

AEDH's answer to the Commission's consultation on the future of the Stockholm Programme

21 January 2014

The Stockholm Programme sets out the European Union's priorities for the area of justice, freedom and security for the period 2010-14. Since it is coming to an end in 2014, the European Commission launched a public consultation. AEDH seized this opportunity to express its point of view on the European policy in the field of justice and home affairs (JHA).

Unfortunately, AEDH's answer to the public consultation is only available in French. Nevertheless, we would like to share with our member organisations the contents of AEDH's contribution of this 21st of January.

Please find below a short summary of AEDH's answer to the public consultation. As you may notice, in our answer we have mentioned most of the claims of our common manifesto.

(The section titles are those of the European Commission)

1. A Europe of rights

AEDH urges the European Union to accede to the ECHR, to establish the right to a European citizenship based on residence, and to finally adopt the horizontal anti-discrimination directive. A special focus is put on Roma rights' protection.

2. A Europe of Justice

Among the claims of this chapter are: (1) data gathering and monitoring systems must fully respect human rights and data protection principles; (2) the European arrest warrant must be recast; (3) several remarks on rules related to imprisonment.

3. A Europe that protects

AEDH regrets that security is taking priority over the defense of Human rights in several European policies. AEDH demands that the European institutions monitor the transposition by member states of the directive on trafficking in human beings.

4. The access to Europe

AEDH regrets that the EU is increasingly using its resources to finance the systems of control of external borders, such as Frontex, VIS, SIS II, EUROSUR. It urges the EU to abolish short-term visas and to take action against the detention of asylum-seekers.

5. A Europe of solidarity

AEDH is disappointed with the outcome of the reform of the EU asylum policy, especially dealing with the Dublin regulation. It urges Europe to play a more active role in the international programs of resettlement of refugees. The following points are also discussed: family reunification; equal treatment between national, European and third-country workers; the EU return policy (directive of

2008); the externalization of EU border controls (for instance through the conclusion of readmission agreements).

6. Europe and globalization

We ask the EU to sign the main international and European (Council of Europe) agreements concerning Human rights.