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**Unexpected large scale arrivals of migrants and potential refugees in Lampedusa (Italy) in June 2005**

**Doc. 10615**

23 June 2005

**Written Declaration No 368**

*This written declaration commits only the members who have signed it*

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According to new reports, a larger number of people have arrived on the island of Lampedusa and in Sicily over the last few days.

Against a limited capacity of approximately 180 persons in the Lampedusa facility, the total number of persons accommodated there has risen with the new arrivals to roughly 850.

Concerns arise about:

- the physical conditions in which persons are being accommodated and the response capacity of the authorities to deal with larger numbers which remains inadequate apart from the capacity of the facility;
- whether all individuals wishing to place an asylum claim have access to asylum procedures. The speed required in processing larger numbers of people cannot be at the expense of a fair and effective asylum procedure.

To ensure that all arrivals are treated in accordance with international human rights and refugee standards, we, the undersigned, request the Italian authorities to ensure that:

1. full access to asylum processes is given to all concerned ;
2. UNHCR as well as relevant NGOs be given regular access to the point of arrivals regardless of the relative concentration of new arrivals in the centres at any one time to confirm that their most urgent needs are met.

*Signed: [\[1\]](#)*

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BRANGER, Jean-Guy, France, EPP/CD  
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WILKINSON, John, United Kingdom, EDG

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Total = 20

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[1] SOC Socialist Group  
EPP/CD Group of the European People's Party  
LDR Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' Group  
EDG European Democratic Group  
UEL Group of the Unified European Left  
NR not registered in a group