To be or not to be a European citizen

Hello everyone!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Omar. I'm not a European citizen. I'm Tunisian. I've lived in France since the first of April 2023. I can speak several languages: my native language is Italian, I speak fluent Arabic, I speak French pretty well, I study English and Spanish and I've learned a little bit of German. I think I'm in the right position to speak on behalf of all immigrants. Immigrants are humans like you and me but they didn't have the chance to live a normal life.

Imagine how afraid the migrants are to face the sea, hoping to land on an unknown place. They must face a huge risk! A lot of migrants have died in the sea. These people know that very well. It's not an easy choice to risk your life at sea. They leave their home country secretly because there is a light of hope.

Why do refugees leave their home country? Some refugees are forced to leave their country because of the war. Others for political reasons. Others because of hunger. Others were threatened to death. Imagine if your country was at war. Imagine if you don't have fundamental rights. Imagine if you suffer from hunger. Imagine if you are threatened to death. Would you not leave your home country? According to article 14 (fourteen) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution". Asylum

seekers are seeking for protection. Many asylum seekers are seeking for the protection of the European Union. Why? The European Union have strong values like justice, solidarity, tolerance and equality between women and men.

Since I have come to France, I have been a student at Collège Le Ferronay. It's not easy every day. What is the most difficult is to communicate in French which is not my native language. With my family, we had to change our way of life. But I'm happy to be here. I am happy to be a student at Collège Le Ferronay. I am happy to be the goalkeeper of my football team. I am happy to be an ERASMUS+ student. We are working on the duty to remember. I have a German partner, Romy, at Max-Planck-Gymnasium in Lahr. I was happy when I recently visited Germany with my classmates and my teachers. Even if I am not a European citizen, I feel European. I share the same values like justice, solidarity, tolerance and equality between women and men. When I was with my German partners, I visited the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Its circular building gives the impression that it is not finished. Indeed the European Union is still under construction. Immigrants are also building the future of the European Union. Let's try to be sympathetic to them! Today, I am not a European citizen but one day I would like to be a European citizen.

Thank you for listening to me! Thank you for spreading tolerance!