

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC
ON THE RESETTLEMENT OF A GROUP OF REFUGEES

The Government of Malta
and
The Government of the Portuguese Republic,
hereinafter referred to as "Signatories",

Considering the friendship ties and alliance that bring together the Signatories;

Animated by a spirit of mutual cooperation and reciprocal solidarity;

United by common principles and values, in the framework of the European Union;

Sharing the respect for basic human rights established in several international instruments;

Aware of the importance of international protection of refugees, which involves the need for a shared mutual cooperation in the spirit of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees done at Geneva on 28 July 1951, and of the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees done in New York on 31 January 1967;

Bearing in mind the European legal framework in force relating to the status of refugees;

Considering the Portuguese regulations governing the status of refugees;

Taking into account that Malta, due to its geographical situation and the recent accession to the European Union, is currently hosting a large number of refugees;

Considering the known difficulties related to the integration of this large number of refugees locally;

Bearing in mind that resettlement has become a fundamental element of the system for the international protection of refugees;

Taking into consideration that resettlement not only serves as a tool to ensure the protection of refugees, but it is also one of the durable solutions to bring the plight of refugees to an end;

Considering that the Portuguese Republic is conscious of the need for an operational response to the challenge presented by the refugee's situation in Malta;

Taking into account that the Portuguese Republic, notwithstanding its limited capacity to host refugees, wishes to demonstrate its international solidarity by accepting a small number of refugees coming from Malta;

Bearing in mind that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide;

Considering therefore that the best solution involves a tripartite task, shared by Malta's competent authorities, the Portuguese Republic's competent authorities and the UNHCR;

The Signatories decide on the following:

1. The Government of the Portuguese Republic will promote the resettlement of a group of persons in need of international protection that are currently hosted in Malta.
2. The resettlement will be carried out both by the competent Maltese authorities and the competent Portuguese authorities under the auspices of UNHCR.
3. The resettlement will be conducted in accordance with International Refugee Law, bearing in mind commonly recognized protection needs.
4. The group to be transferred will integrate persons already recognized under the mandate of the UNHCR.
5. The abovementioned group will not include more than 12 persons.
6. The entry in Portuguese territory will be facilitated to the beneficiaries of international protection that constitute the group referred to by the paragraphs above.
7. Each of the abovementioned persons will benefit from international protection, reception conditions and support towards integration in national society under the terms and conditions provided by the Portuguese applicable law.

Done in Lisbon, on the 1st of October 2007, in two copies, each one in the English and Portuguese languages, all texts being equally authentic.

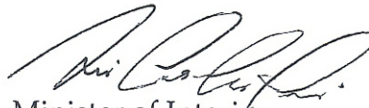
For the Government of Malta



Députy Prime Minister &
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Tonio Borg

For the Government of
the Portuguese Republic



Minister of Interior

Rui Carlos Pereira