

REPORT

Meeting of the Migration and Human Trafficking Collective



24-5 June 2015, Calais, France

Participants:

- Julio De La Granja, President of Emmaus Europe.
- Xavier Vandromme, Emmaus Le Plessis-Tréville
- Willi Does, Emmaus Cologne
- Alain Capmas, Emmaus Bougival
- Silvana Nogarole, Emmaus Villafranca
- Sylvie Desjonqueres-Heem, Emmaus Dunkirk
- Anne Saingier, Emmaus La Halte Saint Jean
- Alain Lucas, President of Emmaus Saint-Omer
- Jean François Chaumette, Emmaus Saint-Omer
- Karine Terraz, Emmaus Bourg en Bresse
- Bernadette Perraud, Emmaus Servas
- Elisabetta Parrinello, Emmaus Prato
- Margaret Tuccori, Emmaus Brighton
- Hans Van Beek, Emmaus Cherbourg
- Martine Le Cornec, Emmaus Le Plessis-Tréville
- François Lemoire, Emmaus Saintes
- Tony Ferrier, Emmaus St Albans
- Lee Radford, Emmaus Brighton
- Michael Barnett Brecht, Emmaus Krefeld
- Annick Tarot, Sos Familles Emmaus Vendée
- Jean Louis Paumet, Emmaus Solidarité
- Marie-France Bedleem, Emmaus Armentières
- Dominique Duval, Emmaus Avenir (Neuilly)
- Muriel Massé, Emmaus France
- Franck Laroche-Osouf, Emmaus Clermont-de-l'Oise
- Gabriela Martin, Emmaus Europe coordinator
- Marie Tixier, Emmaus Europe
- Veronica Acevedo, Emmaus Europe
- Camille Decaens, Emmaus Europe
- Laura La Scala, Emmaus Europe

Guest participants

- **Samuel Nguembock**, associate research fellow at IRIS (French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs) and a specialist in African security issues.
- **Francis Lecomte**, co-president of FASTI (Federation of Migrant Worker Support Organisations) and a member of the Frontexit campaign (Migreurop network).
- **Yann Capet**, an MP and a member of the regional planning and sustainable development committee, Pas-de-Calais 7th constituency.

Meeting facilitators: **Xavier Vandromme**, member of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe and the Collective reference person, and **Julio de la Granja**, the president of Emmaus Europe.

Excused guests: Florence Boreil (UNHCR), Olivier Clochard (Researcher at University of Poitiers and member of the network Migreurop), Karen Akoka (Rechercher at University of Poitiers), Sébastien Abis (Researcher at IRIS)

Excused participants : Jorgen Olsen (Coordinator GtU-DK), Julien Kalimira Mzee Murhula (vice chairman of GtU) ; Jean-Louis Giraud (SOS Familles Vendée), Bruno Morel (Emmaus Solidarité), Gérard Racinne (Emmaus Reims), Alexandre Bonjour (General Delegate Emmaus France)

Members of European Parliament : Birgit Sippel (S&D – Germany), Gabriele Zimmer (GUE/NGL – Germany), Alyn Smith (Greens/EFA – United Kingdom), Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE – France), Sylvie Guillaume (S&D – France), Brice Hortefeux (EPP-France), Philippe Lamberts (Greens/EFA – France), Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy (S&D – France), Robert Rochefort (ALDE – France), Claude Rolin (EPP- Belgium), Marc Tarabella (S&D – Belgium), Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL – France), Laura Ferrara (EFDD – Italy), Martin Schulz (S&D – Germany), Dominique Riquet (ALDE – France), Françoise Grossetête (EPP – France), Ska Keller (Greens/EFA – Germany), Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA – United Kingdom), Karima Delli (Greens/EFA – France)

Subjects addressed at the meeting

1. The Emmaus groups' commitment and active involvement in the issues of migration and human trafficking.
2. Dialogue with grassroots organisations and personal accounts provided by migrants.
3. Roundtable: Different perspectives on the new faces of European/global society.
4. Emmaus Europe's assertions over time and reaction to the 2015 European agenda on migration (discussed by the 25-6 June 2015 European Council meeting in Brussels).
5. Future prospects for action and a European commitment.



22,000 migrants have perished in the Mediterranean since 2000 (International Organization for Migration – IOM – figures from 2015) → Emmaus Europe's press release on the issue "Never-ending migrant tragedies are not inevitable!" 22 April 2015.

24 June 2015 – Introduction to the Migration and Human Trafficking collective

"My friends, come and help... We need your support!"

