



REDES CRISTIANAS

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"Don't come to Europe! Epitaph of Europe's migration policy

"Don't come to Europe" is the warning that Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, addresses to people who by hunger, climate change or the brutality of war, are forced to search for asylum outside their own country. "Don't come to Europe" is the epitaph of the failure of the migration policy of the European Union – largely responsible for the 25,000 people drowned at sea in recent years (3,600 in 2015 and over 400 in this year up to now), of the 10,000 children disappeared, of the rape of migrant women, of the overcrowding or abandon of sick and old people in concentration camps – and of so much unnecessary suffering and humiliation of human dignity. The latest episode of this obscene policy has just been consummated by the signing of the agreement with Turkey on 17th-18th March 2016. It leaves us an image in the deportation of human beings like herds of animals to a third country, poorer and less respectful of Human Rights, of a similar colonialism of the 17th to the 19th Centuries, or – more recently – to the nazism of the twenties of the last century.

The EU, or rather the European Council & the European Commission, must not wash its hands like Pilate in this drama, because, by its neoliberal policy of appropriation of the resources of the planet and with the imposition of the geostrategic interests of the major powers (the USA, France and its allies, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Turkey) and the trail of destruction of agricultural resources left by wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, is the main reason for these mass exodus. Additionally, the EU, according to The Migrants Files/El Confidencial, is financing with 13,000 million euros private companies that sell ships, and drones to prevent the arrival of refugees to its coasts. All this has created a favourable context so that in different countries – Poland, Hungary, Austria, Denmark, etc – xenophobia and racism have awoken and flared up; in others, like Spain, the government has created immigrant internment centres and raised fencing with knives to prevent the entry of immigrants.

Behind all of this is a crisis of values that has been capable of humiliating Greece – cradle, to a large degree, of the European soul – and of ceding to the Eurosceptics of Brexit – that have contributed so much to the current denaturalization of the European project. This agreement with Turkey means the *coup de grace* to Europe as the homeland of liberties, safety and justice – founded on the values of human dignity, equality and solidarity –, confirmed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in the International Treaties of asylum policies. If this is not the final death of the Union, it is a dark harbinger. Neither the European Council nor the European Commission have had either the talent or sufficient courage to meet this great challenge of the 21st Century with other than a military and monetary reply, with fences and deportations. They do not represent us, they make us ashamed of them!

As Redes Cristianas, after flatly rejecting this inhuman and shameful solution given to the challenge of migratory flows – which are going to continue to occur-, conscious that opening our frontiers without further ado is not an easy solution either, we are convinced that there are other and better, more compassionate solutions for human beings. We believe in an alternative that overcomes the existing instrumental policy – that only welcomes immigrants when they are

needed and which has been practiced so profitably by Germany -, in benefit of another more generous and equalitarian, just and compassionate one with all human beings and all peoples: A policy to rescue Europe's soul, currently kidnapped by merchants and xenophobes and which questions the very concept of "a secure country", that has so generously been granted to the Turkey of today; a policy that openly rejects Spain's model with Morocco that by money and other political motives, is blocking the migratory flow from North Africa.

With this in mind, we endorse the words of Monsignor Santiago Agrelo, Bishop of Tangiers: How would you describe a society that persecutes vulnerable and defenceless men, women and children, whom wicked laws have made illegal, irregular, clandestine, that hunts them as if they were were pests, that persecutes them as if they were criminals and encloses them to defeat them with hunger?"