



Adopted resolution

The migration crisis in the Canary Islands

Since the beginning of the year, Spain has had to deal with an unprecedented wave of immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa. The desperation of Africa's people has grown, and the closing of borders has made their immigration routes much more dangerous, when none of the immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa has any legal means of entry into Spain.

From January 1st to August 29th of this year, 19,035 illegal immigrants have reached the shores of the Canary Islands, and 11 boats have been shipwrecked, with 262 dead and 490 dying in their desperate attempt to enter Europe.

Only 4.5% of all immigrants reach Spain through the Canary Islands, and the large majority of them arrive by air and road; the central issue, therefore, is not so much in the number of people arriving (which, however, has undergone a spectacular increase during mid-year) but rather how and in what conditions they arrive, risking their lives and making it quite plain that migration policies that are based only on repressive measures with the aim of constituting a "Fortress Europe" have failed miserably.

The new measures being announced by the Spanish government and the European Union are even more worrying, as they not only serve to block borders but also to besiege sub-Saharan Africa, by preventing people from leaving these countries and openly violating the rights of individuals to leave their country, not only to survive, but also to gain access to a decent standard of living (as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

The European Union must tackle the phenomenon of immigration from a generous standpoint with respect to all those countries which, like Spain, are the gateway to Europe, by implementing a change in European migration policy within a context in which immigration is laying the foundations for economic growth or the surplus in the Social Security system.

Until such time as a European migration model is defined, The European Green Party asks the EU to increase political and economic aid to Spain with respect to cooperative migration with sub-Saharan Africa, along the following basic lines:

1. The establishment of stable routes of entry with countries from sub-Saharan Africa in collaboration with other EU member states. The reinforcement of human and material resources in immigrant offices and entry through work research Visas, with the aim of achieving decent employment conditions and reducing the action of illegal networks.
2. The inclusion of the condition of strict compliance with human rights in border controls in all agreements signed with other countries.
3. Guaranteeing personalised legal aid to sub-Saharan immigrants to ensure that their rights to asylum and refuge status are respected in full, offering solutions to all those who arrive with an order of expulsion, who should not be expelled.
4. The development of a welcome programme for all sub-Saharians who cannot be expelled and who remain in Spain for at least 12 weeks, in order to offer them a basic knowledge of the language and basic professional training.
5. The creation of a comprehensive welcome system with a longer term for minors and pregnant women.
6. Providing registration cards to all sub-Saharan immigrants who cannot be expelled, in addition to giving them a temporary work permit.
7. Significantly increasing labour inspection resources in order to detect the exploitation of foreign workers and prevent the call effect which leads to the understanding that it is possible to work in Spain illegally.