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Briefing paper #40

## A Rights-Based Approach to Migration and Development: SOLIDAR Reaction to EC Migration Policy Package

The arrival of roughly 50,000 migrants to Italy and Malta as a result of the transformation processes in the Middle East and North Africa since January 2011 has put migration back at the centre of EU policy considerations and debates. It has resulted in no less than two EC Communications and a Proposal for Regulation in May 2011, as well as a rather polemic exchange on the right to mobility itself as we saw by the heated discussions on the temporary reintroduction of border controls in the Schengen area.

While the European Commission has rebutted such controls without its consent in its capacity as guardian of the treaties, the policy packages in May raised the concern of the EU focusing on a more Eurocentric agenda of border security and skilled migration rather than fully appreciating the development related push factors of migration and the related policy coherence for development stipulated in Article 208 of the Lisbon Treaty, as well as stigmatising irregular migration.

**Therefore, whilst the much anticipated “Migration Policy Package”, published last week (18 November 2011), highlights several essential priorities such as the portability of social rights and the monitoring of the Employers Sanctions Directive, it falls very short in setting the policy context for an approach to migration which respects human and workers’ rights as stipulated in the Charter for Fundamental Rights.**

For a truly rights-based approach to migration, the EU and its Member States need to:

- Promote international labour standards as cornerstones of EU migration policy.
- Ensure the implementation of international human rights standards, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, for all migrants, irrespective of legal status.
- Highlight decent work and development related push factors for migration with a view to promoting migration out of choice.

In SOLIDAR tradition’s, migration and development is not about managing figures, but about human beings who claim dignity based on recognition of equal rights!

Read all the recommendations and the [full briefing](#)

*SOLIDAR is a European network of 56 NGOs active in over 90 countries working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs, international cooperation and lifelong learning. For more info [www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)*

