

France and Germany Want EU Asylum Plan Revised



Berlin, June 2 (RHC)-- Germany and France have called on the European Union to revise its proposed mechanism for admitting asylum seekers, calling for a more balanced approach.

The German and French interior ministers, Thomas de Maizière and Bernard Cazeneuve respectively, issued a joint statement Monday, proposing some solutions for admitting migrants into EU member states.

The joint proposal said EU member states should engage in a series of "deep discussions" over the issue of asylum seekers, calling on the European Commission to change the current plan as it fails to create a sufficient balance in between "responsibility" and "solidarity."

They urged the EU to take into account measures adopted by some countries in "welcoming the asylum seekers." The two ministers also proposed the establishment of the so-called "hotspots" for processing the case of refugees, and a system to return or remove what they described as irregular migrants. For EU states to be able to return the migrants to their countries of origin, the joint statement said some "better contracts" need to be devised.

"Part of the asylum-seekers in obvious need of protection will be relocated in other member states, using the redistribution ratio agreed," said the Franco-German proposal.

"Migrants that do not belong in either category will have their situation examined within the framework of the common asylum procedures, in the country of first entry," it added.

The joint announcement followed a request by the European Commission last week on member states to admit 20,000 Syrian refugees and to process another 40,000 asylum seekers from Syria and Eritrea, who have landed in Italy and Greece.

The current EU formula on admission of migrants includes some complex regulations which mostly take into consideration the economic situation of the European countries. That may have been the motive behind the recent statement by France and Germany, the two big powerhouses in Europe that may be forced to shoulder more responsibility with regard to the increasing number of migrants coming to the European shores.

Additional solidarity is only possible if the member states at the first point of entry... take, with support from the European budget, all the financial and legal measures possible to boost surveillance of the external borders," the statement said.

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