

Amendments tabled by the Cyprus delegation

Paragraph 19: Reiterates the European perspective of the Eastern Partnership countries and recalls that in accordance with Article 49 TEU any European country may apply to become a member of the EU provided it adheres to the Copenhagen criteria and the principles of democracy, respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights; ***notes however that European aspirations of those countries should be addressed keeping in mind that membership will furthermore depend on the absorption capacity of the EU;*** calls on the VP/HR to develop proposals for cooperation with eligible and willing European Neighbours based on the model of the European Economic Area, which could constitute a further step in their European perspective, be based on enhanced inclusion in the EU area in terms of freedoms and full integration within the common market, and also include closer cooperation in the field of CFSP;

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 27: Notes the vulnerability of Mediterranean countries to the particularly harsh effects of climate change in this region, which already affect greatly local communities and economies. Expresses concern over the expected additional migration flows in the Mediterranean, which will be directly linked to climate change, putting additional strain on Southern member states and the EU more broadly.

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 28: Expresses deep concern at the increase of migration flows through perilous journeys in the Mediterranean Sea and underlines the need for EU support to member states of the South, which are more affected by this influx; notes that solidarity needs to be demonstrated both towards those member states where migration related strain is more acute and towards asylum seekers arriving in the EU.