

We, the promoters of the Manifest "[Europe, yes we want](#)", have chosen to celebrate *Europe Day*, May 9, by giving our support to one of the movements organized by the civil society in order to help refugees: the NGO [ProActiva Open Arms](#).

ProActiva Open Arms is an organization based in Badalona that emerged from the civil society and operates on the coast of Lesbos preventing refugees who arrive by sea from drowning in the narrow sea strip that separates Turkey and the Greek island. As its founder Òscar Camps states, "*This is not a humanitarian crisis, but a crisis of humanity.*"

Whereas the NGO began its work with funds contributed by the volunteers themselves, it is now financed through private donations and lacks financial support to continue its work.

With our initial Manifest we tried to push the European institutions to take steps to support people involved in this refugee crisis. Now, once stated that only civil society has initiated effective actions - even if only on a small scale - we decided to join efforts with one of these organizations.

However, we must recognize the efforts of some local councils and the Catalan regional government that have offered to host a considerable number of these migrants. Nonetheless, these offers do not succeed since the state government does not fulfil its job as is does not administratively approve the entry of these people into the country.

We also have to admit here that everyone - from civil society to organizations, administrations, etc. - has to continue working to change the attitude of the European states and the Commission in order to actually allow these people, refugees from wars and conflicts, to be welcomed. As of now, the work in Lesbos is necessary, but so is the entrance to a Europe that closes its doors - right now.