



## UN Summit for Refugees

One year after the EU-wide mandatory relocation scheme was adopted, its implementation still falls short of expectations, with only 5,651 relocations having taken place from Greece and Italy as of 28 September. This reflects the EU's perpetual struggle of finding adequate solutions, both for the refugees and migrants already living on its territory and those newly arriving in Greece and Italy every day.

The Bratislava Summit's [conclusions](#) demonstrate that consensus between EU member states on migration issues only exists in the area of border management and security. In other areas, no common solutions seem likely to be adopted.

In addition, the Visegrad Four countries have initiated a complete shift in EU policies by proposing a new concept of "flexible solidarity". Such an approach seems to have had an impact at the highest political level. According to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in his State of the

## Bratislava Summit Roadmap

Union address, "solidarity must be given voluntarily. It must be from the heart. It cannot be forced". As the political climate surrounding migration steadily deteriorates, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find common solutions.

On a global level, the management of refugee flows also remains a major challenge, as was confirmed by the first-ever United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants taking place on 19 September. Although the commitments that were made are not legally binding and fall short of the expectations of many NGOs, various concrete measures were adopted.

A number of other developments in recent months made this a rather active summer, also with regard to numerous reports and statistics that were published. This autumn promises to be busy too, as important legislative proposals such as the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) will be debated, and progress on visa liberalisation with Turkey may determine whether Europe will once again witness the mass movements of last year.

## CEAS Reform Package

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## SPECIAL FOCUS



## United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants

The UN General Assembly hosted its first-ever high-level summit on large movements of refugees and migrants in New York on 19 September. The summit gathered world leaders for a day to discuss the challenges of and possible responses to mass migration, and adopted a [declaration](#) outlining broad commitments. Most of these commitments, which are not legally binding, remained quite general and largely restated existing provisions and broad goals without mentioning specific ways of achieving them. However, reaffirming the 1951 Refugee Convention as the foundation of international refugee protection could be seen as an achievement in its own right given the current political climate. Some more concrete measures were also adopted, namely starting negotiations that will lead to an international conference and global compact for safe, orderly and

regular migration, a separate compact on refugees (both by 2018) and developing guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations. A new campaign against xenophobia was also launched.

By recognising the global nature of challenges and the need for international solutions, the declaration appears to represent a paradigm shift away from national solutions, towards a global migration management mechanism – or at least a more integrated crisis response. Nevertheless, [several](#) NGOs have criticised the outcome of the summit as insufficiently addressing protection needs and ignoring issues like child detention and internally displaced people (IDPs).

**“the declaration appears to represent a paradigm shift away from national solutions”**

A number of European leaders who attended the summit made statements that reflected European priorities, particularly the reduction of irregular migration and hardening borders. European Council President Tusk emphasised the need to restore order at the EU’s external borders and reduce migratory flows to Europe in [comments](#) that seemed to be geared more towards a domestic EU audience than a global one. British Prime Minister Theresa May’s [speech](#) went even further, recalling countries’ rights to control their borders and to reduce onward flows of “illegal and uncontrolled migration”. The heads of several European countries more affected by refugee flows, including [Austria](#), [Bulgaria](#) and [Slovenia](#) also focused on the need to reduce numbers and enhance border security measures, while speeches from countries that are less directly affected such as [Portugal](#), [Romania](#) and [Estonia](#) were more about migrant integration and humanitarian considerations. These diverging views once again reflected the wide breadth of EU member state perspectives on migration issues.

Perhaps the most constructive EU contributions came from EU officials attending side events. Speaking at a [roundtable](#) on addressing the vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants during the summit, European Commissioner for Migration Dimitris Avramopoulos reminded participants of the EU’s leading role in providing humanitarian aid globally, and that the EU’s humanitarian assistance to refugees worldwide was increased from €1.35 billion in 2015 to €1.7 billion in 2016. He also reaffirmed the EU’s commitment to resettlement, though the 22,000 places allocated under the EU’s scheme cover only a tiny fraction of overall resettlement needs. High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini also attended the summit, and [spoke](#) about a proposed External Investment Plan that would mobilise up to €44 billion to tackle the root causes of migration in Africa and the Middle East. This programme would be the largest investment plan ever to have been implemented in the region.



