



## PROXY Committee

### Entrance Statements

*Committee concerning EU's external relations and foreign affairs, especially proximity relations with neighbouring states (Immigration, Development and Cooperation, Mediterranean security etc)*

### Synoptic Table

*The following table is not meant as a complete synthesis of the Entrance Statements. Its aim is to simplify the recognition of the final decisions took by the different Parliamentary Groups during the online training.*

Parliamentary Group	Issues to discuss	Proposed solutions
EPP	Migration crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) secure EU external borders to initially stem the flow of migrants</li> <li>(b) Countries which border the EU must have a role to play in the EU as border countries</li> <li>(c) Development of humanitarian aid in order to stabilise the situation.</li> </ul>
S&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Migration crisis</li> <li>(2) Peace-making of Ukrainian crisis</li> <li>(3) Trade agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1.a) Increasing of EU-Turkey relationships</li> <li>(2.a) removal from sanction lists of all MPs of any Eastern Countries;</li> <li>(2.b) facilitation and/or liberalisation of visa for eastern and balkan Countries</li> <li>(3.a) Sign the TTIP agreement saving the European high standard of protection</li> <li>(3.b) Increase dialogue with China, with anti-dumping measures and protection of internal market</li> </ul>

Parliamentary Group	Issues to discuss	Proposed solutions
ECR	<p>(1) Irregular migration and protection of external border</p> <p>(2) Middle east crisis</p> <p>(3) Russian foreign policy in eastern Europe.</p>	<p>(1.a) Erection of external border fences and increasing of check points</p> <p>(1.b) Coordinated effort to design restrictive and common rules on migration, movement of non-EU people among EU countries, refugee status and rights</p> <p>(1.c) EU financial commitment to provide assistance for resettle asylum seekers in their region of origin</p> <p>(2.a) EU active role assisting neighbors to strengthen democracy, rule of law, human rights.</p> <p>(3.a) Contrast Russian "imperialism" in eastern Europe giving new impulse to the enlargement to east of EU</p>
ALDE	<p>Refugees crisis and its impact on European ideals and on people</p>	<p>(a) Quotas policy: the number of asylum seekers inversely proportional to members' GDPs and funded by quotas directly proportional to the members' GDPs.</p> <p>(b) Active policies promoting immigrants integration</p>
GUE/NGL	<p>(1) Increase of the respect of Human Rights</p> <p>(2) Help Development in nearby Countries</p> <p>(3) Actions of Peacekeeping</p>	<p>(1.a) action on Turkey, that must meet as soon as possible the Copenhagen criteria</p> <p>(1.b) Future trade agreements with external countries must include strategic plans for the promotion of safety standards, good wages for workers</p> <p>(2.a) The right to food, safe drinking water, energy, food sovereignty and the protection of natural resources should be recognised globally as fundamental rights.</p> <p>(2.b) Distribute and produce essential medicines without having to pay rights to pharmaceutical companies.</p> <p>(2.c) Il trade deals worth more than 50 million Euros must be approved by a EU comittee.</p> <p>(3.a) suspension of trade agreements with both Israel and Palestine until they can reach a just and peaceful two-state solution.</p> <p>(3.b) The EU should move to a civilian perspective strictly separated from NATO structures, recognized by EU statute</p>

## Entrance Statements

### EPP

- 1) Which is the opinion your Parliamentary Group has on EU's foreign affairs, especially in its proximity relations with neighbouring states?

The European Peoples Party strongly believes that the European Union should continually support the southern and eastern neighbourhoods. They believe that the EU should continue to invest in eastern partnership which they state aims to offer European perspective to neighbouring states such as, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. Having good EU relations with neighbouring states is an important of diplomacy and trade agreements. Closer EU relations with Turkey may be financially be official due to import/ export however the geographical location of turkey and its potential membership of the EU means that irregular and regular migration will strain EU member states economic and social capacity. The EPP group believes that freedom of expression, citizens' rights to information and the organisation of free and fair elections are important and aim to spread these principles. Trade is of big importance as it plays a major role to internal and international affairs; trade makes a significant contribution to the creation of new jobs and allows for economic growth in Europe and it deepens the relationship between the EU and its partners.

- 2) Within this topic, which is the most urgent issue you think is needed to be discussed?