1. Tour of Emmaus Dunkirk and three jungle camps: Calais, Teteghem and Grande-Synthe



Visit to the Calais jungle camp, 24 June 2015

On 24 June 2015, Emmaus groups from Europe (from France, Belgium, UK, Italy and Germany) met at Emmaus Dunkirk in order to once again share and pool their experiences of working with migrants. They also had the opportunity to see first-hand the living conditions of over **3,000 migrants** in the state shantytowns, the so-called *jungle camps*,¹ located in the forests bordering the region's main motorways. Since October 2014, several trucks containing goods sent by different Emmaus

¹ Reference to the Afghan word *jangle* = wood

communities have travelled to Calais. The trucks contained **60% of the materials collected by companions**, particularly pallets used to build huts such as the *White House*, vine covers, used to build tents, tables and chairs. The situation in the shantytowns is becoming increasingly distressing (notably due to the mass influx of Eritrean, Sudanese, Afghan and Syrian migrants fleeing conflict and economic deprivation). The state-run **Jules Ferry** day centre is unable to meet the need for accommodation, despite delivering services from 12:00 to 19:00 and distributing roughly 2,300 meals a day. In response to this situation, **the associations are calling for:** 1) The camps to be made secure 2) The camps to be supplied with electricity 3) Inflammable tents to be provided 4) Heating to be provided 5) Accommodation capacity to be increased and a second meal to be provided every day.

→ **The French state has spent €9 million a year and local associations have spent €180,000.**

→ **Emmaus Dunkirk and Emmaus Saint-Omer are campaigning for a Migrants' Centre** to be set up at which migrants would be offered basic services and provided with the information they need about asylum.

2. Film and discussion evening with local associations (SALAM and Amnesty International) and migrants' personal accounts. Screening of Emmaus Europe's film: Migration, are there any solutions?

The Nord-Pas-de-Calais region is a **hotspot** for migration routes as it is located on the border with the UK. The number of migrants crossing the English Channel has increased significantly over the past six years and the cost of illegally travelling to the UK **has risen from €300 to over €1,000** per person / journey. However, the UK does not seem to be the migrants' preferred destination when they leave their home countries; instead it offers them their last chance of obtaining asylum in Europe, once they have been deported from countries of entry, such as Italy and Greece. **Circular migration** (from country to country) is therefore occurring, often instigated by people smugglers who threaten the migrants' families with reprisals. The associations are therefore calling for the: a) Application of EU directive 2001/55/EC on **temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons**, b) **Abolishment of the detention** of migrants solely on the grounds of them not having ID documents (violation of the Geneva Convention), c) Abolishment of the **Dublin III system** forcing migrants to make their application for asylum in the first European country they reach (Appendix 1: Call to abolish Dublin III).

*Film available on <http://www.emmaus-europe.org/rencontre-au-parlement-europeen-26-novembre-2014-strasbourg-17428.html>

25 June 2015: Collective meeting at Emmaus Saint-Omer

"Advocating a Europe of reconciliation and human rights...let's opt to fight indifference!"



Meeting of the Migration and Human Trafficking Collective, Saint-Omer, 25 June 2015

1. Presentation of the European Migration and Human Trafficking Collective, followed by a roundtable discussion with Samuel Nguembock, Francis Lecomte and Yann Capet

Saint-Omer, 25 June 2015

In Emmaus Europe, collectives are themed working groups whose goal is to coordinate all the 17 countries in which Emmaus groups are located in Europe and, at the same time, share everyone's experiences, in order to address the issue of **how to protect the people who come to our Movement for help**, in this specific case, migrants. Three representatives of civil society, academic research and politics took part in a **roundtable discussion** at the meeting, **with the aim being to gain an understanding of:**

- The challenges faced by Europe and Africa when identifying their reciprocal responsibilities (S. Nguembock).
- Europe's failure to protect its external borders and civil society's role in response to this situation: the Frontexit Campaign (F. Lecomte)
- The role of the public authorities and civil society concerns about how local public authorities are managing migration flows (Y. Capet).

Roundtable

Different perspectives on the new faces of European/global society

Key points from Samuel Nguembock's presentation

- The EU's foreign policy is overly focused on intervening in countries in conflict and on security in Africa. Defence and security fail to address the socioeconomic issues at the root of

migration. The economic structure of African states firstly needs to be stabilized by **major European engagement with the countries' populations.**

- The EU countries have different foreign policies and each Member State sets its own priorities based on its national agenda. Europe is failing to contain migration in its countries, due to the lack of common aid and a single European vision.
- Cancelling foreign debt (owed to third countries) could be a first step to reactivating growth in Africa. France has already donated €60 million in order to cancel Tunisian debt.
- As part of its advocacy role, civil society needs to draw on the work of academics in order to gain a better grasp of the issues at stake and simultaneously discredit the discourse of the extreme right-wing movements which are gaining a stronger foothold in Europe. Network-based working is therefore vital.

