



European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
Brussels

04 October 2016

Dear Prime Minister May,

Dear President Hollande,

Whilst we welcome the recent attention both your Governments have given to the ongoing appalling conditions for people living in camps in Northern France, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the latest developments on the site including the building of a four-metre high concrete wall in the port of Calais. We especially have grave concerns about the safety of unaccompanied children as plans are made to close the camps.

Every time the camps are cleared, children go missing. It is essential that vulnerable young people are taken to safety before the camps begin to be emptied.

It is already intolerable that children are living in such conditions. The dangers lone child migrants face, including sexual exploitation, violence and forced labour, are well documented. It is inexcusable that these conditions are found on the border between two of the richest countries in the world. It is unthinkable that forced eviction from the camps will happen with no alternative arrangements in place for these minors.

We know that many of the children wish to reach Britain to join family members and that they have a legal right to do so. More than a year has passed since the UK Government committed to transfer unaccompanied refugee children, yet only a tiny number have arrived in the UK, and the processing of applications remains inexcusably slow. The tragic reality at present is that children hold more trust in smugglers than in the authorities which are failing to properly implement the legislation which would allow them safe passage to the UK.

Two children with legal rights to travel to the UK are known to have been killed waiting for their cases to be dealt with.

We believe the French Government must make greater efforts to provide people, especially children, with information in a language they can understand about their rights and support them to access the asylum system. Safe, sanitary accommodation must be provided for all.

The French and British governments must fully implement their obligations under international and EU law and make the safety of unaccompanied children paramount. It is our belief that your Governments continued 'deterrence approach' – epitomised by the decision to construct a wall in Calais – is wrong and will continue to fail.

We call on you to immediately take unaccompanied children to safety, and urgently find lasting, dignified, humane solutions to what is a shared responsibility for refugees and asylum seekers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bové'.


José Bové, MEP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Molly Scott Cato'.

Molly Scott Cato, MEP

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Karima Delli'.

Karima Delli, MEP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Durand'.

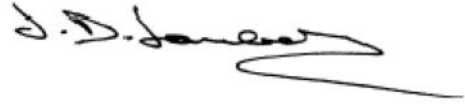
Pascal Durand, MEP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y. Jadot'.

Yannick Jadot, MEP

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and a vertical line extending downwards.

Eva Joly, MEP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. D. Lambert' with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jean Lambert, MEP

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Michèle Rivasi'.


Michèle Rivasi, MEP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Keith Taylor' with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Keith Taylor, MEP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Bartley' with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader, Green Party of England and Wales

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Caroline Lucas'.

Caroline Lucas, co-leader, Green Party of England and Wales

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David Cormand' with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Cormand, leader, Europe Ecology - Les Verts

Cc: M. Bernard Cazeneuve – Minister of the Interior, Amber Rudd – Home Secretary