## EU Summit in Bratislava

Children on the Move

Immigration Detention

CEAS

Mobile EU citizens

EU heads of state and government met in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 16 September to discuss current developments and future EU action on a broad range of topics. A [roadmap](#) with objectives and concrete measures was agreed, and migration/external borders was one of the priority areas. The roadmap states **three main objectives**:

- Never to allow return to uncontrolled flows of last year and further bring down number of irregular migrants;
- ensure full control of our external borders and get back to Schengen;
- broaden EU consensus on long-term migration policy and apply the principles of responsibility and solidarity.

In order to implement these goals, the following measures were decided:

- Full commitment to implementing the EU-Turkey statement as well as continued support to the countries of the Western Balkans;
- commitment today by a number of member states to offer immediate assistance to strengthen the protection of Bulgaria's border with Turkey, and continue support to other frontline states;
- before the end of the year, full capacity for rapid reaction of the European Border and Coast Guard, now signed into law;
- migration compacts for cooperation and dialogue with third countries to lead to reduced flows of illegal migration and increased return rates, to be assessed by the December European Council;
- work to be continued to broaden EU consensus in terms of long-term migration policy, including on how to apply the principles of responsibility and solidarity in the future.

In addition, some measures affecting EU citizen mobility were also agreed in order to improve the EU's internal security. These include the adoption of **systematic identity checks for EU citizens** crossing the external borders as well as setting up a **European**

**Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)** to allow for advance checks of visa-exempt travellers.

The roadmap essentially confirms that border management is the only area in which member states can still come to some sort of agreement. However, strong differences of opinion on specific measures were evident immediately following the summit. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi [refused](#) to participate in a joint press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande, citing dissatisfaction with the summit's outcomes on migration and the economy. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban [said](#) the meeting had failed to change the EU's migration policy, which he called "self-destructive and naïve".

## "Western European countries no longer seem to insist on implementing the Commission's quota-based relocation scheme"

in the EU's approach to the refugee crisis, as Western European countries no longer seem to insist on implementing the Commission's quota-based relocation scheme.

Nevertheless, member states were largely receptive to the ideas outlined in a [Joint Statement](#) by the Visegrad Four countries which promoted the principle of "flexible solidarity". This would allow member states to decide on specific types of assistance that take their experience and potential into account. As reported by [EurActiv](#), this marks a turning point

# State of the Union Speech

CEAS

Mobile EU citizens

Integration

Migration was a recurring issue in European Commission President Juncker's [State of the Union](#) address on 14 September, but perhaps surprisingly, it was not one of the main themes that were discussed. Indeed, unlike last year's State of the Union speech, this year's speech did not focus on migration and the refugee crisis. Nevertheless, President Juncker stressed the importance of tackling the root causes of migration and announced the launch of an **Investment Plan for Africa and the Neighbourhood**, which could raise up to €44 billion in investments, and double that amount if member states contribute as well. Security was another important topic, with Juncker underlining the necessity of the new **European Border and Coast Guard** and lauding the timely fashion in which it was formalised by the Parliament and Council. Solidarity was another key theme in Juncker's speech. Juncker announced a newly proposed **European Solidarity Corps** which would enable young people to volunteer where help is needed most in Europe, including and particularly in emergency situations involving refugees.

