

Hopes and objectives for refugee aid

9:00, Convention Hall

Introduction of speakers by Prof. Dr. Jörg-Michel Kimmig

Karl Michael Scheufele, District President of Swabia:

- Two thirds of the refugees coming to Germany arrive in Bavaria
- Highlight on efficiency of Bavarian administration to deal with the crisis

PID Roberto Fresia, Italy:

- Outline of number of refugees arriving in Italy over the last 10 years and in 2015, emphasising the challenges faced by the state in connection with refugees from Africa, in particular Nigeria and Eritrea

L Dospra Vassiliki, Greece:

- Flash point Idomeni: Emotional description of the catastrophic situation in this town
- Since 10 September 2015 better conditions for refugees

ID Gabriele Sabatossanti Scarpelli:

- Outline of situation in Italy, the main destination of refugees from Africa who arrive in Europe by boat
- Lions focus on medical aid
- Emergency relief at locations with greatest need, and long-term support for refugees who are allowed to stay
- Appeal to doctors among the Lions to provide humanitarian aid

Einar Lyngar, Scandinavia:

- Comments about the situation in Greece, Italy, Turkey and the rest of Europe
- Traumatized and sick refugees do not get the help they need
- Current threat to their well-being as winter sets in
- Highly effective emergency relief work by Norwegian Lions in Beirut
- Construction of new schools in Lebanon
- Future projects: Greater support for children and schools, at the request of local people
- Establishment of medical centre for the production of prostheses

Eberhard Wirfs

- Call to act together and as individuals

- Lighting a beacon of hope
- Time to act

IPIP Joe Preston

- Thanks to all active Lions in Europe and worldwide
- Appeal for donations and outline of further, urgently needed projects
- Support by Lions worldwide has been assured

L Dr. Wolf Rieh

- Recommendation to the clubs: local aid and support, e.g. through language classes, meeting and listening to people, helping to find work and accommodation, dealing with trauma
- Local activities must be joined up with national activities.
- Social changes must be addressed.

L Dr. Jürgen Miksch

- For our commitment to foster better understanding among nations, the refugee crisis is the challenge of the century
- At the moment, around 60 million people have been forced to leave their homes,
- and promoting a better understanding among the nations and peoples of this world is one of the core missions of the Lions
- Establishment of partnerships with countries where refugees are fleeing to
- Assistance in finding jobs, educational opportunities; social integration and fighting prejudices on both sides
- Migrants are portents of change

IP 2009/2010 Eberhard Wirfs

- Appeal to exchange ideas and information at this year's Europa Forum
- Taking a stand, making personal commitments

Massimo Fabio (in audience):

- Thanks organisers for raising the issue of the refugee crisis at the Europa Forum
- Reference to meeting March 2016 in Malta
- Need to find common ground and realistic approach as regards a long-term strategy

Doctor from Italy

- (in the audience):
- Describes the establishment of excellent programmes over the last few weeks,
- such as work by doctors in Tanzania

- High unemployment in Italy poses an additional challenge for state and society
- Cooperation with Médecins Sans Frontières, establishment of new centre in Italy

Recommendation: Lions for Europe Destiny & Hope for Refugees

The Europa Forum 2015 of Lions Clubs International held in Augsburg, Germany on 9 October 2015 focused on the refugee crisis:

The treatment, integration and destiny of refugees are the challenges of the century, and must be at the centre of political and social discussions.

There are many reasons why people flee their countries: military dictatorships, human rights abuse, climate change, etc., which are difficult to overcome. That is why there will be more and more refugees in this world.

It is the declared objective of Lions Club International to foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world. That is why helping refugees must be at the top of our agenda. We need to devise concepts and models to tackle the reasons why people flee their homes. As regards integration, Lions can help locally, with language classes, work integration, homework clubs, events involving refugees and tackling prejudices on both sides through partnerships, sponsorships, mentoring, etc.

Refugees are people who will eventually bring change to their countries of origin and will also trigger new thinking and innovation in their host countries. The Lions want to express their concern for the injustice that reigns in the countries of origin of the current refugees. Lions in Europe are urged to make others aware of the inhumane situation that exists for refugees in the countries bordering Syria and promote integration of refugees in their own countries.