

RESOLUTION
OF THE SEJM OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

of 15 June 2023

on the proposal to introduce an EU relocation mechanism for illegal migrants

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland strongly opposes the attempt to introduce mechanisms for the forced relocation of illegal migrants at the level of the European Union under the Regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council on asylum and migration management and on the asylum procedure, as agreed by the Council of the European Union on 8 June 2023, against the opposition of Poland and Hungary.

The current proposal to introduce the so-called “migration pact” and the accompanying position of the Council of the European Union are an obvious reference to the irresponsible proposals presented during the migration crisis in 2014 and 2015, including the rejected in 2016 draft regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person.

In view of the repeated proposal to impose on Member States the obligation to accept illegal migrants or to pay high financial penalties in the event of refusal, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland states that the position of the Sejm expressed in its resolutions of 1 April and 21 October 2016 remains valid.

We call for respect for the sovereignty and subjectivity of both the hosts, i.e. the societies receiving migrants, and the guests, i.e. the refugees themselves. Forced relocation of groups of people is a totalitarian practice reducing them to the role of objects, not subjects, both those included in the forced resettlement programme and the hosts of that place, and brings to mind gloomy chapters in the history of our continent. The idea of democracy is based on the belief in the sovereignty of the inhabitants of a given territory, who express their will through an elected representation. Imposing the will of other societies on the inhabitants of a given country means reducing that country to the role of a non-sovereign colony and breaking the principles of democracy on which the European Union is built.

We do not agree that the Polish State should bear the social and financial costs of wrong decisions of another European Union Member State. The "open door" policy that Germany pushed through within the European Union, breaking the treaties, turned out to be a fatal mistake. Its negative effect lies now in the decisions made at the Council of the European Union forum. The previous bad decisions of 2014 and 2015 cannot be repeated. This applies both to the directions of the European Union's policy set by Germany and to the decisions made by politicians of the PO-PSL government. The European solidarity cannot take the form of blackmail: submission or financial penalty. Decisions on such an important issue cannot be taken outside the control of the Member States or against them, bypassing the unanimity rule.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland obliges the Government of the Republic of Poland to strongly oppose such practices.

At the same time, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland draws attention to the fact that, during the war in Ukraine, around 7 million refugees from Ukraine entered Poland in search of safety; until today,

about 1.5 million of them have remained in our country. In the current situation, attempts to place an additional burden on our country with the obligation to receive illegal immigrants coming to other Member States or to establish an obligation to pay financial penalties must raise profound objection, as the adoption of the proposed solutions would constitute an unlawful interference with the treaty competencies of the Member States and could lead to an increase in the influx of illegal migrants into the European Union.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland fully supports the delivery and financing of humanitarian aid in places of armed conflict and in neighbouring countries.

Marshal of the Sejm
/-/ Elżbieta Witek