# EU-Turkey Statement tested after coup attempt

Immigration Detention

CEAS

Only a few months after being signed, the so-called EU-Turkey deal on irregular migration to Greece experienced a series of setbacks as a result of a failed coup attempt on 15 July and subsequent Turkish claims that Europe is not delivering on its promises under the deal. The UNHCR registered a [spike in arrivals](#) immediately following the attempted coup, and returns were suspended after Turkish liaison officers on Greek islands were withdrawn. Returns cannot resume until new Turkish officers arrive. Furthermore,

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan accused the EU of providing only a fraction of the €3 billion promised under the deal, and said that “[European governments are not honest](#)”. The European Commission [denied](#) Erdoğan’s claim, stating that around €740 million of the €3 billion pledged has been already allocated and that the Commission was about to approve another allocation of €1.4 billion. Nevertheless, despite these disagreements and tensions over the ongoing EU-Turkey visa liberalisation process, Turkey’s Europe Minister Omar Celik [reassured](#) EU foreign ministers in September that Turkey would continue to implement the deal even if visa liberalisation stalls. However, he also warned that Turkey would not participate in any new mechanism if visa liberalisation is blocked.

## Greece under pressure to reinstate Dublin rules

Children on the Move

Immigration Detention

CEAS

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière indirectly called for Dublin transfers to Greece to [resume](#), after telling journalists that European measures to improve conditions in Greece must have tangible consequences. However, in [recommendations](#) published in late September, the European Commission stated that more progress on reception facilities, access to asylum procedures and structures for vulnerable applicants were needed before a resumption of Dublin transfers to Greece could be considered. According to the Commission, a future resumption of Dublin transfers would need to be gradual, on a case-by-case basis, in order to avoid overburdening the asylum system.

## Bulgaria increasingly fears large migrant influx

Children on the Move

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As the EU-Turkey statement appears to be ever more fragile and smugglers look for new routes to Europe, Bulgaria has taken preemptive action to keep migrants out. Bulgarian authorities [announced](#) an extension of the existing border fence with Turkey as well as the construction of a new, 484km-long border fence with Greece. Ahead of a visit to Ankara, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov stressed the need for good relations with Turkey in order to manage refugee flows, and [criticised](#) the EU for the lack of solidarity among member states. Sofia subsequently [requested](#) Frontex to deploy 300 border guards to Bulgaria. This request was [echoed](#) in European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker’s State of the Union speech on 14 September, in which he called for 200 border guards and 50 vehicles to be sent to Bulgaria.

## Referendum in Hungary rejects EU relocation plan

CEAS

On 2 October, Hungarians were called to vote in a [referendum](#) asking citizens whether they “want the EU to be able to mandate the obligatory resettlement of non-Hungarian citizens into Hungary even without the approval of the National Assembly”. The referendum was largely viewed as a political move by the governing Fidesz party under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and was widely criticised by opposition groups, which called on their supporters to boycott the referendum. A large majority of just over 98% voted “No”, but only 43% of voters participated in the referendum. At least 50% voter turnout would have been necessary in order for the result to be legally valid. Nevertheless, Prime

Minister Orban called it a victory and promised to renegotiate the relocation scheme in Brussels.

## Major changes for EU citizens in UK unlikely

Mobile EU citizens

In [comments](#) made ahead of the G20 summit in China, British Prime Minister Theresa May excluded the possibility of the UK adopting a fundamentally different approach towards immigration from EU member states. EU citizens would retain preferential access to the UK, and an Australian-style point-based system would not be adopted either.

## UK builds new wall due to tensions in Calais

Children on the Move

Immigration Detention

UK Minister of State for Immigration Robert Goodwill [announced](#) the construction of a 1km wall along the Calais port access road on 6 September designed to prevent migrants from boarding trucks destined for the UK. The wall is part of a £17 million (approximately €20 million) joint Franco-British package of security measures to further secure the port. The announcement came a day after French truck drivers blocked the port access road in order to [protest](#) against increasingly violent attempts by migrants to board trucks heading to the UK. The measures come at a time in which the Calais “Jungle” refugee camp is particularly overcrowded, and still includes around 800 children who have not been resettled to the UK despite the passage of [legislation](#) that would allow it.

## LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS



## Commission proposes reform package for CEAS

Children on the Move

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CEAS

Integration

On 13 July, following the publication of a first round of reform proposals in May, the European Commission put forward a second set with a view to harmonise and complete the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Overall, the goal is to:

- Simplify and shorten the asylum procedure and decision-making;

- discourage secondary movement of asylum seekers and;
- increase the prospects of those entitled to international protection.

Criticism towards these new proposals has been strong and revolved particularly around their focus on restrictive measures towards asylum seekers. Negotiations within and between the Council and European Parliament are now in the early stages, and it is unlikely that the legislative process will be concluded quickly. As is reflected in the outcomes of the Bratislava Summit, member states' current priority at the moment lies with border management and reducing the number of arrivals, rather than reforming the EU's asylum system.

The package includes the following four proposals:

- **Replacement of the Asylum Procedures Directive with a new Regulation**

In an effort to reduce the differences in recognition rates between member states and ensure effective common procedural guarantees for asylum seekers, the European Commission [proposes](#) to replace the recast 2013 Asylum Procedures Directive with a Regulation. With a view to harmonise rules on safe countries, the Commission makes the application of the safe country concepts mandatory and hopes to replace national lists with a European one. Its provisions foresee compulsory sanctions for abuse, lack of cooperation and secondary movements of asylum seekers, for instance by rejecting applications for accelerated procedures. At the same time, the new regulation would guarantee asylum seekers rights to a personal interview, as well as free legal assistance and representation during the administrative process. Moreover, safeguards for persons with special needs and unaccompanied minors are reinforced.

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) is particularly [concerned](#) about the obligation placed on member states to apply the "safe third country", "first country of asylum" and "safe country of origin" concepts, as these are legally questionable presumptions. However, the strengthened rules on the appointment of a guardian for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children within five days of their application and free legal assistance at both first and second instances for the examination of asylum claims can be welcomed.

- **Replacement of the Qualification Directive with a new Regulation**

The European Commission also seeks to [replace](#) the current Qualification Directive with a Regulation. Once again, this follows the aim of achieving greater convergence of recognition rates and the rights of beneficiaries of international protection, thus limiting secondary movement. The proposal includes a compulsory review of the beneficiaries' protection status on a regular basis and foresees the sanctioning of refugees who move to other member states. Furthermore, EU countries would have an obligation to assess the controversial concept of "internal protection alternative", stipulating that an individual could be refused protection on the basis of there being a safe place within the applicant's country of origin where they can reasonably relocate. In terms of integration, the Regulation would provide clarification regarding the rights and support of beneficiaries of international protection on the labour market and possible restrictions to social assistance. The right to integration measures would be broadened and require "full access" to socio-economic rights, including the recognition of qualifications and validation of skills.

It is important to note that the transformation of the Directive into a Regulation would not only obligate some member states with currently lower standards to improve them,



but would also prevent others from granting more favourable rights and longer permits to asylum seekers. With regard to integration, the Migration Policy Group [criticises](#) the lack of standards for the quality and extent of the integration to be granted by member states, in addition to the fact that the proposal overlooks the specific integration challenges of unaccompanied minors.

- **Reform of the Reception Conditions Directive**

With the [revision](#) of the Reception Conditions Directive, the European Commission aims at further harmonising standards among member states. In contrast to the two above-mentioned proposals, it is not planned to transform this Directive into a Regulation, as all consulted stakeholders agreed that member states should be allowed to establish more favourable conditions. In general, the recast would grant asylum seekers more rights in some areas while introducing more restrictive measures and sanctions in others. For instance, rules for quicker and more effective access of asylum seekers to the labour market stand alongside additional grounds for detention and the exclusion of asylum seekers from reception facilities if they are not located in the member state responsible for their application. In addition, member states are only required to provide access and support to language and integration measures to beneficiaries of international protection, but not asylum seekers.

