



Photo: ARIS MESSINIS / AFP

Parliament votes on Dublin files

Over the past months, negotiations on the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) have advanced further. The Dublin file in particular was given a push through a [vote](#) in the European Parliament, endorsing a proposal that included mandatory relocation quotas (see legislative developments section). Relocation was also at the forefront of the political discussion, given the problematic [situation](#) of a large number of refugees that have so far not been relocated from the hotspots on the Greek Aegean islands and that live in substandard conditions for the third winter in a row (see special focus section). Yet, due to its politically contentious nature, the file is not [expected](#) to make much progress at the next meeting of the European Council (14-15 December).

The European Commission [announced](#) that progress was made on the European Agenda on Migration (see reports section), including on its proposal for an EU resettlement framework. That proposal is now set to

The resettlement framework

be debated at negotiations between the European Council, European Commission and European Parliament after the legal basis for a regulation was endorsed by both the Council and Parliament (see legislative developments section). In addition, member states have so far pledged 34,400 places in a new [resettlement](#) scheme of 50,000 people that follows the 2015 one which is now ending.

In a bid to further strengthen the EU's border management, the Commission's proposal for a Schengen "Entry/Exit System (EES)" was [adopted](#) by the Parliament (see legislative developments section). Several MEPs voiced their [concerns](#) over provisions which would allow border authorities to store data of third country nationals for longer periods of time. The proposal now stands to be approved by the European Council.

At national level, immigration featured strongly in the debates running up to the Austrian election. Immigration issues, and more particularly questions on family reunification, are also reported to be at the basis of the [breakdown](#) of coalition talks in Germany.

Progress on the Schengen EES

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SPECIAL FOCUS



Photo: David Lohmueller

Winter has arrived on the Greek islands

Asylum Immigration Detention

Following the implementation of the EU-Turkey [Statement](#) of 18 March 2016, the problematic [conditions](#) in the refugee camps and so-called hotspots on the Greek Aegean islands have been the [focus](#) of NGOs' [concerns](#). These conditions are now [deteriorating](#) again with the onset of winter, for the third time since 2015. Whilst the hotspots were originally intended to provide short-term accommodation during the registration process, the time spent by some applicants for international protection has far exceeded this. Moreover, the pressure on Greek authorities is mounting as the number of arrivals to the islands of Lesbos, Samos and Leros has [outpaced](#) the rate at which the Greek authorities allow people to

transfer to the mainland. Members of the European Parliament debated the situation in the hotspots and a winter plan for asylum seekers in a plenary session in November. Sophie in 't Veld (MEP) [said](#) that it was an “absolute disgrace that in the richest continent in the world, we are worried about people making it through the winter”.

In this context, the UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, [urged](#) the Greek government to improve the living conditions on the Greek islands and called for financial support for the hotspots. Additionally, a number of NGOs and solidarity groups jointly [issued](#) a statement at the beginning of October in which they called to “open up the islands”. The joint statement was [signed](#) by 114 signatories from a wide range of member states. They urge the Greek government, the European Commission and the member states to, among other things, close the hotspots, provide appropriate, winter-proof shelters and stop the return of asylum seekers to Turkey. In the statement, they denounce the “inhumane winter living conditions” while stressing that the current situation is a result of the EU-Turkey statement and the EU’s overall approach to asylum and migration policies, rather than a product of the onset of winter or an increase in arrivals.

Similarly, at the end of November, a group of 20 human rights and aid groups [published](#) a joint statement to Greek officials and EU states in which they [pushed](#) for mainland transfers and improved conditions. Additionally, refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos also [started](#) a protest at the end of October, in which they called for permission to leave the islands and travel to the Greek mainland. Residents of Lesbos also went on strike to [protest](#) against European policies that, according to them, have turned the island into a “prison”. Moreover, more than a dozen aid groups [wrote](#) an open letter to Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras urging him to put an end to “the ongoing ‘containment policy’ of trapping asylum seekers on the [Aegean] islands”. They cited cases of asylum seekers who arrived in the early days of the EU-Turkey Statement and spent more than 19 months in the hotspots, and they pointed out that the hotspots on Samos and Lesbos are holding more than 8,300 people in facilities intended for only 3,000 individuals in conditions that have a severe impact on the mental health of the people living there.

