



Draft Programme GUE/NGL Delegation to Sicily and Lampedusa, 1-5 October 2014

GUE/NGL participants

- Confirmed MEPs: Malin Björk (30/09-04/10), Cornelia Ernst (02-04/10), Marie-Christine Vergiat (03-05/10), Barbara Spinelli (03-05/10), Eleonora Forenza (02/10-03/10)
- APAs: Amanda Ahall (30/09-05/10), Berit Dählström (30/09-05/10), Lorenz Kraemer (01/10-05/10).
- Staff: Amandine Bach (30/09-05/01) and David Lundy (30/09-05/01)

Objectives

The GUE/NGL Delegation to Sicily and Lampedusa will have the following objectives:

- Visit migrants center in Sicily (1 day): The aim will be to see both "official" centers (CARA and CIE) as well as temporary structures that have been put in place in the last months with the increasing numbers of migrants being rescued with the Italian operation Mare Nostrum.
- Speak at the Sabir Festival in different roundtables on key issues to GUE/NGL i.e. free trade agreements and privatization, decent work, income and social rights, border surveillance, migrants rights and asylum (see draft programme). Six MEPs have already confirmed their participation.
- Meet with NGOs and officials to get a deeper understanding of the issues at stake in the framework of the announcement of "Frontex +" and the uncertainty regarding the continuation of Mare Nostrum.
- Attend the symbolic commemoration of the shipwreck of 3rd of October in which 368 people seeking asylum dies which aims at drawing attention to the collective responsibility for those deaths.
- Increase the visibility of GUE/NGL on migration and asylum to the wider public and NGOs.

A long-standing key issue for GUE/NGL

GUE/NGL has long opposed the construction of 'fortress Europe' and has worked at the forefront of the No-Fortress Europe campaign to highlight the positive aspects of immigration and put forward policies based on the free movement of individuals which promote human rights. Together with NGOs, GUE/NGL MEPs have repeatedly expressed concerns about how much of the EU budget was used to set up the EU border control agency FRONTEX in 2005 to strengthen the EU's external borders. GUE/NGL MEPs are also extremely concerned that EU funds are being used to develop border surveillance systems. Our group has been at the frontline in denouncing the inhumanity of migrants' detention and the persistent breaches of fundamental rights that take place in many detention centres across Europe. Our group organised the European Parliament's the first ever delegation to a temporary holding centre in Lampedusa in 2005.

Tuesday, 30 September 2014: Arrival in Catania (evening)

8.10 pm: Arrival Amanda Ahall, Berit Dählstrom, Luca Scarpiello

10.25 pm: Arrival Malin Björk, David Lundy and Amandine Bach

Wednesday, 1 October 2014

Sicily

Participants:

- MEP: Malin Björk
- APAs: Amanda Ahall and Berit Dählström (Malin Björk's office), Luca Scarpiello (Eleonora Forenza's office)
- GUE/NGL Staff: Amandine Bach and David Lundy
- Carmen Cordaro, lawyer, member of Arci;
- David Fedele, independent film director;
- Giulana Sano, interpreter.
- Rana Abu Rub, interpreter.
- Salvo Fruciano, journalist.

8.00-9.30: Breakfast meeting with Frontex, Hotel NH Bellini, Catania (breakfast room)

10.00-11.30: Visit of the Palaspedini structure, Catania (Piazza Spedini, Catania)

13.30-16.30: Visit of the Mixt Center of Pian del Lago, region of Caltanissetta: CARA (Accommodation Center for Asylum Seekers) et CIE (Center for Identification and Expulsion).

Italian glossary:

- CDAs are reception camps (literally “Center for First Assistance”) where immigrants are taken upon their arrival, identified and where the legitimization of their possible stay is controlled. Here, the authorities decide whether immigrants can remain or if they have to go to a CIE for deportation.
- CARAs are identification centers for immigrants (without documents) asking for international protection where the legitimization of their request is controlled.
- CIEs are “centers for identification and expulsion”. Every immigrant caught without a residency permit, or not recognized as an asylum seeker, is taken to a CIE, identified and deported to his/her country of origin.