Following on from topic one. Migration is the biggest threat to EU social and economic prosperity, There is a growing crisis of migration, refugees and asylum seekers. As a Conservative party, the EPP warns against free movement into EU member states. This is for a number of reasons: the previously stated economic and social stresses, a weakening of EU security due to porous borders, increase in crime due to migrants being unable to gain legal employment, a rise in far-right extremism, collapse of socialist institutions such as the British NHS and large scale withdrawal of money from EU member states economies as funds are sent by migrants back to families in non-EU states.

- 3) Which solution you propose and which kind of Proposal the Parliament should adopt on this issue?

Solutions to this issue are as such; The EU must properly address the challenge of the migration influx from the Middle East and Northern Africa, they need to secure EU external borders to initially stem the flow of migrants and enable plans to be made. Have closer relations with countries which border the EU as these are often source and/ or transit countries and have a role to play in the EU as border countries. Development of essential humanitarian aid to source countries is also important, in order to stabilise the situation and reduce migrants leaving in the first place.

## S&D

At an international level, Socialists and Democrats are conscious of the numerous challenges that the EU is facing and has to face in the future. Migration, Ukraine crisis and Balkan stability, and international trade relations are just some of the several problems which involve a require an immediate and definite stance from the EU and its Institutions. With this document, the S&D group aims to clarify its positions about the international issues judging by the leading role they invest in order to ensure safety and social stability inside the Member States.

To begin with, the most emerging problem the European Union is facing nowadays is without doubt the migration crisis. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, between January 2015 and March 2016 over one million of refugees arrived to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea. Turkey has been the main gateway state to the European Union, and the EU should certainly be more active in order to bring solutions to this global humanitarian crisis. The S&D welcomes the European leaders' decision for the re-launching of the EU-Turkey accession negotiation process, since we believe that the relations between Turkey and the EU must be reinforced, especially in that time of need. We support the agreement reached on the 20th of March 2016 between the EU and Turkey to address the ad hoc issues resulting from the refugee crisis by sending back to Turkey migrants arriving in Greece if they do not apply for asylum or their claim is rejected.

Additionally, we consider Turkey to be a central partner in facing the migration crisis. It has to be emphasised that a crisis of such magnitude and a clearly global dimension has to be handled at the root of the problem, which is the Syrian war. As such, the EU has to recognise that cooperation with Turkey, as a potential close partner in the region, will be a crucial factor in addressing the source of the crisis. The effective European involvement, coordinated with our Turkish partners, in ensuring a diplomatic resolution of the military and humanitarian crisis in Syria, is a necessary step in addressing the current inflow of refugees, addressing the crisis which might potentially lead to the increasing disrespect for or even dissolution of the agreements of the Schengen Convention. Even more importantly, this solution directly addresses an enormous humanitarian crisis in the Middle East and, if successful, promises the resolution of a conflict which continuously threatens the lives of many civilians, forcing even more to leave their homes against their will and seek security in the inadequate conditions of refugee camps both in and outside of the region.

When considering relations with our Eastern Partnership countries, it is important to mention growing tensions between the EU and Russia linked to the Ukrainian crisis as well as the growing impact of anti-democratic forces throughout Europe. To Ukraine, the EU offered comprehensive support, amongst others, for implementation of the planned decentralisation. After more than 40 years since the Helsinki Agreement, there is a new strong need to work towards peace and stability on the European continent. A permanent division of Europe should be avoided and opponents should be brought around the same table. The S&D group is deeply concerned about the conflict among Eastern neighbors, and our group asks the European Union to find the appropriate solution for peacemaking and for finding the common ground to pave the way for a

comprehensive political solution to the Ukrainian crisis, based on respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of Ukraine. Particularly in the current crisis, we need dialogue more than ever and, hence, the S&D Group in the EP proposes these concrete steps:

- The removal from the sanction lists, of both Russia and the European Union, of all members national Parliaments as well as the European Parliament.
- A free movement of people throughout Europe with visa facilitation and liberalisation.

The Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament have consistently supported visa liberalisation for the Balkan countries as well as the participants of the Eastern Partnership program. As European Socialists, we will confront all forces in and outside of the EU undermining freedom and tolerance. The visa liberalisation with Kosovo, Ukraine, and Georgia would also increase the attractiveness of the EU for the populations of these countries, thus contributing to the reform processes destined to bring them closer to the EU.