Key points from Francis Lecomte's presentation

- ***"Europe is at war against an enemy that it has invented..."***(The Frontexit Campaign denouncing Frontex's excesses). Migrants should not be seen as a threat, as Europe only takes in a small proportion of the world's migrants (only 14%). The idea that we are faced with an 'invasion' is therefore simply untrue.
- The massacre of individuals must be stopped! The EU's border agency Frontex is a **military organisation** that is **autonomous and independent** from the European Parliament and whose primary aim is not to save human lives but instead to control the EU's borders.
- Europe is unable to protect its borders and is calling for centres for migrants to be created in sending countries: Niger and Libya in particular, in order to strengthen controls and at the same time 'outsource' asylum applications to third countries, thus avoiding a massive influx of migrants to Europe. However, the **issue of whether human rights are really respected** in these countries, which often have dictatorial regimes (e.g. Eritrea), needs to be raised.

Key points from Yann Capet's presentation

- The Calais area has a very high unemployment rate. The number of migrants arriving has **doubled compared with 2002** when the Sangatte centre was closed.
- Action needs to be taken at European level. In Calais, the public authorities focus on managing the emergency situation and the council provides daily assistance to the migrants and all the information needed about the asylum application and return procedures.
- The **Wall of Shame**² in Calais was built to secure and guarantee the continuity of port operations as per EU law.
- The development of the state-run Jules Ferry reception centre may be well studied in order to increase accommodation capacity.

² Wall built around the Port of Calais to prevent migrants from travelling to the UK.

The Emmaus groups' reactions

- How can we accept the construction of the Wall of Shame? Can the Port of Calais' operations really be jeopardized?
- In response to the extreme right-wing movements and the media which often conveys a negative image, we need to react by conveying a positive image of migrants **focusing on their active contribution to the local socioeconomic fabric**, by offering them jobs → **application of directive 2001/55 on temporary protection.**
- The Emmaus communities are open to everyone, based on the principle of **unconditional shelter and support**, and the communities are **intercultural** workplaces. Each migrant's skills must be utilized and at the same time their **contribution** to the economic and demographic growth of our countries should be taken into account.
- The unemployment and instability prevalent in European countries also help create a negative image of the role of migrants in society. **How can we foster a climate of trust among European citizens and therefore create a Europe of reconciliation?** Might no longer using the word 'migrant' but instead saying 'expatriates' help change the image of migrants, who are seen as being illegal? Should we call for the creation of new legal migration routes?
- Emmaus' campaigning role: what stance should we take in response to European policies? How should we react to Europe's migration management partnership with dictatorial regimes?
- Can migrants be shared out across the region? Could the system be based on the German model which makes a quota system for sharing out migrants between the *Länder* compulsory? Could this system work in other countries, such as France, in order to ease the pressure on Calais?

2. Future prospects for action and a European commitment by the Emmaus movement

Emmaus Europe's assertions over time...

- Respect for migrants' human rights (1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and access to the same rights as European citizens.
- Abolish detention and enable migrants to move around freely while waiting for their asylum application to be processed.
- Reception conditions that respect the migrant's physical and psychological wellbeing.
- Spend differently, fostering the integration of migrants into our society (Regional Council of Emmaus Europe declaration, Lampedusa 2014).
- Abolish the Dublin system (Appendix 1: Call to abolish Dublin III).

Emmaus Europe is also calling for the fundamental rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be respected. For more information: <http://droitshumains.emmaus-europe.org/>

.... The EU's response...

- Usage of force and launch of the EU-NAVFOR Med military operation aiming to destroy trafficking networks and neutralize the vessels used by people smugglers.
- Bolster the budget and expand the operational area of Frontex, the EU's external border and security agency.
- Set up detention centres in third countries (e.g. Algezes in Niger) to stop migrants as they are leaving home, while preventing a mass influx into Europe.
- Keep in force the Dublin system to determine the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application (Dublin III may be revised in 2016).



RECOMMENDATIONS

Respect for human rights: messages and timescales

- Migration is seen as a **commodity**. How can we combat this idea and influence European policy, above and beyond a basic military and armed response to fight traffickers?
- Assert migrants' **right to work** in line with our founding values and with the 1964 Universal Manifesto of the Emmaus Movement.
- **Share the Emmaus Europe countries' different experiences of asylum and working with migrants.**
- Give migrants the 'right to experiment', i.e. the right to leave their home countries and return home if desired. Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – **the right to leave one's own country** – needs to be respected.
- **How can we convey Emmaus' message and awaken the general public's conscience?** By potentially cooperating with other associations and also with the research community, theatre, cinema, culture etc.
- Emmaus promotes **an alternative solidarity-based socioeconomic system**. Should we draw on this feature? We would be addressing the issue of migration from a different viewpoint, going above and beyond the simple humanitarian and support aspects.
- Once again, migration policy and the social and solidarity economy are challenges to be met in the future.

