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## Statement on Hate Speech

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Dear ladies and gentlemen, I seize the opportunity of being heard through this small speech to refer to the problem of hate crime created through the instrumentalization of the refugee issue from different actors of the political spectrum and society. We see over and over again confirmed the theory of the rise of popularity of extremism there where the mainstream, conventional politics fails. The recent financial and debt crisis in Greece confirms the abovementioned development leaving as imprint the presence of radical, extreme discourse at the central political scene that is the element that leads them to paths of acceptance, popularity, and add to their high electoral results. They refer to real facts, issues that impact the daily lives of citizens. Whatever may their background be or their cause, good or bad, we don't have the right to treat this issue as anything less. This concerns the seriousness of the matter and the sense of the emergency regarding the manner to which we should act. People live now, this is our present forming our future, our children future and nonetheless the lives of the innocent people aching to survive. This is something that never should left behind. We are talking about people leaving a war zone. This is the problem we are facing and this is the spirit with which we should face it with determinacy, ethos, braveness and solidarity. The till now trajectory in the EU has showed the humanitarian dimension and will to contribute to this drama in the best possible way but within the course of the events there are being created some dysfunctional issues mainly concerning the way we face this challenge as a whole, as a EU. The sacrality of a human life leads the way to the path we should follow and this is no other than a

single viable and working solution for everybody. We are called to answer to xenophobia, to racism, to fear, to hate crime with determination, with a European plan that is properly organized and executed. Thank you for your attention.