Under international trade relations, the S&D group, aware of the great respect and harmony which has always characterised the relations between our Union and the United States, considers the crucial discussion on the possibility of reaching an agreement between the EU and US, namely the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), which supposes the removal of non- rate related barriers and the definition of common safety, health, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) legislation; greater openness to foreign investment; and reciprocal facilities for participation in public procurement.

The S&D group asks the EU to strongly protect the values the Union stands on, including the precautionary principle, which ensures high levels of protection of our citizens. We propose to push for an agreement which ensures the strongest possible guarantees for workers' rights, leading social and environmental standards, high level of public services, and the removal of the obsolete dispute resolution mechanism between the state and investors. We advocate for this agreement in order to create jobs and economic growth in the EU, but emphasise that it should at the same time protect our values and the environment.

The S&D will not accept a "soft" TTIP, reducing our standards. Neither will we accept an unsatisfactory agreement reached under time pressure, and we believe that it is better to devote more time to the negotiation process if this helps to ensure a more favourable agreement.

Only an ambitious and progressive TTIP can lead to real economic benefits. Overall, the S&D group asks the European Commission to create proper tools, in order to promote the highest social participation so that it is not only the privileged categories of citizens whose interests are taken into consideration in the process of establishing the transatlantic trade consensus.

Furthermore, in terms of international trade relations, the S&D group recognises the fundamental importance of maintaining and developing new business partnerships between the EU and China, aware of the leading role of its economy in the global trade stream.

At the same time, we are conscious of the challenges that this relationship presents us, especially related to the violations of IPR legislation, and even more importantly the continuous breaking of workers' rights on the part of the Chinese government. Furthermore, we believe the EU should work to establish appropriate means to fight the dangerous dumping phenomenon, which deregulates the economies of weaker states and establishes an unfair disadvantage for international corporations. As such, we ask that the respect of original principles of our own trade system be emphasised in any agreement between the EU and China.

## **ECR**

In 2015 more than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe, sparking a crisis as countries struggled to cope with the influx, creating division in the EU over how best to deal with resettling people. Many came through the Western Balkans and Greece after crossing the Greek-Turkish border and claimed asylum in European countries, mostly in Hungary, Austria and Germany. For the coming years, protecting Europe's external borders and fighting against illegal immigration must be one of the EU's main priorities.

We support and aim to mirror Hungary's border fences erection to control the influx of migrants, assuring our citizens a higher national security level and protecting our cultural heritage. Europe must promote effective controls on immigration coordinating and acting as a point of information exchange in order to prevent individual countries undertaking actions that may adversely affect other European countries. On the other hand, each Member State must have the power to decide whether immigrants are allowed to settle in their territory, according to their particular needs and capacities.

Therefore, a European quota system for immigrants must be very cautiously be applied, if it were to be accepted. In asylum policy, the EU and its Member States can and must do more to prevent people from becoming refugees through a coordinated effort, regulated by clear rules and fair procedures. Besides the introduction of a coherent visa policy, e.g. the Austrian Red-White-Red Card, to ensure the willing cooperation of the countries from where illegal migrants originate and transit, the EU must make a financial commitment to provide economical resources and practical assistance to accept and resettle asylum seekers in their region of origin. When it comes to managing migration, local and regional authorities are in the frontline: local governments must cooperate in the countries from where the refugees and migrants come to increase stability, jobs and investments.

Our work in areas such as stabilisation of the Middle East aims to build trust and achieve peace in this area by encouraging cooperation between Member States and our international partners in order to combat the rise of Islamic extremism, which is as much a threat overseas as it is to our security at home, and strongly supporting a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Cooperating with international partners, we want to achieve a secure and universally recognised Israel living alongside a sovereign and viable Palestinian state. Long-term peace and stability in conflict areas must be secured through international actions to bring those responsible for the violence to

justice and the promotion of political reforms in the Middle East as well as in North Africa and Eastern Neighbourhood countries.

Furthermore, the international community must continue to exert maximum diplomatic pressure on Syria, and on those countries, such as Russia, that have refused to suitably condemn the regime. On Russia itself, the Pussy Riot case is one of a growing number of concerning apparent abuses of the judicial system, following on from the Khodorkovsky case, which undermine the perception that Russia is governed by the rule of law.