Future prospects after the Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe (Manchester, September 2015)

In 2015, we have once again been invited to meet with MEPs in order to discuss future European policy with them. What message should we convey and with what associations should we work on this issue? How can we have an influence on their work and obtain more humane European acts that have a real impact on our daily lives? These are the issues at stake at this next meeting which looks set to be an excellent opportunity for discussion!

Appendix I: Call to abolish the Dublin III regulation

European asylum system: the Dublin regulation needs to be ditched

At a time when the European Union is set to take a decision on the distribution of asylum seekers among the Member States (resettlement), French organisations, alongside [CFDA](#), are calling for the Dublin regulation to be abolished.

The European Union has proposed a one-off programme to resettle 40,000 Syrians and Eritreans in EU Member States to relieve the pressure placed on Italy and Greece caused by the very large numbers of asylum seekers arriving in these two countries. The European Commission's proposal underscores the intrinsic problem generated for the European asylum system by the Dublin III regulation. The Dublin mechanism is based on the principle that asylum applications must be examined in the first European country of arrival and inevitably concentrates asylum seekers in the countries that form the EU's external border (such as Greece, Italy and Poland).

This is unfair both to these countries (as demonstrated by the current situation) and also to asylum seekers. Indeed, reception conditions and refugee status recognition rates differ greatly depending on the country in which asylum applications are filed.

In his report on the management of the external borders of the EU and its impact on migrants' human rights, the UN special rapporteur on the human rights of migrants also observed the "systemic failure of the Dublin mechanism" and recommended "reversing the current logic by allowing asylum seekers to submit their application in the country of their choice within the European Union"^[1].

However, the European Commission and the French Home Office minister made statements on 27 May and 1 June indicating that the Dublin III regulation should continue to be applied.

Europe is therefore perpetuating an unfair and faulty mechanism; a mechanism that is clearly a failure. For instance, in 2012 in France, only 17% of the asylum seekers who fell under the scope of the regulation were actually transferred to the country deemed to be 'responsible' for their asylum application.

Assuming that the Member States agree to go along with the resettlement plan, the European Commission's poor attempts to correct on a very small scale the repercussions of the Dublin regulation will not eradicate the problem they are claiming to address.

CFDA (French Coordination for Asylum Rights) has long recommended that the Dublin mechanism should be abolished ^[2]. On the eve of the 25-6 June European Council during which decisions need to be taken in order to deal with the migration situation in the Mediterranean, our associations are insisting that the system that makes an EU Member State responsible for examining an asylum application needs to be thoroughly reviewed. **The principle must be that applications are examined in the applicant's country of choice.**

Furthermore, a mechanism needs to be put in place to support the Member States based on the number of asylum seekers that they receive.

Appeal signatories

The following associations – members of CFDA – have signed the appeal:

ACAT (Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture)
APSR (Support Association for Refugee Doctors and Health Workers in France)
ARDHIS (Association working for the Recognition of the Rights of Gay and Transsexual Migrants)
Primo Levi Centre (care and support for victims of torture and political violence)
Comede (Medical committee for exiles)
Dom'Asile
ELENA France (Association of lawyers linked to the European Council on Refugees and Exiles)
FASTI (Federation of Migrant Worker Support Organisations)
GAS (Support and Solidarity Group)
GISTI (Migrant Information and Support Group)
JRS-France (Jesuit Refugee Service)
CIMADE (Ecumenical mutual support service)
LDH (Human Rights League)
MDM (Médecins du Monde)
MRAP (Movement against racism and for friendship between peoples)
Secours Catholique (Caritas France)

The following organisations are supporting the appeal:

