

C8-007 to Stop fighting the smugglers, create safe passage instead!

Antragsteller*innen: Les Jeunes Écologistes (France (decided on: 05/24/2017))

Text

From line 7 to 15:

~~First and foremost, the fight against smugglers neglects that as long as in the current European border regime safe and legal ways to Europe remain scant, refugees are dependent upon the smugglers to reach European shores. While some smugglers will without doubt attempt at exploiting refugees on their way to Europe, we understand smuggling as a more complex phenomenon. What makes the right of asylum meaningful and tangible for the refugees in practice, is in today's system the smuggler. Consequently, what smugglers provide is not much different than a service, which is illicit in the current regime but for which there is a clear need. The only way to lower the risk for the refugees involved prosperity of smugglers' networks is the direct consequence of the current EU Migration Policy which aims at reducing the number of migrants and potential refugees to enter Europe by over-militarising borders. As long as safe and legal ways to Europe remain scant, migrants are dependent upon the smugglers to reach European shores. Most smugglers are not motivated by humanitarian reasons, and it is their complicity with mafia networks that allows them to flourish. These smugglers often attempt to exploit or otherwise harm migrants. In many European countries such as Hungary or France, refugees are also very likely to experience violence from border authorities and police. It is hypocritical to fight smugglers and leave state-sponsored violence untackled, covered with the veil of impunity while criminalising practical solidarity of Europeans intending to support refugees on their dangerous journey. The only way to lower the risk for the migrants involved and to fight smugglers' networks at the same time~~

Delete from line 17 to 29:

~~Media and some EU institutions and organs keep depicting smugglers as greedy criminals and refugees and migrants as their passive, uninformed victims. Meanwhile, recent critical scholarship suggest the relationships between smugglers and refugees can be and are more complex, with social, family or ethnic ties playing an important role. Refugees are not always completely unaware of the risks involved in their journeys but in the absence of other options for reaching Europe – willingly choose to take the risk. Likewise, it is not true that smugglers always attempt to exploit or otherwise harm refugees, who are as in any other business their clients. While it is important to protect refugees from being exploited en route, in places like Hungary, refugees are more likely to experience violence from border authorities than from the smugglers. It is hypocritical~~

~~to fight smugglers and leave state-sponsored violence untackled, covered with the veil of impunity.~~