

EU asylum plan a direct threat to our civilisation - UKIP leader Nigel Farage

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UKIP will stand up to this impending disaster for all concerned - Farage

â€œ European Parliament, Strasbourg, 29 April 2015

â€œ [Nigel Farage MEP](#), Leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP), Co-President of the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy (EFDD) Group in the European Parliament - [@Nigel Farage](#)
- *Bluecard question*: Philippe Lamberts MEP (Belgium), Greens group

â€œ Debate: Report of the extraordinary European Council meeting (23 April 2015) - The latest tragedies in the Mediterranean and EU migration and asylum policies
European Council and Commission statements
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Transcript

Four years ago I stood here and said that bombing Libya would be a huge mistake, but of course the UK parliament and this parliament were desperate, there was a clamour to go to war.

And so now we have a failed state in Libya, which is now a conduit being used for criminal trafficking gangs trying to bring people to Europe.

We are guilty for this crisis. We are directly guilty for the drownings that are going on. And we are hypocrites in this place when we talk about poverty in Africa, when we pursue a common agricultural policy that puts barriers up to them selling us their agricultural produce; where we have a fisheries policy that rapes and pillages their seas and has caused environmental destruction. And we just assuage our consciences by giving away a bit of foreign aid.

I am not blind to the human suffering that we've caused in many of these countries. I would call on this parliament, this commission to end the barriers to trade, to stop the fisheries policy, to ask the United Nations to get involved and to try and help.

But the real question we face, is what are we to do. Are we to go down the Australian system in dealing with this crisis?

And indeed, the Australian premier Tony Abbott has offered us his advice and help. Australia faced this, and Australia not only has stopped the boats from coming, they've stopped people from drowning.

But no, we're not interested in what the Australians have done, we have decided that we can deal with this on our own. So we decided that people can come and that people won't be sent back.

Now, I suspect that it's a shock, and will be a hell of a shock to many European citizens including the British to understand that we've already agreed a Common European Asylum System. And what today is about, and today's resolution is the direct implementation of it.

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The problem, ladies and gentlemen, is this: the definitions for who qualifies for asylum are so wide they include not just people coming from war, not just people coming from failed states - Mr Juncker this morning seemed to suggest it would even include people who are suffering poverty.

I'm sorry, we simply can't accept countless millions. Already in countries like mine, 77% of the population say, we cannot take immigration at current levels.

But there is a real and genuine threat. When ISIS say they want to flood our continent with half a million Islamic extremists, they mean it, and there is nothing in this document that will stop those people from coming. Indeed I fear we face a direct threat to our civilisation if we allow a large number of people from that war-torn region into Europe.

It is ironic that nine days before a British general election, Mr Cameron and Mr Miliband are not engaged in this debate.

And in fact the UK can do nothing. We are impotent. We have surrendered our ability to get involved. I promise my party will stand up to this impending disaster for all concerned.