Action Tunisienne (Tunisian Action)
ADDE (Lawyers Defending Foreign Nationals' Rights)
AmiS (Téteghem Migrant Help and Support Association)
AMAR (Montauban Refugee Support Association)
ARCAL-BN (Calvados Refugee Association)
ATMF (Association of North African Workers in France)
CASAM (Moselle asylum seeker support collective)
CEDETIM (International solidarity initiatives and research centre)
CFDA 44 (Asylum seeker coordination association in Loire-Atlantique)
CRID (Development Research and Information Centre)
CSP 75 (Undocumented migrant coordination association)
Diel
Emmaus Dunkirk
Emmaus Europe
Emmaus France
Emmaus International
Protestant Mutual Support Federation
FNARS (National federation of support and social reinclusion associations)
FORIM (Forum of Migration-related International Solidarity Organisations)
Français langue d'accueil (French language and literacy association)
France Latin America
IPAM (Initiatives for a different world)
L'Auberge des Migrants (Calais – Migrant Support Association)
Le Réveil Voyageur (Calais - providing breakfast for people living in camps and squats)
Mddm (Movement for Malians' Dignity and Rights)
Movement for Peace

Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OUC)
R.C. I. (Migrant Christian Network)
Faith and Justice Africa Europe Network
Salam Nord/Pas-de-Calais (Migrant Support Association)
Syndicat de la magistrature (French magistrates' trade union)

[1] *Special rapporteur's report on migrants' human rights: Banking on mobility over a generation: follow-up to the regional study on the management of the external borders of the European Union and its impact on the human rights of migrants*, 8 May 2015, /HRC/29/36 <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/092/49/PDF/G1509249.pdf?OpenElement>

[2] CFDA, *The prerequisites for asylum to be a real right*, January 2013, <http://cfda.rezo.net/10%20points.html>

Appendix 2: Joint “Bridges, not weapons” appeal

Bridges, not weapons! A joint appeal

An appeal for a migrant, asylum seeker and refugee reception policy

June 2015

It is estimated that over 20,000 people have lost their lives along Europe’s borders over the past 20 years, with almost 2,000 of them perishing in the Mediterranean since the start of 2015. The Member States of the European Union (EU) will address the issue of these repeated tragedies at the 25-6 June European Council meeting.

Our organisations cannot accept the fact that the EU’s institutions are not prioritizing saving lives. On the contrary, the EU and its Member States had no trouble agreeing to reinforce its arsenal of security measures, which is largely responsible for these migration tragedies, and have added the option of armed intervention to Frontex’s remit. The UN and some countries from the Southern Mediterranean, including Libya, have strongly criticized these plans.

In response to this refusal to accept the reality of the migration situation and the repeated breaches of the EU’s founding principles, our organisations have decided to take action to urge Europe’s leaders to implement an alternative policy that respects fundamental rights, life and human dignity. They are calling on civil society to rally round and follow them. In light of the urgent nature of the situation, they are calling for everything possible to be done to protect people who are forced to risk their lives in order to reach a safe place and to exercise their right to freedom of movement.

In order to achieve this and without delay, our organisations are calling for the European Union and its member states to implement the following measures as a matter of urgency:

- Organize a properly resourced maritime search and rescue operation supported by all the Member States to prevent boats from sinking and rescue anyone in distress. Frontex, even if its resources are increased three-fold and its area of intervention is widened, remains a security agency.
- Implement a broad-based and real migrant and asylum seeker reception and refugee protection mechanism, based on solidarity between Member States and guaranteeing that asylum seekers have the freedom to choose their country of residence.
- Open up legal and safe immigration channels for migrants and asylum seekers and immediately abolish the transit visas required by many people fleeing war-torn countries, such as Syria.
- Immediately activate the system laid out in Council *Directive* 2001/55/EC on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons, for example from Syria or Eritrea.
- Refuse and / or suspend migration related cooperation with countries of origin and transit countries that fail to respect freedoms and fundamental rights.

The European Commission and the Council of the EU have proposed deploying the military against people traffickers and smugglers. Our organisations feel that the use of force is disproportionate and dangerous for migrants and asylum seekers who would be caught between a rock and a hard place.

Through our cross-Europe campaign, set to run until the next European Council meeting on 25 June, our organizations are calling for each and every individual to support and publicize this appeal and to take any useful initiative to organize and bolster the campaign events so that the European Union takes immediate action, implementing emergency solutions for those seeking protection.

Our organisations are insistently calling for a meeting at the European Council in order to convey an alternative opinion, as it is wrong to claim that only one policy is possible.

Our organisations will be in Brussels on 24-5 June to remind the European Council of its responsibility to defend fundamental human rights. The organisations will hold a press conference on 24 June to be attended by the appeal's signatory organisations.

First Signatories

AEDH (European Association for the Defence of Human Rights)

European Alternatives

Emmaus Europe

FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless)

FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights)

Médecins du Monde – International Network

Migreurop

REMDH (Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network)

Solidar

N.B. Support the Bridges, not Weapons appeal: <http://www.aedh.eu/Bridges-not-weapons-An-appeal-for.html>. There is no deadline for signing the appeal.