Urges the European Commission and Member States to **ensure a coordinated response for the provision of vital humanitarian assistance and access for NGOs and IGOs in Afghanistan and support for civil society organisations inside and outside of Afghanistan that assist IDPs and promote humanitarian and human rights needs**, including for women, children and others, as well as education, health care, and other vital needs.
- Calls on EU Member States to immediately suspend forced returns to Afghanistan, where the rapidly deteriorating security situation places people's lives at risk.

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