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Concerning: 3) Policy Papers

Is There a Form of Life in Europe?

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2 Fortress Europe has during the past year manifested its exceptional brutality,
3 exposing the face of those who defend it. Fear and selfishness. Demagoguery
4 and fascism. Whatever the motivation, the result is the same.

5 Deaths.

6 No borders, no barbed wires, no violent police or military will stop people on
7 the move. Europe's asylum and migration policies will certainly have an effect
8 on how much the people on the move will suffer and how many of them will
9 die during their journey. But no policies will, nor can, stop the movement,
10 whatever the nationalist discourses may suggest.

11 Immense tragedies in the Central Mediterranean in 2015 led to a welcomed
12 increase in search-and-rescue capacities. Refugees, on the other hand, increas-
13 ingly employed the Eastern Mediterranean route. Now the EU has made a
14 dirty deal with the increasingly authoritarian Turkish government, stating ab-
15 surdly that "the EU and Turkey today decided to end the irregular migration
16 from Turkey to the EU." Millions are stranded in the country without guaran-
17 teed legal protection. New catastrophes in the Central Mediterranean, when
18 refugees are trying to reach Europe from Libya and Egypt, remind us the 'so-
19 lutions' have, in fact, achieved nothing but to divert the crisis further from the
20 dirty European conscience.

21 More deaths.

22 This raises the question: is there life in Europe?

23 The Federation of Young European Greens believes there is. The volunteers
24 and multiple non-governmental organisations helping refugees alongside the
25 borders, along the routes, and in the societies of destination. The activists
26 who challenge Europe's internal and external borders, who demand another
27 European project, a humane one, and who resist Fortress Europe. And, of
28 course, the refugees who make it here are, and will be, a vital part of our
29 common Europe.

30 There is a great deal of solidarity in Europe today. This is a massive force
31 and it is on the rise. By nourishing and intensifying it, we will make sure that
32 life prevails over death in Europe. However, we cannot foresee sustainable
33 solutions based on ad-hoc volunteer involvement, when it is the very role of
34 our states and the European Union's institutions to guarantee human rights,
35 freedom of movement, welcoming and inclusion of those who seek refuge.

36 Therefore, we demand that member states and institutions of the European
37 Union:

- 38 1. Sustain wide, publicly funded search-and-rescue operations throughout the
39 Mediterranean, wherever there are indications of a maritime migration route.
- 40 2. Ensure that the UNHCR and other essential non-governmental organi-
41 sations can access refugee camps, detention centers, and other sites where
42 refugees are held, both within the EU as well as in third countries such as
43 Turkey.
- 44 3. Create safe and legal routes for refugees to reach Europe, in particular hu-
45 manitarian visas, adequate and effective resettlement programmes from coun-
46 tries bordering Syria, and facilitated family reunification.
- 47 4. Compel the Austrian government to renounce its decision to shut down the
48 Balkan route of refugees, and strongly encourage all countries along the route
49 to let refugees pass without any intimidation.
- 50 5. Revoke the deal between the EU and Turkey of the 18 March 2016 on the
51 grounds that it breaches international law.
- 52 6. Derecognize Turkey as a safe third country, based on numerous reports
53 of forced return of refugees from Turkey's border with Syria, the incidents
54 of Turkish violence against these people, as well as on the basis of Turkey's
55 non-ratification and non-compliance with crucial international human rights
56 treaties.

57 7. Provide more substantial (financial, HR) support to countries dispropor-
58 tionately affected by the inflow of migrants, who have become the sole re-
59 sponsible countries for the survival and well-being of thousands due to lack of
60 intra-European solidarity.

61 8. Set up a redistribution programme that responds to the real needs of
62 refugees, in particular the 50 000 refugees trapped in Greece.

63 9. Ensure humane and dignified welcoming capacities for refugees and asylum-
64 seekers, in the refugee camps but also in their societies of arrival. This includes
65 fast access to mainstream education, healthcare, employment and housing in
66 order to facilitate quick integration.

67 10. Prioritise the refugees crisis' management by state investment, financial
68 and legal action, and allocation of human and technical capacities, rather than
69 the destructive and useless construction of walls and barriers.

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