



The images and testimonies coming from the island of Lampedusa shock the conscience and provoke indignation and pain at the lack of adequate responses from the European institutions and all the Member States. We salute the solidarity of the local population, which, amid a thousand difficulties and hardships, has shown the human side that unites us. This should inspire the decision makers and must be the starting point to build a policy of global human mobility, based on human rights and mutual security and sustainability.

Repressive and containment responses to migration at the borders of Europe have been largely ineffective. They have only served to increase the risks and prices of the illegal route, benefiting the networks of criminal organisations and corruption that ruthlessly manage the migration routes.

Similarly, bilateral agreements with countries of origin and transit, which are based on the condition of blocking departures in exchange for economic resources to strengthen police systems, have proved to be counterproductive. They have also led to a lack of respect for human rights and freedoms, the use of violence, and the creation of real ghettos or permanent detention centres.

The European Union and Member State governments should address the issue of immigration in a responsible and forward-looking way, so that it is transformed from a humanitarian emergency into a resource for our future.

There is an immediate need to reopen the debate on FRONTEX and the Dublin Agreement and on solidarity between States, which cannot be on voluntary basis but must be binding, in order to relieve countries having coasts and borders with third countries. Recalling the ILO founding Philadelphia Declaration that work, and therefore workers, is not a commodity, national legislation must be reviewed to make it them more functional and operational, and to facilitate the integration of migrant through work, while preventing brain drain, Youth emigration and rejecting the utilitarian approach on migrations, also through the involvement of trade unions and bilateralism, bearing in mind that the labour demand could absorb thousands of immigrants in each EU Member State. Agreements with third countries must be based on cooperation for local development and exchange, training and the creation of co-development and neighbourhood initiatives, with the aim of reducing factors of expulsion and forced migration.

Only with this vision of the future, based on the founding principles and values of the European Union, we will be able to consolidate our Union in a framework of global coexistence.

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[CGIL](#) – Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro

[CISL](#) – Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori

[UIL](#) – Unione Italiana del Lavoro

[FO](#) – Force Ouvrière

[CGT](#) - Confédération Générale du Travail

[CFDT](#) - Confédération française démocratique du travail

[DGB](#) - Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund