



Declaration of the Rio Group on the new European Union Directive on migration issue

The Rio Group expresses its deep concern for the consideration by the European Parliament of proposal denominated “*Directive providing for sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals*”.

The Rio Group considers that within the current scenario of international economic crises, the so called Return Directive and this new initiative do not offer a comprehensive response to migration flows toward the European Union. It would be desirable, consistently with the above, to procure promoting a comprehensive migration regularization which recognizes their human and labour rights, as well as their contribution to host countries.

The Rio Group calls upon the European Union to take into account such factors when deciding on the above mentioned directive proposal, due to considering, aside from the above, that the pretended sanctions to employers of workers in irregular situation would have a serious negative effect on migrant workers and their families, by increasing the possibilities of their becoming subject of labour exploitation.

The Member States of the Rio Group calls upon the European Union Governments to reflect on the direction taken up to date by the communitarian migration policy and to retake a comprehensive and structured dialogue on migrations, as of the agreements contained in the Lima Declaration, adopted on May 16th, 2008 during the V Latin America and the Caribbean-European Union Summit.

Mexico, City, January 11th. 2009.

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