In the plenary debate in the Parliament on the winter plan for asylum seekers, Commissioner Avramopoulos [assessed](#) the Turkey Statement as “enormously positive”. While acknowledging the positive impact EU funding had on providing shelter and services to refugees on the islands, he also called for the “shocking images” of the previous winter not to be repeated. Furthermore, the Commission [published](#) a working document on best practices with regards to the implementation of the hotspots. NGOs, however, [criticised](#) the report’s portrayal of hotspots as an operational success. The Greek government [vowed](#) to step up its efforts to protect refugees on the islands while defending the EU-Turkey Statement. It remains to be seen how the addressees of these complaints - namely, the Greek government, the European Commission and the member states - will react to the criticism beyond the above mentioned comments, and whether conditions in hotspots on the Greek islands will [change](#) during the second winter since the conclusion of the EU-Turkey Statement.



Developments in the Central Mediterranean

Asylum Immigration Detention

The Central Mediterranean Contact Group (CMCG) [held](#) its third meeting on 13 November 2017 in Bern, Switzerland, with the [aim](#) of facilitating the exchange of information among African and European countries that deal with [migration](#) along the Central Mediterranean route. The conference was attended by the Ministers of Interior of thirteen African and European states, representatives of international organisations and EU officials. Prior to the meeting, Amnesty International Switzerland [called](#) for the immediate opening of legal and safe routes for refugees to the EU while, in the same context, the ICRC [supported](#) a Swiss proposal to resettle certain refugees from Libya directly to Switzerland. The conference [culminated](#) in a joint declaration that set out measures to protect the most vulnerable migrants in Libya, to improve the conditions of women, children and unaccompanied minors in the detention centres, and to find alternatives to detention. Moreover, participants [vowed](#) to facilitate procedures for voluntary return and strengthen cooperation on return with countries of origin. They also pledged to promote safe and regular pathways by increasing resettlement efforts for people in transit countries along the Central Mediterranean route and for refugees already present in Libya.

A leaked internal [report](#) from the EU's border mission for Libya (EUBAM) from the beginning of this year mentioned "gross human rights violations and extreme abuse and mishandling of detainees" in Libyan detention centres. The EU has continuously been criticised for strengthening its links with Libya to "manage" migration while the country [lacks](#) viable state structures. Most recently, the EU's cooperation with the Libyan coast guard in intercepting and returning migrants to Libya was strongly [criticised](#) by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid bin Ra'ad al-Husseini. He called it "inhuman" and described the deteriorating [situation](#) in Libya as "an outrage to the conscience of humanity". The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muižnieks [sent](#) a letter to the Italian Minister of the Interior in which he asked for clarification regarding the nature of the Italian-Libyan cooperation in the Mediterranean. In this context, an Italian NGO also [filed](#) a lawsuit against the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in relation to the allocation of development aid funds to equip the Libyan coast guard. Moreover, reports have [surfaced](#) that the monitoring system in place to ensure that the Libyan coastguard treats rescued migrants in a dignified way was not operated by third parties, but by the Libyan authorities themselves. Against this background, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and a [number](#) of other international organisations and civil society actors [implored](#) the international community to pay greater attention to the situation in Libya. The extremely

dire situation of migrants in the country was further revealed in a widely [condemned video](#) that [showed](#) migrants being bought and sold at an auction.

High-level meetings on EU-African relations

Asylum

Two high-level meetings were held between the European Union and African countries in November in the context of the EU-Africa [partnership](#). On 22 November, a conference on a new EU-Africa partnership [took](#) place in the European Parliament, with African political leaders, African Union (AU) representatives, UN officials, as well as EU Parliament representatives and High Commissioner Federica Mogherini [attending](#). In the context of strengthening the EU-African partnership, migration and development were two of the topics discussed. The conference took place in the run-up to the AU-EU [summit](#) in Abidjan on 29/30 November, which had mobility and migration as one of its core focal points. It [led](#) to the establishment of an EU-AU-UN Task Force that will coordinate with Libyan authorities to dismantle trafficking and criminal networks before and on the Central Mediterranean route. Moreover, African and European leaders [condemned](#) the inhuman treatment of African migrants and refugees in Libya and elsewhere in a joint statement.

The summit, however, was [met](#) with criticism for being motivated by European countries' self-interest to "manage" migration and therefore [use](#) development support in an effort to [tackle](#) so-called "root causes" of migration. Amnesty International [stated](#) that "EU migration policy has increasingly prioritised preventing refugees and migrants from reaching Europe" at the expense of their health and wellbeing during their journey. Similarly, ECRE [cautioned](#) that "supporting the rights of refugees in Africa is not an alternative to protection in Europe". The paradoxical [use](#) of the EU's development funding to curb immigration from African countries is expected to gain more attention in the future through the [use](#) of "transit centres" for the evacuation of asylum-seekers and migrants.