We continue to promote human rights in the emerging democracies of the Arab Spring and in Eastern Europe, as well as in Africa, Central Asia and Burma, to support the work of human rights defenders and journalists in conflict areas, and promote the rights of persecuted religious and ethnic minorities. TOPIC B – EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY (ENP) Building security in our neighbourhood has always been a strategic objective for the EU. This means that the EU should play an active role assisting its close neighbours to strengthen their democratisation process, the rule of law and the protection of human rights. By doing this, the cooperation between the EU and those countries will be improved and their partnership will extend to the political, economic and cultural spheres as well as in the security field. The European Neighbourhood Policy refers to the relations with the countries in the Balkans, the ex-soviet countries in Eastern Europe, the countries of the Southern Caucasus and the wider Euro-Mediterranean partnership. Our members are actively working with the countries of the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) in order to bring them closer to the EU promoting the rule of law and enhancing people-to-people contacts, although there are concerns on the implementation of these developments in some of these countries. We also support democratic opposition and human rights defenders active in Belarus. Overall, the ECR group will continue to play an active role in ensuring that EU enlargement continues to advance with all EU applicant countries fulfilling the criteria for EU membership at the economic, political and social levels.

Most importantly, the recent events in Ukraine and Crimea, and Russia's role in them, should keep the EU alert concerning its relations with Moscow. MEP Monica Macovei (ECR), coming from Romania, has repeatedly stated that the EU should hold a tougher stance against Russian expansionism and support all these young democracies in Eastern Europe to safeguard their democratisation path and independence. For this we should take the recent developments under consideration, since the EU leaders of the 28 Member-States will have to decide by the end of July 2016 whether to prolong the sanctions on the Russian economy, which hamper Russian imports into the EU and Russian banks' access to European markets.

Also, we propose that the Commission should develop a holistic approach to development policy and humanitarian aid with third countries, with the objectives in the long run measured in terms of political stabilisation, peace and tangible economic results. Any help provided via the ENP, should be associated with increased accountability and transparency mechanisms in the partner countries in order to ensure that they have the capacity to absorb and spend the funds in an efficient and meaningful way. The Commission should, therefore, take any necessary measures to ensure efficient mechanisms of monitoring and oversight of spending of EU assistance in the ENP countries, including scrutiny mechanisms by the civil society.

As it concerns the regional security, we believe that NATO, given its transatlantic importance, should remain the cornerstone of our defence and security policy, and not an EU army or other military structures that would only undermine our links with our international defence partners and result in unnecessary overlapping of costs and resources. We would like to bring to the attention of the fellow MEPs that both Sweden and Finland, EU member-states but non-NATO members, explore the possibilities for a further collaboration with NATO, in order to respond to the increased Russian military actions in the Baltic Sea and aggression in the region.

Finally, we remain watchful to discuss and criticise constructively the updated section on the European Neighbourhood Policy in the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy Agenda that will be presented by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at the June 2016 European Council meeting.

## **ALDE**

### ***1.1***

The ALDE party expresses its consolidated support towards the ENP South-European Union approach, as an initiative that brings both stability and closer relations between the Union and the Maghrebi – Middle Eastern states. However, we cautiously watch over the deterioration of Human Rights values in Egypt, as well as the critical situation in Libya and Syria.

Considering the relations with our Turkish counterparts, we strongly believe that there is an immense field for approach to be done, but our support should not be taken for granted. The Cyprus question and the seemingly suppressive policy of the State against the freedom of expression, gender equality and the right for equal representation, concern us a lot. A secular -and under the rule of Law- Turkish Republic is one of our most valuable probable partners.

With regards to the eastern and southern neighbours, the ALDE group is of the opinion that we should seek to not only remedy the relations which have grown strained in recent times but also maintain current relationships. We express optimism for Belarus and Ukraine's progress towards modernisation and support initiatives to strengthen our relationship with these countries. The continued annexation by Russia of Crimea and Sevastopol is a cause of concern but in light of recent worsening of civil rights in Russia, we believe that discussions should recommence with regards to the common space on freedom, security and justice. For candidates such as Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia we support the continuation of our European integration programmes aimed at improving the political and economic situation.

Acknowledging the current choice of immigration route taken by asylum seekers, we underline that we should take great care in our relationship with the countries of the Balkans that it may not be adversely affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis taking place in the Middle East nor cause a disturbance to the progress achieved by them already towards respecting universal freedoms, the rule of law and human rights as well as the economic balance which will benefit their citizens.

