

A Road to Dignity also for the Refugees from Wars and Armed Conflicts

RESOLUTION OF VIENNA ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION ON OCTOBER 9, 2015

When the UN was founded 70 years ago the aim was to create a world where people could live “WITHOUT WANT AND WITHOUT FEAR”

in September 2015 the United Nations’ Summit on Sustainable Development in New York adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the achievement of which was called the “Road to Dignity” by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

Peace and the absence of violence are prerequisite for Sustainable Development worldwide and every effort has to be taken to prevent the outbreak and escalation of wars and armed conflicts and end them , keeping in mind that the efforts to secure peace are at least as important as those to end war.

Seventy years since the end of World War II we are far from peace in many parts of the world, which has led many thousands of people to flee their countries and try to find a new home in Europe. The great number of refugees makes registration difficult to impossible and there is fear of terrorist, using this opportunity, as well as that a yet unknown number of refugees become victims to organised crime and traffickers of persons.

Therefore the European Association of Former Parliamentarians of Member Countries of the Council of Europe

Urges the Member States of the European Union and the Council of Europe to

- stop any kind of wars in a region, shaken already by immense violence;
- support actively every endeavour to end armed conflict;
- undertake diplomatic steps to negotiate cease-fire and armistice agreements;
- share responsibilities and burdens within the European Countries to provide a safe place for refugees and opportunities for them to continue their lives.
- Support reconstruction and reconciliation in the countries hit by armed conflict after the conflicts end.
- Support the UN also financially to enable UNHCR to fulfil their tasks of helping refugees.

The association of former members of Parliament of the Council of Europe member countries (FP/AP)

*declares its commitment to offer its cooperation – and invites its member organisations participate- in supporting the work of UNHCR, the International Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations; and the International Organisation for Migration to find solutions for the challenges connected to the great number of refugees;

*Decides to include these topics into a colloquy to be held next autumn in Lyon, France;

*Recommends that urgent answers be found for solutions of questions concerning the dignity of refugees, in particular needs of (language) education and inventory of qualifications.