



**RESOLUTION ON  
THE RETURN DIRECTIVE ON IMMIGRATION PASSED BY THE  
EU PARLIAMENT**

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS, 13-15 NOVEMBER 2008

## **THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXPRESSES ITS OPPOSITION TO THE RETURN DIRECTIVE ON IMMIGRATION PASSED BY THE EU PARLIAMENT**

The European Youth Forum General Assembly expresses its concern and its defeat to the Return Directive on Immigration in the European Union passed by the EU Parliament the 18th June 2008.

The European Youth Forum thinks that this Directive does not favour the integration of migrants, but on the contrary it is a threat to Human Rights, as it foresees the possibility of an immigrant being locked up in detention centers up to 18 months.

We find this measure outrageous, as it also underlies the idea of looking at immigrants as illegal second-class people, and therefore it identifies immigration with delinquency.

It is also reprehensible that the expulsion order foreseen in the Directive, means for an immigrant not being able to come back to the EU during the next 5 years. A period that can be extended if it is considered a serious threat to security and public order.

It is also worthwhile to stress that many of the detention centers do not offer enough guarantees for the protection of basic rights, as it has been reported by the Council of Europe.

The European Youth Forum also wants to express its firmest defeat to the specific measures in the Directive concerning under age immigrants, as they contradict the principle of "superior interest of minors" present at the International Convention of Children Rights.

We, the General Assembly of the European Youth Forum, believe that this Directive means a backward step of the EU immigration policies, as the measures address to border control and not to the integration of people pushed to start an immigration project due to the inequities, violence and poverty they suffer. We look with special concern at the immigration policies in Italy which reflect a racist, xenophobe and stigmatized attitude towards migrant people and ethnic minorities.

Therefore, the European Youth Forum will take the necessary measures and action to demand a change in immigration policies in the EU, so they are respectful to human dignity, to Universal Declaration of Human Rights and complementary Conventions and to the principles of solidarity, peace and equity that have inspired the building of Europe.

Last but not least, the European Youth Forum demands a common policy on immigration at EU level based on values such as the respect to people and the integration and interculturality as the best way to live together. The European Youth Forum affirms that the best way to regulate the migration flows is to fight against poverty, its causes and its consequences, as well as to reinforce the cooperation among countries.