With a view to the pronounced aim of limiting secondary movements through the harmonisation of reception standards, the Robert Schuman Foundation [stresses](#) that such harmonisation might not necessarily solve the issue of secondary movement, as this is oftentimes the result of the existence of established diaspora and member states' varying degrees of economic attractiveness. The Migration Policy Group [sees](#) the risk of the new sanction to delay and categorically exclude potentially large numbers of asylum seekers from receiving integration support based on reasons unrelated to their individual integration needs or actions in the country.

- **New Regulation for the creation of a Union Resettlement Framework**

This new regulation [aims](#) at creating a more harmonised, structured and permanent framework for resettlement across the EU, including a common set of standard procedures for the selection and treatment of resettlement candidates. The Council would establish annual resettlement plans, which would determine the total resettlement number and member states' quotas, as well as indicate overall geographical priorities. It would allow member states to express a preference for third-country nationals or stateless persons with family ties to that state, or socio-cultural links that could facilitate integration. Following a positive decision, member states would have to grant refugee or subsidiary protection, ensure free travel arrangements and offer pre-departure orientation programmes.

According to Amnesty International, this framework would [use](#) resettlement as a tool for migration control, instead of providing assistance to vulnerable refugees, as the proposal fails to mention the need to significantly increase resettlement numbers and heavily invest in the improvement of conditions for refugees in third countries. Similarly, Judith Sargentini, spokesperson for migration of the Greens in the European Parliament, [expressed](#) serious doubts as to its effectiveness, as it would rely on member states' willingness to engage in such a system.

# Council approves European Border and Coast Guard

Children on the Move

Immigration Detention

CEAS

Following the political agreement between the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the European Commission on 21 June, the Council [gave](#) its final approval to the European Border and Coast Guard on 14 September. This will consist of the current Frontex agency with expanded tasks and national border management authorities. The main focus of its activities will be the establishment of an operational strategy for border management and the coordination of assistance from all member states, ensuring an integrated European border management. Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 places various obligations on this new agency, including the adherence to human rights principles, and determines integrated border management to be a shared responsibility between the agency and national authorities. Its adoption paves the way for the European Border and Coast Guard to begin its activities on 6 October and will continue to be based in Warsaw.

## Other developments

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### Council approves EU maritime mission in Libya

On 30 August, the Council's Political and Security Committee formally [approved](#) the beginning of capacity building in and training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy by the EU within the framework of the ongoing EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA.

### Greece and Italy receive more EU funds

Greece and Italy were awarded increases in EU funding over the summer in order to build capacity in the areas of search and rescue, reception and medical care for refugees. The European Commission awarded an extra €82.6 million in emergency funding to Greece under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) on [22 July](#), and another €11 million to both Greece and Italy under the ISF on [29 July](#). European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides announced a further €115 million in additional funding under the EU Emergency Support Instrument on [10 September](#).

### Commission increases refugee support for Turkey

With a view to speeding up the implementation of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey established in November 2015, the European Commission [adopted](#) a special measure worth over €1.4 billion on 28 July. It will support refugees in Turkey in the areas of education, health, municipal and social infrastructure, as well as socio-economic matters. Furthermore, €79 million in previously allocated funds for humanitarian aid projects have been allocated to UN agencies, international organisations and NGOs. The largest humanitarian aid programme under the Facility was [announced](#) on 8 September, totalling €348 million in contributions by the EU and member states. Of the overall €3 billion made available for this Facility, €2.15 billion have been allocated, but only €181 million have been disbursed so far.

## Council agrees migration-related 2017 EU budget

On 20 July, the Council's Permanent Representatives Committee [agreed](#) its position on the 2017 draft EU budget, in preparation for negotiations with the European Parliament. The Council's positions provide €5.2 billion in migration-related commitments, which include both internal actions, such as the management of migration flows, and external actions targeted to address the root causes of migration. This amount also includes €200 million for the EU's emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other member states disproportionately affected by refugee flows, as well as €750 million for the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The Council formally [adopted](#) its position on 12 September, which serves as a mandate to the Slovak Presidency to negotiate the 2017 EU budget with the European Parliament.

