



The AEDH asks members of the European Parliament not to approve the readmission agreement with Pakistan

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The AEDH is deeply concerned about the content and practical enforcement of the readmission agreement signed between the European Union and Pakistan and calls on MEPs to reject it. It raises significant concerns about the respect of human rights and in particular those of refugees.

The AEDH believes that readmission agreements endanger human rights. Readmission counters the right to leave one's country, a right guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the case of Pakistan, readmission means forcing someone to return to a country where fundamental rights are not respected and which has not ratified the Geneva Convention on Refugees of 1951. The fact that this agreement will apply also to third country nationals, and here in particular to Afghanis, is worrying considering the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

The readmission agreement with Pakistan gives no guarantee concerning the security and the respect of fundamental rights of people evicted and personal data and privacy protection. It cultivates a dangerous legal uncertainty as to its implementation. The AEDH is greatly concerned with the risk of violation of the principle of non-refoulement created by this agreement.

This agreement contains numerous loopholes and ambiguities that work against the fundamental rights of the people to be readmitted. It does not specify whether the burden of proof concerning the migrants' entry date in the EU and their route taken will lie on the EU or on Pakistan. Yet these two elements are essential to the decision on readmission. The agreement contains no provision in case of a refusal by Pakistan to deliver travel documents for readmission. Will the EU deliver a European *laissez-passer*, even though its legal basis is uncertain? Or will the people to be readmitted remain in detention for an unlimited time while awaiting a decision to deport them?

The Commission's refusal to allow the participation of the European Parliament in the Readmission Committee is symptomatic of its lack of transparency which will likely continue during the agreement's implementation.

The AEDH therefore asks MEPs not to assent to the agreement and to demand strong guarantees concerning the respect of human rights and greater transparency for the ongoing negotiations on readmission with third countries.

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