

"Eritrea is not ready for a dialogue on migration"

Special Ambassador Eduard Gnesa explains why the Swiss development aid had to withdraw from Eritrea. Nevertheless, one wants to remain with the government talking.



Eduard Gnesa's Special Envoy for international cooperation on migration. Photo: Adrian Moser

Every day we receive pictures of the plight of refugees on the island of Kos. Should Switzerland is not propagated Greece instead of Italy in addressing the refugee stream support?

These pictures make me concerned. Yes, we have to support Greece, and we are already doing this, we help about in the handling of asylum procedures. Currently, even Swiss experts in Turkey involved in building an asylum system. But clearly: we are currently reviewing what we can do additionally.

Do you know the reasons for these changes?

It turns out that the eastern Mediterranean route via Turkey and Greece is

becoming more important. This year have migrated in this way some 100,000 people in Europe - about the same number as on the Mediterranean Sea in Italy have arrived. The rise in Greece has a reason: Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria have introduced a visa requirement for Syrians. Now many people try to get through Turkey to Europe. Aram rather than the eastern route, the Eritreans on the southern route to Europe. We note this development in Switzerland: In July, the Syrian asylum applications have increased.

Other key countries for migration to Europe are Tunisia and Libya. What does Switzerland do there?

Tunisia is following the attacks in a difficult situation. We make every effort to keep the migration partnership. And in Libya, Switzerland tries to contribute to conflict resolution.

With success?

In Geneva, a conference is planned, in which all parties to the conflict sit at the same table. But one must be realistic: As before there are two governments in Libya and two parliaments. A solution needs time. Until then the country for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa remains an open gate. And increases the risk that an increasing number of Libyans fleeing into poverty and themselves.

In Europe, the pressure to do something high. What is good for Triton, the new Border Patrol operation of the EU, Switzerland is involved in?

With Triton far as many people were saved as the same period of the previous operation Mare Nostrum. Under the humanitarian point of view it was right that the EU has the area of operation extended up to the Libyan coast. The fears of many critics have not been fulfilled.

A few months ago considered many politicians, including Federal President Sommaruga, the establishment of reception centers in North Africa to deter people against the dangerous crossing across the Mediterranean. What has become of these plans?

Here, however would still many important questions to be clarified. For example, a reception center would provide the host country before difficult solvable problems: What happens, for example, with those migrants who are not recognized as refugees and brought to Europe? Who prevents these people from getting to climb on your own in a boat?

Another possibility would be to introduce the message of asylum again at European level.

This is not at the top at the moment on the priority list of the EU. First, it is necessary to relieve with immediate measures that stressed Dublin system. I speak of the distribution key for Refugees. It's a success that so 55,000 refugees could be distributed.

We always talk of fighting the symptoms. Would it - as in Eritrea - not meaningful, curb with development aid the migration at its source?

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has worked between 1999 and 2006 in Eritrea - like many other countries and organizations also. The Deza left Eritrea in 2006 not entirely voluntary, but was under pressure: It was allowed Deza Leaders partly no longer in the regions and villages, where the aid would have been necessary. Partner organizations were expelled. Or there were projects that were planned and then just could not perform. In short, the cooperation was no longer possible

Now many voices say domestically that Switzerland should again work with Eritrea.

Our ambassador is stationed Although not directly in Eritrea, but he visited the country. We would like to initiate a dialogue on migration. But so far lack the necessary guarantees and the willingness of Eritrea. You can not plug a readmission agreement with a country if you do not know what happens to people after returning to their homes. Even the International Committee of the Red Cross has no access to the prisons more since 2009.

Why Switzerland does not undertake a new attempt to have a presence on the foreign aid in the country?

These considerations there. Only they bore no fruit so far.

Why?

The new beginning of a development cooperation requires negotiations with the government. These have not yet been carried out. Therefore, the conditions do not yet exist.

