**Germany and France: Position Paper**

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We have to face the truth of the current situation: a lack of a common European immigration policy resulted in the growing shut down of the European territory. Moreover, it contributed to the political polarization among the EU member states, that led to the current proposal of Sweden and Finland to condition an agreement on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework by an agreement on the European Agenda on Migration. Moreover, they wish to extend the proposed EU funding conditionality, and to link the EU funding with accepting migrants according to the agreed quotas.

**Germany and France appreciate these initiatives and have an ambition to contribute to this debate with their own positions and opinions as follows:**

* the migratory streams are not going to run out any time soon, **and the EU member states need to find a shared and lasting solution**
* our proposals have deeply swayed the position of the European Commission since the beginning of the migration crisis and it will not change in the months to come
* our position tend to be moderate towards the presented stances of other EU countries, while our main objective is **to keep the EU united, prosperous, secure and democratic**
* momentarily, we remain hesitant to comment openly on the initiatives and proposals made both by the group of Sweden and Finland as well as Poland and Hungary
* from our perspective, **any additional conditionality within the EU may cause another useless escalation of the intra-EU political tension, polarisation among member states, and fuel the mistrust between western European governments and those in central and eastern Europe.**

Since the 2015 migration crisis, our countries have pushed for asylum-seekers to be resettled from frontline countries such as Italy, Greece and Spain to other EU member states in order to share the burden across the bloc, but our primary aim now is **to reach an agreement about the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework**, because we want to support new priorities in this agenda, which cannot receive funding without new MFF, and by these priorities we mean:

* the support the EU's external borders
* the strengthening of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)
* the fight against human trafficking by dismantling channels of illegal economic immigration,
* a coordinated European solution in regards to the intake of rescue ships and an approach to smugglers
* bilateral approach and agreements with origin and transit countries.

We push for **a coordinated approach to irregular migration to the EU.** For a more efficient system of solidarity and responsibility, but, in our opinion, **it was never viable to force countries to take on refugees against their will.** Far better to encourage those that are willing to share the burden by offering rewards, however, financing of these rewards is open for the further negotiations on the EU level.

Furthermore, we are aware that this migrant crisis helps the populist movement to rise in Europe. So our aim is to **respect human rights and the right to asylum but to have immigration under control and to crack down illegal immigration** (by sending back in their home countries illegal immigrants). In order to help first entrance country, we have decided decided (with the agreement of the European Commission) to set up “hot spot” in these countries where new migrant are “cured”, informed of their rights and where their fingerprints and pictures are taken and the asylum application is filled.

The idea behind this is to work for a better repartition of migrants within the EU. **We stand for a reworking of the Dublin regulation and of the quota issue**, since the solution of quotas failed because some European countries were opposed to this solution.

**On the other hand, we have approved the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)** agreement while Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Latvia Poland and Slovakia did not attend an international conference in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh to adopt the agreement, by what four Visegrad Group: Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Czech Republic refused to follow the European recommendations.

In order to go further in the relationship and the help between France and Germany, we have **recently signed the Aachen Treaty as a revival of The Elysée Treaty and as a treaty of merging.**

By this step, **we aim to enhance cooperation on European policy to go after the European unity, efficiency and cohesion while keeping this cooperation open to all Member States of the European Union.** We re-assured that we are committed to the founding principles such as rights, freedom and values of the European Union institution, which uphold the rule of law throughout the Union and promote the same beyond its border.

In our accord, **we shall deepen our cooperation on European migration policy**. Also, promote an active and robust common foreign and security policy with strengthening and deepen the Economic and Monetary Union. In order to strive to complete the single market and work towards a competitive Union with a strong industrial base as a foundation for prosperity, promoting economic, fiscal and social convergence as well as sustainability in all its dimensioning. More importantly, we, will hold regular consultations at all levels prior to the European Union meetings with an to establish common positions an agreeing joint ministerial statement. In addition, shall also coordinate on the trans positioning of European law into national law. **In a broader perspective, Europe’s ability to act autonomously with the common defining positions on all important decision affecting their common interest and acting jointly whenever possible.**

Henceforth, we made our position on a eurozone-specific budget; however, of a limited size on the idea that a facility is essential to help countries that might experience an unforeseen economic crisis. It is clear the objective to achieve greater strategic autonomy or sovereignty for Europe. However, it’s the fundamental point-of-view to create unity and advocate in keeping Europe Stability Mechanism intergovernmental, with the possibility to integrate with into EU Law at a later stage.

Despite, the United Kingdom leaving the EU, we, accept all 27-member (as of 28-members) partners will contribute more to the budget from €1.38 trillion from to €1.09 trillion EU’s overall budget. And, **we agreed to share more of a burden as our leaders have spoken out, also expect everyone should participate in approving the Multiannual Financial Framework to achieve greater European integration.**

A few figures:

*In Germany in 2016 445 000 asylum application were approved meanwhile 35 000 were in Italy and 35 000 in France. According to IOM, the UN Migration Agency, 42,845 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2018. There were 85,751 arrivals across the region through the same period last year, and 215,997 in 2016.*

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