## **1.2**

Considering the topic of most importance, we cannot refrain from pointing at the refugee crisis and its impact. During 2015 and early 2016, our Union accepted an unprecedented flow of migrants, coming mainly from the war ravaged countries of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, through a hazardous route passing from Turkey to the Greek Islands, Mainland and the Balkans. We believe that by addressing the issue, no such thing as the "Balkan corridor" closure will ever happen again, while at the same time our Continent will be able to manage occurring similar situations in a better and more humane manner. Faithful to the enlightening ideas we most of all adhere to, we underline that Europe is the homeland of everyone that shares our ideals of peace, freedom, prosperity and the Rule of Law.

## **1.3**

With a mind to not adding economic strain to our members with smaller economies or cause political strife within the states currently managing waves of right-wing extremism, the ALDE group supports the idea of quotas for accepting asylum seekers which are inversely proportional to our members' GDPs, the funds for which would be obtained by quotas directly proportional to the members' GDPs.

We believe that in this way, the smaller economies will not be under undue strain while tackling this humanitarian crisis and neither will the core members face political backlash. It is of utmost importance that the PROXY committee clarifies and establishes a guidance framework for principles regarding what an asylum seeker is entitled to in the process of their application for refugee status and what should happen once this status is confirmed or denied – with particular focus on acceptance of asylum seekers with valid reasons for departure only and emphasis on the duration of this entitlements as directly related to the situation which caused their displacement and the possible obligation to return once this situation is resolved.

Our opinion is that the establishment of these guidelines will prove useful for the appropriate spending of the funds allocated towards this humanitarian crisis and also dispel the notion that asylum seekers are better received in some member states than in others. By respecting the right to freedom of movement, we believe that these guidelines should also make clear that the benefits which refugees should receive will be granted to them as if they were European Citizens.

Thus, by promoting the migrants integration in our societies, we strongly believe that every part of this scheme is to be benefitted. Voluntary Demographic, Social and Cultural assimilation of migrants is not only going to boost the anemics growth our economies face, but is also set to remind the globe that the EU remains the most crucial promoter of Liberal, humane and progressive values in the world.

## **GUE/NGL**

GUE/NGL wishes to propose the following to the PROXY committee:

### **Human Rights**

- Turkey must meet all the Copenhagen criteria and obligations towards the EU and all its Member states before any further discussions on Turkey's ascension can be held.
- Future trade agreements must include strategic plans for the promotion of health and safety standards and improving the wages and working conditions of working partners. It is recommended that the wages and working conditions be equivalent to a new EU wide minimum wage.
- Trade unions should also be promoted and protected in future trade agreements to ensure decent working and living conditions. At a basic level the trade agreement must include the prevention of the blocking of trade unions.

### **International Development**

- EU agriculture, trade and energy policy must take international development into account. The right to food, safe drinking water, energy, food sovereignty and the protection of natural resources should be recognised globally as fundamental rights. We recommend a percentage of the funds devoted towards each policy must be set aside for development in these areas.
- We also believe in the right to produce or import essential medicines without having to pay rights to pharmaceutical companies. We propose that pharmaceutical companies must surrender rights to medicinal formulas. In exchange the pharmaceutical companies must be incentivised using tax breaks and research funding. Medicines must also not be sold for more than 10% of cost.
- We are opposed to all international trade agreements that are shaped by the interests of big business. Therefore, all trade deals worth more than 50 million Euros must be approved by a EU committee. The committee will approve deals that demonstrate provisions for sustainable development, access to education, improving local health, and support fighting major diseases (Malaria or AIDs for example).

### **Peace**

- The EU should threaten suspension of trade agreements with both Israel and Palestine until they can reach a just and peaceful two-state solution.
- The EU should commit to ending plans for an EU armed force and disarmament within and outside Europe should be central to the EU's plans. The EU should have a civilian perspective strictly separated from NATO structures, recognised by EU statute.

edited by



**DEMOSTENE Centro Studi per la Promozione dello Sviluppo Umano A.P.S.**  
CF 9 1077190741 - Sede Legale: Via A. Diaz 66, 72022 Latiano BR  
[info@demostenecentrostudi.org](mailto:info@demostenecentrostudi.org) - <http://demostenecentrostudi.org>