Actually so many people coming from Why Eritrea to Switzerland and not from other African countries in crisis?

people fleeing love to be down there, where there are already many countrymen. In Switzerland, the Diaspora from Eritrea is relatively large. Because the escape route via Libya is close and the situation in Eritrea is disastrous, human rights are systematically violated. In addition,

the judgment of the Federal Administrative Court, which had a conscientious objector from Eritrea granted the asylum status, increased immigration of Eritreans to Switzerland result had. However, in recent years, Eritreans increasingly weitergewandert. Dort also to Germany and the Scandinavian countries, the protection rate is similarly high as ours. Why have we not the way Chechens in Switzerland? They're in Austria, because a court has decided there once in an individual case, to give Chechens relatively quickly refugee status.

The status of "temporary admission" for unsuccessful asylum seekers who can not be returned, is criticized by the left and right. Why Switzerland insists?

The EU countries know comparable residence permit: It takes a state for people who are not tracked individually within the meaning of the Asylum Act, but can not live in their country of origin, for instance because there is civil war. 1999, Switzerland had most of the 47,000 war refugees from the Balkans received preliminary because there was indeed war, but few have been individually politically persecuted and sought by the authorities. Parliament is, however, to deal with the status of temporary admission.

What happens if Parliament abolishes the status? Would those affected receive all refugee status?

I can not pre-empt the decisions of Parliament. But I submit that today provisionally preserved in this case those admitted hardly refugee status. Our asylum law is based on the Geneva Convention of 1951. refugee within the meaning of the Convention is only those who are politically persecuted. In spite of the large migration flows and new phenomena such as climate refugees, there is no consensus internationally for changing these basics.

What about the economic migrants? If this phenomenon grow, and it can get the readmission agreement with Switzerland alone under control?

readmission agreements have proven themselves and are still correct. But it might be more difficult to conclude such agreements. Many states in Africa, for example, are no longer only emigration countries, but have also become transit or destination countries of refugees. In other words, these countries also have needs and requirements. Therefore, the migration partnerships on the Swiss model are becoming increasingly important. Switzerland thus helps in these States about in vocational training of young people in

agriculture and water projects or in the fight against human trafficking in the so-called Khartoum process. , ,

, , , of which many critics argue that it be important to go to build the walls against the refugees already in the African desert, rather than just on the border with Europe.

This is not true. Trigger for the Khartoum process included the reports of Eritreans fleeing to Israel, which have been threatened in the wilderness of Sinai, where Bedouin and bandits have taken organs. You have to be grateful for the Khartoum process which aims to enhance the cooperation between police authorities of countries such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Egypt.

Is not it difficult, systematically torturing the police in countries that prisoners, to help to a fig leaf?

No. In Sudan, Switzerland sensitized the authorities together in a project with international organizations on human rights violations in connection with human trafficking.

Why working in Khartoum process with Eritrea together, although the human rights situation is so bad that Switzerland Eritreans can not return to their country?

The Khartoum process was an initiative of the EU, which wants and combat trafficking smuggling. Switzerland is an observer on the Board. So far only two meetings were held: one in Rome last November and one in Cairo. That certainly does not mean that we now perform with Eritrea the same project.

They have been negotiating in countless countries of origin. Were there any experiences that you went under the skin?

In 2009, I was in a Yemeni refugee camp near Aden. 30,000 Somali refugees, including women and children, lived in 42-degree heat under tin roofs in the desert. Some of them wanted to go on foot to Aden - 170 kilometers through the desert. When we were going, we saw dead woman lying on the roadside - they were dying of thirst.

What happened to the camp?

We do not know. In Yemen, currently at war. To say something positive: In Damascus has a boy stretched me in an orphanage for victims of trafficking a bill and has said: ". This is for your effort" I have kept this note. I've often wondered where the boy is today. It is used in the Assad army? Is he in the IS or as a refugee in Switzerland? I dont know.

(Tages-Anzeiger)

For the original post visit here: <http://bazonline.ch/schweiz/standard/Eritrea-ist-nicht-bereit-fuer-einen-Migrationsdialog/story/20333899>

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