



March 29<sup>th</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

## **Towards Another Migration Policy: Freedom of Movement**

### **Background**

1. The current economic and financial system has long shown its limits: we have never created so much wealth as today, but more than one billion people still suffer from hunger and more than two billion humans have to live with less than two dollars per day. The wealth of the planet is possessed by only a few billionaires. Our planet and biosphere does not possess enough natural resources to allow every human being to attain the life style of average Americans or Europeans.
2. Every day in a few seconds, millions of dollars are exchanged from one part of the planet to the other. Financial flows have no regard for borders and states are continuously lowering tax fees under WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules. At the same time, we keep on building walls to prevent the free movement of people: walls between Mexico and the USA, between Greece and Turkey, between Sri Lanka and India, etc. There is a huge symbolic gap between the total freedom of money flows and obstacles to free movement of people. This gap can only result in misunderstandings, frustrations, conflicts and a need to migrate towards places where wealth is gathered.
3. Throughout time and continents, human beings have been migrating, looking for natural resources that could respond to their most basic needs. This migratory issue is even more acute this year, since there are now 7 billion people living on this planet. In September 2011, we had already consumed the entirety of the resources given by our planet for one year. Human kind lives on credit.
4. Migration flows are mostly from South to South and result from conflicts and other deprivations of elementary resources. Migration flows constitute a real source of welfare and revenue. For that reason, they are encouraged by developing countries as well as developed countries, which hope to attract talent.
5. The UNDP considers human mobility as a factor of development for the departure, transit and the welcoming countries, as well as for the migrants themselves. For instance, recent studies have shown that in 2010, immigration brought more than 12.4 million Euros to the French economy.
6. Current governmental efforts should therefore emphasize migration.

7. We are currently doing the exact opposite, reinforcing control at borders, setting up new national migration policies tainted by nationalist and racist agendas and with all sorts of bad treatment inflicted on migrants such as detention, expulsions, etc. The global north is becoming more and more introspective, and playing more and more the 'entre-soi'. Some EU member-states even unilaterally closed the borders of the Schengen area at the time of Arab Spring. Migrants are also expelled to countries where their life is in danger.

## **Resolution**

1. We, Global Greens, today gathered in Dakar, Senegal reaffirm that the right of mobility is one of the fundamental rights of human beings; we reaffirm our adherence to article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stating that migration is a right and not a crime.
2. We refuse the war led against migrants and require an immediate end to the militarisation of borders, the erection of walls and the DNA listing of people.
3. We refuse to externalise border control policies in developing countries and the repression of migrants and asylum seekers. We are against any governmental policy that requires local authorities to control migration flows and builds security measures at the expense of public aid. For the same reasons, we reject giving an economic preference.
4. We advocate fundamental reform of governmental agencies, which, like Frontex (European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union), focus only on border management of migrants.
5. We aim to build coherent development policies for fighting the root causes of involuntary migration: the lack of food security, and ending the exploitation of natural and mineral resources. We are against land grabbing by multinationals, which do not even respect the minimal standard of rules designed by international institutions.
6. We want to create an international statute for environmental refugees and climate migrants who are recognised by a World Environmental Organisation. This body would enact the rules to recognise the status of those refugees and migrants. It will also create some possible compensation for them.
7. We call for ratification of and respect for the United Nations Convention on Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers, of the ILO Convention 97 and 143 and of the Geneva Convention.