## Mid-term review of the 2014-2020 EU budget

On 14 September, the European Commission [presented](#) its mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020). The proposed package will free up an additional €6.3 billion in financing by 2020. Next to boosting growth and jobs, the areas of migration, security and external border control would receive the largest proportion of the proposed budget until 2020 (€2.5 billion). The corresponding legislative proposals will now have to be agreed by the European Parliament and the Council.

# ECJ CASE LAW & LEGAL ACTIONS



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### ECJ Case [C-165/14](#) *Alfredo Rendón Marín v Administración del Estado* and Case [C-304/14](#) *Secretary of State for the Home Department v CS*, 13 September 2016

These two cases involve two separate but similar incidents in which non-EU nationals with EU citizen minor children in their custody were not granted a residence permit and received a deportation order from their respective host member states due to their criminal records. In the first case involving two children, one child has Spanish nationality and the other has Polish nationality, while in the other, the only child has British nationality. In their respective requests for a preliminary ruling, the Spanish and UK courts dealing with the cases asked the ECJ whether the existence of a criminal record may justify residence permit refusal and expulsion given the presence of minor EU citizen children in their sole care.

In its judgement, the ECJ stated that EU law does not allow automatic residence permit refusal and expulsion from the territory of the EU for non-EU nationals with EU citizen minors in their custody on the sole ground that they have a criminal record. According to the Court's reasoning, removing the children's parent from the territory of the EU would effectively deprive those children of their right as EU citizens to freely reside in any member state. However, the ECJ points out that derogations to this rule are admissible if the personal conduct of the individual in question presents a serious threat to public policy and public security. This must be evaluated in accordance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principle of proportionality, include factors such as the individual's personal situation and level of integration, and interpret the concepts of public policy and public security strictly.

## A CLOSER LOOK... FROM EPIM GRANTEES



## Unaccompanied children, by Faros

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Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) travelling alone in Europe are not a new phenomenon. However, a large increase in their numbers has been noticed since the latest refugee crisis began and the chaotic situation has led to approximately 10,000 child disappearances within the EU, according to Europol reports. Due to their particular vulnerability, UASC have been exempted from forcible returns to Turkey, as foreseen in the EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016. These new arrivals add to the UASC already present among the 57,000 refugees stranded in Greece. As a result, the national agency in charge of assigning children to suitable shelters (E.K.K.A.) currently has a waiting list of approximately 1,500 UASC for whom there is no available place at the moment. The national capacity for UASC was 330 beds prior to the crisis, and although new facilities are opening, the pace is simply insufficient to meet increasing needs.

As national infrastructure struggles to accommodate the new realities on the ground, UASC find themselves in one of the following three situations: being detained in closed centres for UASC on the islands, thereby experiencing the psychological distress of forced confinement; staying in open camps together with adults and families, which exposes them to potential abuse; or living on the streets alone, thus becoming extremely vulnerable to sexual exploitation, traffickers and other perils as they try to cover their own basic needs. Each new shelter, such as Faros Home, helps remove children from these

dangerous situations, one child at a time, providing them with a more suitable environment. However, it is a long-term process and difficulties do not end there.

Even though the Western Balkan route has been completely closed since March 2016, UASC absconding has not stopped. As Greece has traditionally been a transit country, with more than 1 million people arriving in 2015 alone but only 13,197 filing an asylum claim with the national authorities, the fact that children flee from shelters has been largely assumed to be a 'normal' result of children's attempts to reach final destinations in Northern Europe. However, it is now becoming clear that this phenomenon has deeper underlying causes that shelters and other stakeholders need to address. Faros is currently conducting research with the support of EPIM in order to issue recommendations on how to prevent absconding at the national level, since a relevant national policy is lacking.

Moreover, there is a persistent lack of an efficient guardianship system, while family reunification processes are showing signs of excessive delays. Both factors certainly contribute to absconding and disturbing disappearances, yet impediments to durable solutions that will serve the best interest of the child persist.

