**Executive Committee Statement**

**12 June 2018**

Yesterday, 629 people (including pregnant women and children) coming from the African continent risked their lives because of the Italian government's refusal to welcome them.

In an act of strong human solidarity, the new Spanish government immediately volunteered to offer shelter in Spain.

This episode showed once again how intolerance, xenophobia, racism and the rejection of the culture of solidarity are advancing in Europe.

In Italy, the unions and the many voluntary organisations have mobilised to oppose the decision of the Italian government.

There is a high risk of such scenes of human tragedy reoccurring over the next days.

It is necessary for the European Community to intervene and take control of this system in order to help thousands of unfortunate people who risk their lives every day in fleeing from countries without freedom and democracy.

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