Lampedusa

SABIR Festival Programme

9.00 pm

Theater and Music Performances

The Piazza Vittorio Orchestra will be followed by a theatrical performance directed by Mario Perrotta “Italiani Cincali”

Thursday, 2 October 2014

SABIR Festival Programme: International Meeting

The Shared challenges: out of the crises with the true democracy, commons and dignity

9.30 am – 10.00 am Opening plenary

10.00 am – 12.30 am Thematic sessions:

- True democracy. Democratic alternatives and active citizenship
- Commons. To resist free trade agreements, climate changes, privatization of natural, social, cultural commons

GUE/NGL Speaker: Malin Björk

- Dignity. Decent work, income and social rights

GUE/NGL Speaker: Eleonora Forenza

2.30 pm – 5.30 pm Plenary session

Presentation of the sessions' results, debate between social activists, active citizens and members of the European Parliament.

GUE/NGL Speaker: Eleonora Forenza

7.30 GUE/NGL dinner with Migreurop

Friday, 3 October 2014

Commemoration event organized by the 'Comitato 3 ottobre'

4.00 am The 'Comitato 3 ottobre', together with the survivors and the family of the victims, will release in the sky 368 lanterns, one for every victim of the shipwreck of the Island of Rabbits.

6.30 am At sunrise, corresponding to the time of the rescue, a laic commemoration ceremony will be held. A procession will leave from via Roma and lead to the place of wreck; Lampedusa citizens, migrants, victims' relatives, voluntary workers, the rescuers and operators of humanitarian associations will participate.

6.00 pm A flash mob will be held in the village's center, directed by Dagmawi Yimer, involving 368 women, men and children covered by white drapes. The objective is to give due attention to every single, individual victim, in order to instill in every participant awareness of the immensity of the tragedy that caused the death of 368 people. The images of the flash mob will be used to realize a video that will be sent to European Parliament to sustain the campaign aimed at instituting the European Day of the Memory and Reception and spread through the web.

9.00 pm Theater Performance

Remarks: Meetings with NGOs and officials will be organised during that day as well (meetings have been requested with the Mayor of Lampedusa, Save the children Italy, International Red

Cross Italy, PICUM members, Italian Costal Guards, the cooperative managing Lampedusa reception center and the Committee of the 3rd of October)

Saturday, 4 October 2014

SABIR Festival Programme: International Meeting “Migrants and Mediterranean Space”

- 9.30 am – 12.30 am Thematic Sessions:
- Borders and first reception, coordinated by ARCI, Migreurop and REMDH.
GUE/NGL Speaker: Barbara Spinelli
 - Migration and Development, coordinated by Concord Italy in the frame of the “More and better Europe” project.
 - Migration for life, stop the massacre. For an observatory on disappeared migrants on their way to Europe, coordinated by ARCI.
GUE/NGL Speaker: Marie-Christine Vergiat
 - ‘I am Europe too’: undertaking advocacy actions for European citizenship for migrants, coordinated by “I am Europe too” campaign.
 - The role of Trade Unions in promoting civil and social rights in transit countries, coordinated by CGIL.

3.00 pm – 5.30 pm Plenary Session
Presentation of the sessions’ results, debate between civil society organizations and representatives of Italian and European institutions
GUE/NGL Speaker: Cornelia Ernst

6.00 pm – 7.30 pm Mediterranean Dialogues. Each day an Italian writer will meet and debate with a writer from Maghreb and a European one in a special space in the middle of the city consecrated to the literature.

9.00 pm Closing concert

Remarks: Meetings with NGOs and officials will be organised during that day as well (meetings have been requested with the Mayor of Lampedusa, Save the children Italy, International Red Cross Italy, PICUM members, Italian Costal Guards, the cooperative managing Lampedusa reception center and the Committee of the 3rd of October)

Sunday, 5 October 2014: return

Practical information

Hotels

Catania

NH Bellini
Piazza Trento, 13
95129 Catania
Italy
Tel:+39 095 316933

Lampedusa

Hotel O'scia
Via Cameroni, 8
Lampedusa Agrigento 92010
ITALIA
Tel: +39 0922 975799
<http://www.osciahotel.it/>

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