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Press Release:

Film Celebrities Meet Top EU Officials to Raise their Voices for Refugees



Film Celebrities Meet Today with Top EU Officials Schulz and Timmermans to Raise their Voices for Refugees

French director **Michel Hazanavicius** (5 Oscars, 6 Césars, 7 Baftas, and 3 Golden Globes for *THE ARTIST*), Italian actress and director **Valeria Bruni Tedeschi**, German cinema icon **Hanna Schygulla**, French director **Laurent Cantet** (Palme d'or for *ENTRE LES MURS*), internationally acclaimed Hungarian director **Béla Tarr**, and popular Polish actor **Andrzej Chyra** have come to Brussels to hand over the appeal **FOR A THOUSAND LIVES: BE HUMAN**. On October 20th, these auteurs and actors have several meetings in the European Parliament: They will meet with President **Martin Schulz**, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs **Claude Moraes**, and Chairwoman of the Committee on Culture and Education, **Silvia Costa**. Afterwards, they will go to the European Commission and meet with First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans**. The delegation will appeal to the European Union to take measures ensuring member states respond to refugee matters by acting jointly, in solidarity, and with humanity, in accordance with the EU's founding values.

The delegation is speaking for the appeal's 5,500 signatories, including: Emmanuelle Béart, Susanne Bier, Juliette Binoche, Dany Boon, Constantin Costa-Gavras, Daniel Craig, Alfonso Cuarón, Jean Pierre & Luc Dardenne, Julie Gayet, Michael Haneke, Agnieszka Holland, Isabelle Huppert, Aki Kaurismäki, Claude Lanzmann, Mike Leigh, Ken Loach, Sophie Marceau, Jiří Menzel, Cristian Mungiu, Joshua Oppenheimer, Pawel Pawlikowski, Corneliu Porumboiu, Jonathan Pryce, Isabella Rossellini, Volker Schlöndorff, Til Schweiger, Ulrich Seidl, Léa Seydoux, Bertrand Tavernier, and

Thomas Vinterberg. They are addressing the following points:

- The European Union must offer legal ways for people fleeing war and terror to seek protection in the EU.
- European nations must act in solidarity. The Dublin Convention has led to precarious situations for refugees and unjust burdens on the EU's border countries. An equitable relocation of refugees among the E.U. states is a first step, but the system must take into account the asylum seeker's individual circumstances.
- European countries must create living conditions for refugees that embrace personal freedom, physical safety without restriction, and offer access to work and education.

The appeal was read at the closing ceremonies of the Venice FF and San Sebastian FF both broadcast live on Italian and Spanish TV. Film festivals and leading institutions in most of the European countries are backing the initiative and will echo the appeal in their coming editions.

A press conference is taking place on Oct 20th at 14:30 in the Press Room of the European Parliament PHS 0A50.

Statements, photos and texts in various languages will be continually made available after the meetings throughout the afternoon.

www.for-a-1000-lives.eu/press-releases/

The press conference will be webstreamed on EP Live and the video recording will be available on video on demand (VOD)

<http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Assetdetail.aspx?ref=I110509>

<http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Assetdetail.aspx?ref=I110696>

[More information: www.for-a-1000-lives.eu](http://www.for-a-1000-lives.eu)

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