

#SeaWatch. FCEI and Waldensians to welcome But a European strategy is needed.

Joint press release by FCEI (Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy), Waldensian Board of Churches, Waldensian Diaconate

Di **Agenzia NEV** - 10 Gennaio 2019



Rome (NEV/CS04), 10th January 2019 – “We are thankful to those who have contribute closing a shameful and inhumane chapter in European policy,” declared Moderator of the Waldensian Board, Eugenio Bernardini, commenting on the solution to the Sea-Watch crisis finalised during the night in government meetings. “We are happy to have made our contribution and will take responsibility for these people, respecting their dignity – as w

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Luca Maria Negro, president of the FCEI (Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy) who has spoken often on this subject in recent days, said: "This is a church which welcomes. So in our **Welcome Manifesto** and so we have put this into practice. We are all strangers to someone else. Jesus himself, Lord of Christians, was rejected when he was in his mother's womb and then persecuted and killed by those who thought they had power over life and death. As Italian Christians, we love our neighbour and seek universal brotherhood and sisterhood, fundamental that we finally have a strategy for reception in Europe, which does not give a millimetre in respect of human rights. There is an obvious need to draft a structured and collective policy in which the watchwords are cooperation, peace and justice.

Our appreciation goes to those in the Italian government who worked on this solution and our sincere hope that a European body might be created which acts every time according to procedures to be activated on occasions such as this."

Responsibility for hosting the migrants will be met entirely by Protestant churches thanks to funding from the Waldensian board and other donors, as for all the refugee and migrant programmes, chief amongst which are the **humanitarian corridors** promoted in 2015 with the Community of Sant'Egidio.

"We are glad that this situation has become unblocked," confirmed President of the Waldensian Diaconate Giovanni Comba. "We made ourselves available to welcome these people in the way that we have welcomed hundreds of others through the humanitarian corridors. We are waiting to receive further details to allow us to put "diffuse reception" in place, which is adapted to the differing needs of people and families. Grateful thanks to the Italians who have provided support, financial or otherwise, and continue to do so; we shall continue to apply our resources which we have for the benefit of the poor, whether Italian or foreigner. True spirit of the Bible: 'treat the stranger as if he were one of your own (Leviticus 19:34), we hope that Italy and Europe will return to a policy of welcome".

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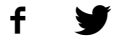
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