

Coalition Committee on the 6. Sept. 2015

In these weeks and months, Germany a country, aimed by a never seen number of refugees that are seeking safety from war, persecution and distress in our country. Hundret thousand times, the people in Germany meet these refugees with a never seen helpfulness and solidarity. This big wave of helpfulness and humanity, but also the economical strength of our country, are the reason why we can handle these challenges. We are thankful to the people of our country for that.

But it is also clear that we can only handle this challenge if we can be successful in the international fight against the causes for escape (civil wars, destabilization of entire states and terrorist dangers) and give help to the neighbour countries of those in crisis. Especially we also need inner european solidarity and a common asylum and refugee policy of the European Union. This is put on the agenda, as well as the establishment of a sustainable infrastructure for refugees and their integration in our country.

The coalition committee has therefore dealt with the current refugee and asylum situation and has agreed on a common position for the further steps and the coming talks and decisions on EU level, as well as with the German federal states:

I) Fight against the causes of escape and stabilization of the neighbour countries

- We will check if, similar to Niger, further shelters and facilities in Northern Africa can be established.
- We want to strengthen the EU engagement in the fight against the causes of escape in the main countries of origin, through european means.
- Germany will face its international responsibility and will widen its engagement for the overcoming and prevention of crisis. For that, the relevant means in the budget of the Foreign Office will be increased by 400 million Euros per Year. This serves for the support in the supply and care for refugee camps in the crisis regions and for the stabilization of countries of origin and transit through the strengthening of the state institutions and the establishment of institutional structures as well as the strengthening of our engagement in the areas of conflict solving and mediation. Also, the communication work in migration politics should get intensified.
- Visa offices in the diplomatic representations (foreign offices) will get strengthened.
- Concentration of the means of the BMZ on the fight against the causes of escape in the most important countries of origin.

II) Europe

Europe and Germany are facing a big challenge due to the development in the Middle East and in

many countries of Africa, and therefore the strong rush of asylum seekers and refugees; a challenge that can be solved by the EU only commonly and on the basis of its values and legal system. Germany faces its humanitarian and European duties and expects the same from its partners. This means also: to stick to the Dublin-III-Regulation and also the will to common European solidarity in the admission of refugees. The decision for admission of Germany and Austria on the weekend should stay an exception.

Therefore, on the coming meetings on EU-level first of all on the special meeting of the European ministers of interior and justice on September 14th, the following issues should be central:

- Establishment of humane places for admission and registration (so-called Hotspots) in the EU member states that are facing the very strong rush of refugees at the external borders. They should be established and run by the EU together with the UNHCR and the affected states, so that an orderly examination and decision of the asylum applications can be secured, before the deportation or the further traveling to other member states.
- A solidary and fair distribution and admission of refugees in need of protection by the EU member states.
- A common EU list of secure countries of origin.
- A basic reform of the EU asylum politics with the aim of a united legal system of the EU on asylum.
- An effective fight against human trafficker criminality.
- An effective practical and financial support for the currently most burdened EU states.
- A deepening of the EU engagement in the fight against causes of escape in the main countries of origin.

III) State level, federal states and regional administrations

State level, federal states and regional administrations are sharing the responsibility and have to create, with a big national common action within short time, the requirements for the admission of a never seen number of humans in need of protection and for the deportation of those who have to (and can) leave the country. Due to the current prognosis, the financial, personal (staff) organisational and judicial steps, already taken or still in preparation, are not enough. Therefore, we will create a political overall package together with the federal states that is planned to be decided on in October by the Bundestag and Bundesrat (the common and the federal parliaments).

1. Speed up the asylum proceedings, including the deportations

- The priority is still the acceleration of the asylum proceedings and the cut of the cases at BAMF (the country's department „on migration and refugees“), amongst others by filling the new vacancies that have already been arranged, and by finding more staff in an unbureaucratic way to create more capacities for decision-making.
- The country's interior minister and the federal states will establish a Taskforce for the acceleration of the proceedings and for filling the vacant places at the BAMF.
- 3.000 new places for staff will be established in the Federal Police for the next three years.
- Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro will be listed as secure countries of origin, by law change.

- The duration of stay in the first accommodation will go up to 6 months at the most – accordingly also the residency obligation (Residenzpflicht) will be extended. The distribution to the regions in these cases will start from the point of handing in the asylum application.
- For asylum seekers from secure countries, the stay in the first accommodation will be extended to the end of the proceeding and till the, usually following, deportation.
- Re-immigrating people that hand in a follow-up application have to stay in the first accommodations.

2. Create humane first registration places and accommodations for refugees

- The state will support the federal states and the regions in the creation of around 150.000 places suitable for winter in humane first accommodations for refugees. For this, the state will offer all free places that are of its property for the accommodation of refugees, directly when demanded, and without rent, and it will pay the costs for the preparation of these accommodations.
- Where the property of the state is not free/usable, the state will financially support establishing the needed places.
- With an „acceleration law“, we are going to give the possibility to differ/get away from current legal standards for a short duration to manage the current asylum and refugee situation. The federal states will be encouraged to take according measures.

3. Eliminating wrong incentives

- In first accommodations, money in cash should get replaced by payment in articles/objects (food packages, vouchers etc.) as far as possible.
- Asylum seekers from secure countries should stay in the first accommodations till the end of their proceedings.
- Money should be paid, at the most, one month beforehand.
- The duration of the time till the deportation, will get reduced from 6 months at the most, to 3 months at the most.
- Social care will get reduced for people who have to (and can) leave the country (without Duldung).

4. Relief for federal countries and regional administrations

The state will increase the budget with 3 billion Euros in 2016 for the overcoming of the refugee and asylum situation and will offer another 3 billion Euros to the federal states and regions. Till the 24th of September 2015 we will find agreements on the details of the use of that money.

5. Improving the integration

Humans that have the right to protection and that stay in Germany in a long term, should find work fast and be able to earn their own living. The central precondition for the integration into the society and the work is the knowledge of German. As already agreed with the federal states, the state will open the integration courses for asylum seekers and for people with Duldung and will accordingly increase the budget for that. Furthermore, a financing of the language support for work issues, according to the demand, will be secured by money of the state.

- The prohibition of subcontracted employment for asylum seekers and people with Duldung, will be stopped after 3 months.
- To support the integration of refugees into the job market early and purposefully, we will increase the budget for job-market-political measures and job oriented support for German language and for qualified staff in the Jobcenters, according to the increasing demand.

6. Create alternatives to the asylum way

- For members of the states of the West Balkan (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro) we want to create possibilities of legal immigration for working in Germany. Those who have a work contract or education contract, with collective wage agreement, should be allowed to work or to do an apprenticeship.

7. Widen the social house building

The current rush of refugees and asylum seekers intensifies the demands for payable living places, especially on flat markets that are already tense. The state supports federal states and regions with building up new flats and in widening the number of social flats.

- The state will offer more [...] buildings to the federal states and regions for the social house building.
- The state and the federal states will examine how they can support building up new payable living places through tax incentives in areas with tense flat situation.

8. Support and coordination of voluntary engagement

A high number of people in Germany engage voluntarily in the admission of humans in need. The voluntary engagement of the citizens is of absolute high value. We will support this work and will create up to 10.000 new places in the voluntary service of the state.