

**migreurop**  
**Externalisation of controls at the Southern borders of Europe**  
***mobilisation and research workshops 20-21 June, Séville.***

Since its creation in 2002, the Migreurop network has denounced the logic, both European and national, that uses imprisonment and the *assignment of residence* to asylum seekers as a primary tool for the policies of so called control of the migratory fluxes of the European Union. The work, which began at the meetings organised at the European Parliament in February and June of 2003, has enabled a clearer understanding of this reality, especially through the creation of a map of "Camps for Foreigners in Europe", updated in July 2004.

In highlighting the multiplicity of the places of imprisonment, the network has become interested in the phenomenon of the informal assembling of foreigners at the gates of Europe. The policies of co-operative policing have indeed led the EU to sub-contract the surveillance of these movements to its neighbouring countries, who are given the responsibility of interrupting at all costs the journey of exiles who have arrived near the Union's borders. Thus, such exiles find themselves trapped and *confined for months in a state of clandestine misery, as evoked by the image of sub-Saharan migrants hiding in certain Moroccan forests waiting to attempt to cross the Spanish border.*

It is this logic of co-operation with buffer-States that the Migreurop network attempted to analyse in July of 2004 at the seminar that it organised during the antiracist meetings of Cecina (Italy). Researchers and militants of Europe and of the southern shore of the Mediterranean were brought together in Cecina in order to consider methods of common action against this deadly EU policy that, in over-arming the police of partner States and in militarising the borders, leads thousands of migrants each year to risk everything, *sometimes leading to their death*, in order to escape the pursuit to which they are subject.

In the month of August 2004, different declarations and initiatives from European leaders began to confirm these analyses. In establishing themselves as favourable to the creation of asylum-seekers camps in North Africa, the Italian and German Interior Ministers pushed the logic of the externalisation of EU policy with regard to migrants to its extreme. In order to sort through and choose the foreigners who are authorised to enter Europe, they proposed to delegate to countries such as Libya, Tunisia and Morocco the control and retention of migrants and in-transit asylum-seekers on their territories, and this in total *neglect* of the EU's international obligations, in particular with regard to refugees.

In protest against these projects and against the *commonality* of the camp as a tool of European policy in the domains of immigration and asylum, the Migreurop network released in October of 2004 the *Appeal Against the Camps at the Borders of Europe*. Signed by hundreds of parliamentary representatives, NGOs and certain countries, this call is undoubtedly related to the EU's postponement of its projects in this area. The threat has not, however, become less real, with the Hague program which, in its definition of the orientations of the EU at the horizon of 2010, commits an important section to the "external dimension of immigration and asylum policy". An external dimension that is already well under way given the co-operation policy and the Neighbourhood Program that Europe is putting into place in order to encourage the partner countries to actively collaborate in the protection of its borders, whatever the price for the migrants who attempt to cross them.

At a point in time when the borders between Spain and Morocco (the strait of Gibraltar, but also the edges of the Ceuta and Melilla enclaves on Moroccan land) are more than ever the fatal symbol of the deadly policies of the EU, **Migreurop invites you to Séville on the 20 and 21 of June for more research and mobilisation workshops against the Community policies with regard to the sub-contracting of the control of its external borders.** Faced with the importance of what is at stake, these workshops should also be an occasion to think about further enlarging and structuring the network in order to undertake new mobilisation against the imprisonment and the violence that are inflicted upon migrants.

Contact for the workshops of the 20 and 21 of June 2005 : Sara [bringadeira@yahoo.it](mailto:bringadeira@yahoo.it)

migreurop : [www.migreurop.org](http://www.migreurop.org)