



English version

## Assembly of the Network Against Migrant Detention: A Call to Resist New European Policies

Last Saturday, we took part in the assembly organized by the **Network Against Migrant Detention**, a transnational network fighting for the abolition of administrative detention for migrants in Italy, Albania, and in external border in and out of Europe. The meeting was an important moment to discuss the new European migration policies and strategies to resist them together.

We contributed with a speech on the **New Pact on Migration and Asylum**, highlighting the serious risks about human rights. One of the most alarming aspects is that the EU is moving towards a **system of mass detention**, normalizing the detention of thousands of people. With the new **mandatory border screening**, which includes at least seven days of asylum process in detention, and the speed rejection procedures, Europe's borders risk becoming **massive detention zones**. These new border centers will not only be located at entry points but could be set up **anywhere** within national territories, creating a widespread network of administrative detention centers.

The **"fiction of non-entry"** will make the situation even worse: people detained in these structures will not be considered legally present in Europe, drastically limiting their rights. It does not just restrict access to asylum but also **legitimizes indefinite detention** for people who are physically on European land.

### Safe third country: A legalized deportation system

One of the most concerning aspects of the Pact is the **external management** through the concept of a **"safe third country."** It allows EU member states to **send asylum seekers to non-EU countries**, even if these countries do not guarantee fundamental human rights. The **Italy-Albania Protocol** is already an example of this strategy, and the risk is that it will be extended to a larger scale. The **European Court of Justice** is currently reviewing the legitimacy of this mechanism. However, with the **New Pact coming into force in 2026**, the EU may **expand the list of so-called safe countries**, making border procedures even stricter. This would mean that migrants could be subjected to fast-track deportation **regardless of their country of origin**, making access to protection even more difficult.

This is why the Road Map Network for Asylum Rights and Freedom of Movement is launching a campaign to monitor and contrast the implementation of the Pact.

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## The new return regulation: More deportations, fewer protections

EU is working also on a **new Return Regulation**, which will **increase deportations** and **weaken human rights**. The most concerning changes include:

- ◇ **Re-entry bans extended to 15 years**, making legal return to Europe almost impossible.
- ◇ **Deportation of unaccompanied minors**, if authorities decide there is a guardian or a reception center in the destination country.
- ◇ **Prolonged and potentially indefinite detention**, removing the current requirement to release migrants if deportation is not possible.
- ◇ **Detention centers outside the EU**, through agreements with third countries that will accept deported migrants in exchange for financial compensation, turning deportation into a **human trade system**.

### A Call to Mobilization

The EU is building a system based on **detention, rejection, and deportation**, violating fundamental rights and undermining the principle of **freedom of movement**. This is why the assembly ended with a strong call: **we must build collective resistance to stop this**.

💡 Many participants emphasized the importance of a European network that can **strengthen the fight against administrative detention and defend the right to asylum**.

As Europe builds **walls and prisons** for migrants, we must create an alternative based on **solidarity and freedom of movement**.