Austria moves to the right on migration and security after elections

Asylum

Inclusion

Following an election campaign that put considerable [focus](#) on migration, Austrians [voted](#) in elections for the National Council, the lower house of the Austrian Parliament, on 15 October 2017. The conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) got the largest share of the vote with 31,5%, followed by the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ) (26,9% of the vote) and the right-wing populist Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) (26% of the vote). This now gives Sebastian Kurz, chairman of the ÖVP, the mandate to form a government, which will likely constitute of a coalition with the FPÖ, signalling a [push](#) towards the right of the political spectrum. The Conservatives [based](#) their election campaign on migration and security, for example by advocating for the closure of the Mediterranean route and a ban on Islamic nurseries in Vienna. The cornerstone of their election campaign was a complete stop of "illegal migration". They also [demanded](#) a greater mandate for the EU's border management agency [Frontex](#) and the return of asylum seekers and migrants to their countries of origin.

The derogatory tone and rhetoric of the election campaign, which was used by progressive parties as well, was strongly [criticised](#) by NGOs and civil society organisations such as [Asylkoordination Österreich](#) or [Caritas Austria](#). It now remains to be seen how a likely coalition between ÖVP and FPÖ will impact the rights of migrants and refugees, which [according to NGOs](#) were already restricted during the current SPÖ-ÖVP coalition. The influence of this national election on the European level is especially pertinent when looking ahead at the Austrian presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2018.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS



European Parliament votes on reform of Dublin System

Asylum

On 19 October, the European Parliament [adopted](#) its position on the [reform](#) of the Dublin Regulation, following a [vote](#) by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). The position, based on a report by Cecilia Wikström (MEP), [pushes](#) for a sharing of responsibility for asylum seekers between all EU member states on the basis of mandatory relocation [quotas](#). The position also asserts that the countries where refugees arrive first should be responsible for registering them as well as maintaining the EU's external borders. In addition, asylum applications should be processed faster. In total, the report proposes 214 amendments to the draft regulation.

The transfer of asylum seekers to other EU countries would be [based](#) on “genuine links”, such as through family, prior residence or studies. In case no such link exists, asylum seekers would automatically be assigned to a member state according to a fixed distribution key, following their registration, security checks and eligibility assessment. These mandatory quotas are a source of much discord between member states, especially as non-compliance would lead them to face the risk of having their access to EU funds reduced.

The revision of the Dublin System remains controversial, with EU Council president Donald Tusk [stating](#) that obligatory migrant quotas would “have no future” amidst disagreement between member states on a general relocation scheme. While presenting her report, Cecilia

Wikström nevertheless [claimed](#) to be certain that a compromise was “fully possible” and that there was no blocking minority in the Council. Amnesty International’s Europe office has [described](#) the proposal as a step in the right direction “towards a system that will provide dignity to asylum seekers”. Going forward, the LIBE committee’s proposal now [constitutes](#) the European Parliament’s mandate for negotiating with the Council. However, due to its politically contentious nature, the file will not be [discussed](#) during the next European Council summit (14/15 December).

Negotiations on a resettlement framework to start

Asylum

After the European Parliament’s [vote](#) and the European Council’s endorsement, negotiations can [start](#) on the establishment of an EU-wide resettlement framework. Talks will be based on a Commission proposal for a draft [regulation](#), which aims to provide legal and safe pathways to the EU and establish common rules for resettlement and humanitarian admission.

The resettlement framework will take the [form](#) of an annual plan comprising both resettlement and humanitarian admission. It will specify the total number of persons to be admitted to the EU, the contributions of each member state as well as general geographical priorities. Based on this, the Commission would then establish EU resettlement schemes which would further specify these details, including target groups for resettlement, the timeline of each scheme and the resettlement procedure. Such schemes would also clarify the grounds on which third-country nationals or stateless persons could be excluded from resettlement, such as an “irregular” entry or stay in a member state.

A common resettlement framework has long been [supported](#) by NGOs and civil society organisations as a means to provide a safe and legal channel to international protection. The readiness of EU institutions to start negotiations on the legal basis of the resettlement framework was also [welcomed](#) as a step towards establishing “a more sustainable and effective system”.

