

Fourth point on the agenda: Joint debate and definitive resolution of the following non-legislative proposals:

-Non-legislative proposal submitted by the Ezker Abertzalea parliamentary group, concerning the returns directive.

-Non-legislative proposal submitted by the Nacionalistas Vascos, Eusko Alkartasuna and Mixed-Ezker Batua Berdeak parliamentary groups, against the returns directive approved by the European Parliament. [08\11\02\01\0577]

Compromise amendment signed by the NV, EAB, EA, Mixto-EB and Mixed-Aralar groups approved.

1. "The Basque Parliament expresses its most vigorous opposition to the Returns Directive, approved by the European Parliament on Wednesday 18 June 2008, by virtue of which a green light is given to new legislation in the field of immigration that penalises and criminalises a group of people whose only crime is that of knocking on the door of more developed countries in search for employment and dignified living conditions, to which they too have a right.

2. The Basque Parliament understands that the Returns Directive constitutes a serious violation of fundamental human rights, detailed in international treaties of which a majority of the countries of the European Union are signatories. In this way, the European Union joins the most racist and xenophobic currents of opinion and conducts promoted by those who seek to treat people as criminals, when they have been guilty of no other crime than that of having to leave their countries of origin with the hope of being able to attain a better future.

3. The Basque Parliament encourages all the Basque institutions, political groups and the citizenry at large, to create working groups to analyse and provide instruments for the purpose of minimising the consequences of the application of this directive by the Government and to publicly express their most vigorous refusal to support the Returns Directive in their fields of competence. The limiting of fundamental human rights, by administrative decision and without judicial control, sets a serious precedent on the road towards equality and creates a category of human beings who are even more vulnerable, and who may be subjected to all manner of abuses due to their being considered irregular.

4. The Basque Parliament calls upon European Union member states to reconsider the content of the Returns Directive, that enables the detention of undocumented immigrants for a maximum of 18 months, entailing a regression in the European tradition of defending liberties, human rights and the equality of all people, regardless of where we come from or what we think.

5. We consider that until Euskal Herria [the Basque Country] equips itself with the instruments allowing it to regulate the right of residence, nationality and citizenship, it is the central government's duty to agree the immigration policy with the Autonomous Communities, applying the same criteria, the same treatment and the same consideration to this group as many of us, men and women, received when we were forced to emigrate for political reasons as a consequence of the civil war and dictatorship, or for economic reasons in the 1960s and in subsequent European migration periods.

[unofficial Statewatch translation]

http://www.parlamento.euskadi.net/pdfs_acuerdos/2/akord_azkena.pdf [original version]