Finally, Greece's new role as a host, rather than a transit country, is revealing other shortcomings in the integration process of children into Greek society, such as their inclusion in the Greek public school system. This marks the beginning of a new debate and yet another struggle for many.

## FACTS & FIGURES

**6.8% of the EU's population is foreign born, as opposed to 28.2% in Australia, 21.8% in Canada, and 14.5% in the United States.**

Source: Eurostat [Press release](#), 2 September 2016

## New IOM and UNHCR statistics on arrivals

### CEAS

Recent data by the International Organisation for Migration and the UNHCR shows the following:

- As of 5 October, a total of **302,679 arrivals to Europe** have been **recorded** since the beginning of the year. 167,015 have arrived in Greece and 131,860 in Italy.

- In Greece, 48% of refugee arrivals since January 2016 [originate](#) from Syria, 25% from Afghanistan and 15% from Iraq.
- 3,498 have been found dead or missing in the Mediterranean Sea. According to IOM, this [represents](#) a 23% increase in deaths during the first half of 2016 compared to the same period last year.

## Commission report on relocation and resettlement

### CEAS

On 28 September, the European Commission [published](#) its sixth report on relocation and resettlement, disclosing the following numbers:

- As of 27 September, 4,455 relocations from [Greece](#) and 1,196 relocations from [Italy](#) have taken place. In light of these still low numbers and the dire situation in Greek hotspots, UNHCR [called upon](#) European states to increase their relocation efforts.
- As of 26 September, 10,695 people of the agreed 22,504 have been [resettled](#) under the July 2015 scheme and the 1:1 mechanism with Turkey. Refugees are mainly being resettled from Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

## Eurostat statistics on asylum in the EU

### CEAS

As Eurostat statistics from 22 September [reveal](#), the number of first time asylum seekers increased by 6% in the second quarter of 2016 (April - June 2016), compared with the first quarter of 2016. In total, 306,000 asylum seekers applied for international protection, among them 90,500 Syrians and 50,300 Afghans. The majority (60%) applied for asylum in Germany, which had the highest rate of registered first-time applicants, followed by Hungary, Austria and Greece. The lowest rates were observed in Slovakia, Romania, Portugal and the Czech Republic. At the end of June 2016, almost 1.1 million asylum applications were pending.

## Relevant reports

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### Report on European asylum procedures

On 7 September, the Asylum Information Database (AIDA), managed by ECRE, [launched](#) a report entitled “Admissibility, responsibility and safety in European asylum procedures”. It sheds light on the limited and fragmented application of admissibility and safe country concepts in 20 European countries. Next to discussing the recent reform of the CEAS, it looks into the implementation of the Dublin Regulation and the emergency relocation scheme. Despite the extremely slow implementation rates overall, it finds that countries like Portugal and France have established efficient processes for the swift processing of claims by persons relocated to their territory and their allocation to the different regions.

## **Report on refugee reception in Greece**

On 13 July, The Aire Centre and ECRE [published](#) a report entitled “With Greece: Recommendations for refugee protection”. It scrutinises the recent transformation of the Greek asylum system, the procedural complexity of accessing asylum, as well as the shortcomings related to the provision of information and legal assistance to asylum seekers in Greece. It finds that refugees in Greece are still confronted with a lack of simple and clear information, as well as significant gaps in legal assistance.

## **Report on refugee and migrant children**

UNICEF’s recent report “Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children” [presents](#) global data on the nearly 50 million children that have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced. It documents the global nature of childhood migration and displacement, highlighting challenges faced by child migrants and refugees in every region.

## **Study on obstacles to EU citizen mobility**

A study [published](#) on 23 September by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizen’s Rights and Constitutional Affairs offers an in-depth analysis of the persisting barriers to free movement for EU citizens and their family members. It also scrutinises discriminatory restrictions to free movement, measures to counter the abuse of rights and refusals of entry and residence, as well as expulsions.

