

OPINION
of
The Parliamentary Committee on Foreign and European Affairs
of the
House of Representatives
of
The Republic of Cyprus

with regard to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a crisis relocation mechanism and amending Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third country national or a stateless person [COM(2015)450].

The Parliamentary Committee on Foreign and European Affairs Committee (the Committee) has examined on the 27th of October 2015, the legislative proposal of the European Commission for a Regulation establishing a crisis relocation mechanism and amending Regulation (EU) No. 604/2013 (known as “the Dublin Regulation”) establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State which is responsible for examining an international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third country national or a stateless person. According to the proposal, the proposed said relocation mechanism aims, on the one hand, to ensure, in situation of crisis, a fair sharing of responsibilities between Member States for large numbers of applicants in clear need of international protection, and, on the other hand, the proper application of the Dublin system including the full protection of the rights of applicants for international protection. Following the examination of the above mentioned proposal, in the presence of representatives of the executive, the Committee has submitted a *majority* Opinion in the framework of the political dialogue on the subject matter. Please note that the Parliamentary Group AKEL Left – New Forces has submitted its position *separately*. In its majority Opinion the Committee expresses the following:

- It emphasizes that, due to the historically/unexpectedly increased massive migratory flows, there is an urgent need for practical solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between Member States, especially the Mediterranean countries, which are affected the

most by the flow of large numbers of migrants due to developments taking place in the region at large.

- It also underlines the need for the adoption of appropriate measures and implementation of those policies at European level for the prevention of such migratory flows arising/occurring for economic and social reasons or because of various wars or conflicts as well as finding ways and implementing policies to address and combat the root causes of such phenomena. At the same time, the Committee notes that these measures and policies should be taken and made with commitment to the respect of human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the light of the preservation of human dignity and should respond to social causes which lead to migration and should not contribute to the intensity of the suppression against migrants and refugees.
- It highlights that, although the further safeguarding of the external borders of the EU is essential, the acquis and effectiveness of the Schengen zone should not be affected/should be protected, and at the same time it emphasizes the need for the acceleration of procedures regarding the establishment and operation of the reception and registration centres ("hot spots") particularly in those countries which are affected the most by the current migratory flows.