



Maite Pagazaurtundua - European Parliament
Bât. Willy Brandt 05M055
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B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

Brussels, 3 March 2020

Dear President of the European Council,

In view of the situation of emergency at the Greek-Turkish border, both at sea and on land, the European Union and its Member States must develop a comprehensive response that includes full compliance with the law and respect for human rights, also in the short term.

Without a humane view of the problems, the European Union will not hold out.

The Union must implement, within the framework of Article 78 of the TFEU, extraordinary measures both in the humanitarian field and in the management of its external borders. It must be stressed, however, that the suspension of the processing of asylum applications, which is governed by the Geneva Convention, has no place in the framework of our Treaties.

Improving the protection of the European Union's borders and coasts, compliance with the Dublin Convention and fair distribution between Member States are measures that need to be complemented by emergency action to remove the most vulnerable people from a situation of high humanitarian severity.

We call for an urgent international geopolitical solution for an area that has the populations of Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Syria imprisoned, putting untenable pressure on neighbouring countries. The EU cannot give in to any blackmail, but it must strengthen its geostrategic leadership and hold fast to the rule of law. The overriding interest of children must prevail, because of their vulnerability, which is why the humanitarian response must complement all political decisions to resolve this new crisis.

Sincerely,

Delegation Ciudadanos Europa

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