## **Report on the detention of minors in Greece**

Human Rights Watch published a [report](#) on 8 September about the widespread practice of detaining unaccompanied migrant children for prolonged periods in often substandard conditions in Greece. The report includes several specific examples based on interviews conducted with unaccompanied minors in Greece.

## **Report on migration and refugee management**

A recent report by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) entitled “Europe’s refugees and migrants: Hidden flows, tightened borders and spiralling costs” [addresses](#) the gap between what is needed and what can realistically be achieved in refugee and migration management. It looks at recent data on refugee and migrants flows and the cost of the European policy response, making a number of recommendations on the ways in which the EU can better manage the movement of people to, and within, its borders.

## **Report on reception conditions in Hungary**

On 27 September, Amnesty International [published](#) a scathing report about the treatment of refugees and migrants inside and attempting to enter Hungary. It describes violent abuse, arcane asylum procedures, push-backs at the border and unlawful detention. According to the report, Hungary’s restrictive measures also have a serious impact on Serbia, where migrants spend long periods in poor conditions in order to enter Hungary through dedicated “transit zones” at the border.

# EU Funding opportunities

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## Horizon 2020 - greater priority for migration

On 25 July, the European Commission [announced](#) the adjustment of its 2017 research funding plans in order to make migration a greater priority for EU policy-oriented research, with a budget of €8.5 billion. Against the background of the migration crisis, funding is made available to coordinate research communities and make policy recommendations to facilitate the integration of migrants into the labour market. In total, a package of €11 million is foreseen for these actions.

## 2016 EU integration fund priorities

On 20 July, the European Commission [published](#) the 2016 work programme for Union actions in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). Among others, the programme aims to promote actions on the integration of third-country nationals. The corresponding call for proposals regarding integration will be published in the fourth quarter of 2016 with a budget of €9.5 million (90% EU co-financing).

## Call for proposals

In the framework of the “Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme”, the following calls for proposals have been opened or will soon be opened:

- Capacity building on right of the child and child protection for professionals in asylum and migration
  - [call out](#) on 13.09.2016 – Deadline: 13.12.2016;
- Support dialogue and exchange of best practice in fostering tolerance and mutual respect
  - [call out](#) on 15.09.2016 – Deadline: 05.01.2017
- Inclusion and participation of EU citizens in their host EU country’s civic and political life
  - [call out](#) on 17.11.2016 – Deadline: 17.01.2017

## EU CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS

### European Council and Council of the European Union



21-22 October

European Council



13-14 October

JHA Council

### European Parliament



24-27 October

Plenary Session



21-24 November

Plenary Session





30 Nov. - 1 Dec.

Plenary Session



12-13, 17, 20 October

LIBE Committee Meeting



7-8, 17, 28-29 November

LIBE Committee Meeting

### Other events



24-25 October

[Movements, Borders, Rights? Feminist perspectives on global issues in Europe](#), European Women's Lobby, Brussels



16 November

[Reforming the Common European Asylum System: Towards a Unified, Fair and Effective Policy](#), Public Policy Exchange, Brussels

This document provides a focused analysis of recent EU-level policy-making, legislation and jurisprudence relevant to EPIM's sub-funds on (1) immigration detention; (2) Reforms of the Common European Asylum System; (3) Children on the move, (4) Mobile EU citizens' access to social benefits and (5) Integration and covers the period from 9 July 2016 to 5 October 2016. We kindly ask the readers to keep in mind that the present Policy Update is composed of a selection of documents and does not claim to be exhaustive.

Should you, as representatives from EPIM's Partner Foundations or EPIM-supported organisations, have questions related to the analysis provided in this document or on EU developments in the field of migration and integration in general, you are invited to contact the authors ([m.funk@epc.eu](mailto:m.funk@epc.eu), [n.rose@epc.eu](mailto:n.rose@epc.eu) and [y.pascouau@epc.eu](mailto:y.pascouau@epc.eu)). The sole responsibility for the content lies with the author(s) and the content may not necessarily reflect the positions of EPIM, NEF or EPIM's Partner Foundations.

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