



**Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
Socialists & Democrats  
in the European Parliament**

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**The President**

**Brussels, 11th July 2017**

**To**

**Mr Paolo Gentiloni**

**Prime Minister of the Italian Government**

**Mr Marco Minniti**

**Minister of Interior of the Italian Government**





Dear Prime Minister,

Dear Minister Minniti,

On behalf of the Group of Socialists and Democrats, allow me to highlight our full commitment and solidarity with Italy, the Italian people and the Italian government, regarding the acute migration crisis facing the country these days.

I have openly stated on several occasions that the situation in Italy is dramatic and no longer manageable. As predicted, after years of enormous commitment, often well beyond international obligations, Italy has reached its limits of sustainability in terms of hosting and rescuing migrants. At the same time, at the opposite end, the European Council and EU individual Member States have reached their highest level of indifference and lack of solidarity. Such an outrageous situation cannot continue. Those who refuse must take the political and moral responsibility for undermining not only the social and political stability of Italy, but also that of the whole of Europe.

**Gianni Pittella**

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Against this background, allow me, dear Prime Minister and Minister, to inform you that, under my leadership, the Group of Socialists and Democrats has united in an extraordinary session to exchange views and agree on the ways forward concerning the ongoing migration crisis and application of the European solidarity principle.

Consequently, we have unanimously decided to address another open letter to European Council President, Mr Donald Tusk, pointing out to the fact that the EU's international influence and image are at stake, unless proper solutions are not only found, but implemented too. In this letter, our focus is on requesting an extraordinary European Council meeting, before the summer break, that addresses the roots causes and management of the migration crisis in the south Mediterranean. Additionally we are arguing that it is indispensable to finally apply the relocation mechanism to all third countries nationalities, finalise the reform of the Dublin system while, in the long run, work towards stabilising Libya and further invest in Africa in order to truly contain the causes of these enormous migratory flows. Finally, concerning FRONTEX Operation Triton, we call for a broader involvement of Member States in managing the rescue of migrants and a more sustainable burden- sharing among them, while also involving EU partners from the Mediterranean basin.

To conclude, dear Prime Minister, dear Minister, you can count on us, the Group of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, as one of your strong allies, fighting for these proposals and promoting sustainable common European solutions based on solidarity, fair responsibility sharing and full respect of human rights.

Every effort, if equally shared, is sustainable for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Gianni Pittella