

EU-Asylum-Policy and Asylum Emergency Shelter Air Domes as Problem-Solving Approach

It is indisputable fact to us that we want to and are obligated to help people who are seeking asylum. But the explosively growing numbers of both male and female asylum seekers are problematic, the housing of whom is becoming increasingly harder and poses an extreme challenge to communities, towns and counties. And yet we need to assume that the stream of refugees will continue to grow and could last for years. In order to keep the acceptance and willingness to help in society high and not jeopardized, in our opinion it is important to offer locally amicable solutions.

At the moment - for example in Bavaria in the counties of Munich and Ebersberg - gymnasiums have to be provided as emergency shelters, because there are no other housing possibilities available. Local schools and associations are abruptly deprived of their sport and training venues. The schools, associations and users are faced with massive problems to keep up their training and match operations at all. This leads to significant cut backs and increases the resentment of the population.

Thus, from the perspective of the taxpayers association, all solutions that can be standardized and quickly reproduced and are also usable long-term (winter and weather proof) should be put to the test. In the interest of the taxpayers one should also not lose sight of the cost involved.

Currently under discussion as temporary solutions are tents, containers and air domes for up to 300 people. In our opinion, tents do not qualify as long-term solutions especially in Nordic countries since they are not winter-proof and do not offer an adequate standard and too little privacy for so many people.

Containers and air domes are both winter- and weather-proof and would generally even be suited as long-term housing solutions for asylum seekers.

For reasons of space and housing quality (“all under one roof”), but especially for financial reasons, an air dome emergency shelter solution is more suitable for the housing of asylum seekers from the taxpayer association’s point of view.

The use of air domes as emergency shelters has already been successfully tested by in Berlin (Germany).

Together with the Bavarian District Administrator, Christoph Göbel, we visited the local air dome emergency shelter in Berlin. This especially developed air dome offers a very high standard and high housing quality. It is not only winter-proof, but also 100 percent storm-proof. Compared to a container shelter, the air dome solution is about 50% less expensive than comparable housing in containers (200-300 persons per dome). By contrast, a container solution is not only expensive; it generally does not offer everything weather-proof under one roof.

Permanent buildings and containers often create the worry in residents of it being a permanent institution. With air domes this is not to be expected. Conflicts can be prevented, on-site conflict potential respectively be reduced.

An additional advantage of this air dome solution is the possible future use in disaster management, for the anchors of the air domes remain in the ground even after the air dome is dismantled. Once sites are equipped, they can be reactivated without greater effort in case of disaster.

The Bavarian District Administrator, Christoph Göbel, is utilising this air dome concept in the county of Munich as emergency shelters for asylum seekers and is thus creating a swift solution for the housing problem. The taxpayers association supports this initiative. Bavaria and the county of Munich are therefore pioneers and set a Europe-wide standard.

The Bavarian and Taxpayers Associations of Europe are convinced that air domes are currently the best and most efficient solution for reception centres or emergency shelters in order to find higher acceptance within the population, and could also be a quick Europe-wide solution.

The media reports more and more on the topic of housing asylum seekers. Quite varying, often wrong ideas are being circulated about air domes.

It would be best of interested people and critics alike would see the emergency shelter in Berlin (Germany) for themselves or visit the air domes in Upper Bavaria once they are constructed.

What is thus far happening with refugees in some European countries is often inhuman. Since a lot of countries are swept over by waves of refugees, they often act without any kind of concept and pass on the responsibility. This strains the solidarity among the EU-countries. The ones to suffer are the refugees. We should do everything to change that!

The topic of refugees has to finally be handled in a European way, with solidarity and most and foremost structured and planned.

TAE Idea Sketch for the Asylum-Solution

Develop EU-Asylum-Standard

- **Common Standards and procedures for asylum in Europe with the respective EU-budgeting**
 - Registration and emergency shelters (e.g. air domes up to 3,000 people) at the external borders of the EU
 - EU-wide cost accounting for asylum (transparency)
 - fair distribution key or reimbursement
- **Expedition of asylum procedures**
 - Intensive inspection of individual country situations
 - Kosovo und Albania for example are not unsafe countries, but a lot of asylum seekers come from these actually safe third countries
- **Digitalised registration of asylum seekers**
e.g. picture, thumb print, eyes etc., so refugees can be uniquely registered and thus cannot try under a “new” name somewhere else if rejected.

Better Integration

- **Educational programmes and support** of refugees
- **Economy** (education and workforce)
- **Academics** (education, advanced education e.g. for an easier recognition of degrees)

Improve Advancement in Third Countries

- **Youth-Advancement-Programmes in third countries**
market- and future-driven education and advanced training

Inquiries:

Taxpayers Association of Europe (TAE)
Secretary General, Dipl.-Kfm. Michael Jäger

Office Munich
Nymphenburger Str. 118
D-80636 Munich
+49 89 126008 20 Phone
+49 89 126008 47 Fax

Office Brussels
Avenue de la Renaissance 1
B-1000 Brussels
+32 2 740 20 38 Phone
+32 2 740 20 32 Fax

E-Mail Michael.Jaeger@taxpayers-europe.org
Web www.taxpayers-europe.org

Appendix

Pictures of a Refugee Interim Shelter Berlin (Germany)

Pictures: PARANET Germany GmbH,
Publication and use of the images, stating
the source allowed

