



April Extraordinary European Council Meeting: Migration: EU must open its eyes and act now

22 April 2015

Dear Heads of State and Government, Dear Council President, Dear President of the European Commission, Dear Commissioners,

At the beginning of the third week of April 2015, 400 migrants drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to flee poverty, war and insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. By the end of the same week, hundreds more are now feared drowned with reports surfacing of 700 men, women and children being lost as their boat capsized.

On the eve of the extraordinary European Council meeting to address the unacceptable humanitarian disasters taking place repeatedly in the Mediterranean, Eurodiaconia - a European network of social and health organisations founded in the Christian faith and promoting social justice – is calling on you to practically address this tragic situation by:

- organising legal ways of immigration,
- securing immigration routes,
- sharing responsibility of treatment of asylum procedures among all EU Member States,
- supporting social NGOs assisting and integrating EU migrants.

The European Union must commit to and implement such a strategy now and bring its most fundamental values of hospitality and solidarity to life again.

Yours sincerely,



Heather Roy
Secretary General
Eurodiaconia