



Contribution to the new European Pact on migration and asylum

Emmaus Europe works in 20 European countries and for 70 years has offered shelter and support to the most disadvantaged people, the homeless, and people suffering from different types of exclusion.

Our income-generating reuse and recycling businesses enable residents to fund solidarity initiatives to help others in even greater need, both in Europe and further afield.

We therefore have a "front row seat" from which to track poverty trends in Europe.

This is the standpoint from which we want to express an opinion on the new European Immigration and Asylum Pact.

Over the past few years, the poorest people in Europe, those who knock on the doors of our member organisations, are mainly people who have come to claim asylum in Europe and who end up on the streets. Single men were the first to come, but we are now seeing more and more women, families, and children.

In most cases, the Dublin Regulation prevents them from claiming asylum in the country whose language they speak best, where they have ties, and in which job opportunities in their skill areas would enable them to find a job quickly if they were granted residency. The way the Dublin Regulation has been administered over the past few years has been disastrous in terms of increasing poverty in Europe. From an administrative perspective, every attempt has been made to ensure that asylum seekers make mistakes and find themselves on the streets with no support, having to wait several months before claiming asylum in the country of their choice, or being deported from country to country.

Our organisations have therefore taken in well-trained people and people capable of quickly learning a new trade and a new language. They tend to be young and not have serious mental health problems, i.e. quite the opposite of the people living in poverty who we tend to welcome in Europe.

These people should not be working for employment access organisations or as volunteers. Instead, they should be working in our countries where there is a need for labour and generational renewal.

Equally, these people should not be in their home countries. We will be deporting them back there more swiftly if the future migration and asylum Pact is applied.

Our member organisations in Africa and Asia provide us with graphic descriptions of the circumstances of these people who are forced to flee their home countries.

In some cases, their circumstances are covered by the Geneva Convention, human rights violations, war etc. For them, it should be a case of enabling them to claim asylum in Europe without extending or hindering this process by means of protocols such as the Dublin Regulation, or by outsourcing our asylum policy.

However, an increasing number of people are forced to leave their countries because of international economic policy and climate change.

We hope and trust that European policies such as the Green Deal enable our economy to be refocused and limit its impact on the climate over the next few years. However, the scientists have clearly told us that the current situation has been caused by policies applied by the wealthy nations, mainly in Europe and North America, over 50 years ago, and that we are going to be managing their impact over the coming years. One of the impacts will be a rise in the number of people fleeing their countries. We believe that our duty as wealthy countries is to find the means to take in as many of these people as possible; people who are facing such desperate poverty at home that they are willing to risk their lives in the quest for a bearable future.

Thank you for taking into consideration these concerns when devising the new Pact. We suggest that the concrete measures contained in the Pact draw on the following ambitions:

- Put an end to European policies that create extreme poverty, such as the Dublin Regulation, and enable people to claim asylum or apply for residency in the country of their choice.
- Expand and improve access to humanitarian visas in asylum seekers' countries of origin in order to prevent deaths on the migration routes.
- Redirect funding from European taxes currently used for Frontex to funding asylum seeker reception provision (Geneva Convention and climate and economic refugees) to enable more refugees to be taken in and in more humane conditions.
- Stop funding regimes that violate human rights (Turkey, Libya etc) to manage Europe's borders.

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