



Bruxelles, 5th January 2019

Dear President Juncker,  
Dear Commissioner Avramopoulos,  
Dear Vice-president/High Representative Mogherini, Cara Federica,

For over 14 days, the Sea Watch ship carrying 49 migrants, including 3 children, is sailing in the Mediterranean Sea, between Italy and Malta, awaiting the indication of a safe harbour to dock. Rescuers describe a situation that is getting worse and worse, due to unfavourable weather conditions, migrants find themselves living in an absolutely inadequate space. They have to sleep on the floor, sanitary measures are necessary and they also risk hypothermia and dehydration. Furthermore, they are running out of food.

It is not acceptable that some Member States, in particular Italy and the ones exposed in the Mediterranean Sea, decide not to be available to safe and rescue migrants. We are witnessing a growing cynicism where Member States fail to take on responsibilities and ensure respect for human life.

We consider it of fundamental importance, especially for migrants who have been at the mercy of cold and hunger for days, that the EU Commission demonstrates humanity and solidarity by using all the means at its disposal and all the existing emergency measures, also reiterating the need to achieve an agreement on the legislative proposal rejected by the Council on the Reform of Dublin which provided for obligatory redistribution of refugees, so as to be able to put all Member States in front of their responsibilities without excluding anyone.

We urge you to work towards a prompt solution in order to guarantee a safe harbour, medical care and food for women, children and men in need.

We shall all contribute to avoid that boats with refugees and asylum seekers wanders through the sea without knowing where to go. A safe harbour and the adoption of measures to avoid similar situation are needed.

Best regards,

*Patrizia Toia, Isabella De Monte, Elena Gentile, Brando Benifei, Daniele Viotti, Cécile Kyenge, Mercedes Bresso, Goffredo Bettini, Simona Bonafè, Renata Briano, Nicola Caputo, Caterina Chinnici, Silvia Costa, Andrea Cozzolino, Nicola Danti, Paolo De Castro, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Enrico Gasbarra, Michela Giuffrida, Roberto Gualtieri, Luigi Morgano, Alessia Mosca, Giuseppina Picierno, David Sassoli, Renato Soru, Damiano Zoffoli.*