In addition to these developments, the European Commission issued a [recommendation](#) for member states to pledge 50,000 resettlement places up until November 2019 in a new resettlement scheme. So far, 16 EU member states have [pledged](#) a total of 34,400 places in the context of this [scheme](#). The scheme follows on from a [previous](#) one, agreed to in July 2015, which has resettled 23,000 persons to the EU and is now coming to an end. A total budget of EUR 500 million has been earmarked for the new scheme. A part of this budget will be used to support the newly [established](#) UNHCR Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Niger. The mechanism will facilitate the resettlement of individuals, small groups or families in need of international protection. In this respect, UNHCR, together with the government of Niger and the government of national accord of Libya, [conducted](#) a first evacuation of 25 persons from Libya to Niger on 11 November, with France [agreeing](#) to resettle them and the EU financing most of the operation.

Updates to the Schengen System

Asylum

The European [Council](#) and the European Parliament [adopted](#) the European Commission's [proposal](#) to establish a so-called "Entry/Exit System" (EES), with the aim of registering the entry and exit data of non-EU nationals that are crossing the external borders of EU member states. The new EES, which is part of the smart borders package [presented](#) by the Commission in April 2016, will register information such as name, travel document, fingerprints, facial image, date and place of entry, exit or refused entry into the Schengen area. The data will be stored for three years in general or for five years in case individuals overstay their visas. Moreover, the stored data will be accessible to border and visa authorities as well to [Europol](#). The EES would become operational in 2020.

Addressing the Parliament's Plenary Session, the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos [stated](#) that the system's main objectives were "to improve the management of external borders, to prevent irregular migration and to facilitate the management of migration flows". This position was echoed by members of the [S&D](#) and [EPP](#) groups in Parliament who see the EES as vital to the functioning of the Schengen area and to strengthening security in Europe. MEPs from the GUE/NGL parliamentary group, however, were [critical](#) about the EES' potential to facilitate "mass data collection and deportations". Similarly, the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) [voiced](#) concerns earlier this year with regard to the interoperability of the different Schengen databases and of the different ways in which asylum-seekers might be at risk in case their data is unlawfully shared or information about their asylum applications is inaccurate.

Other developments

Inclusion

Children and Youth

Immigration Detention

EU funding for immigration and integration

The Commission will provide a new package of funds for migration projects in the context of the Horizon 2020 ([H2020](#)) [subfund](#) on 'Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies' and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund ([AMIF](#)) (see funding opportunities section below for more detailed information).

At the end of October, four H2020 calls were published on the topics of migrant [integration](#) through ICT-enabled solutions, migration governance and forced displacement. Moreover, as part of the AMIF, which for the period of 2014-20 contains a total budget of EUR 3,137 billion, a [number](#) of Action Grants that focus on the [integration](#) of third-country nationals were opened at the beginning of November. A number of additional, related calls are earmarked to be opened in the next funding period.

The detention of children in focus

On 7 and 8 November 2017, the 11th European [Forum](#) on the Rights of the Child, an annual conference organised by the European Commission, took place. It was attended by stakeholders from member states, international organisations, NGOs, EU institutions and practitioners. In anticipation of a UN Global [study](#) on the topic, the forum [focused](#) on children deprived of their liberty, including children in immigration detention and

alternatives to detention. A joint statement was [produced](#) by 49 organisations, including Caritas Europa, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Save the Children and World Vision. The statement called on EU member state governments “to take immediate steps towards ending child immigration detention, ensuring alternatives to detention are accessible and available”.

This topic is receiving increasing attention in light of the negotiations of two UN compacts – the Global Compact on [Refugees](#) and the Global Compact for [Migration](#). Child rights organisation Terre des Hommes has [called](#) on the EU to advocate for both compacts to eradicate the detention of child refugees and migrants. Similarly, Save the Children [focuses](#) on five key child rights commitments to be implemented in both compacts, namely non-discrimination, best interests of the child, access to services, ending child immigration detention and implementing durable solutions.

ECJ CASE LAW & LEGAL ACTIONS



Asylum

Mobile EU citizens

ECJ Case [C-201/16 Shiri](#)

25 October 2017

This case concerned the situation of Mr Majid Shiri, an Iranian national, who arrived in Austria via Bulgaria and who subsequently lodged an application for asylum in Austria. His application was declared to be inadmissible and Mr Shiri’s deportation was ordered to Bulgaria under the Dublin III Regulation (DRIII). Mr Shiri challenged this decision on the grounds that his transfer to Bulgaria had not been effected within the six-month period that is stipulated by Art. 29 DRIII and that Austria was therefore responsible for examining his application.

The Court of Justice ruled that the DRIII must be interpreted as meaning that, where a transfer under that Regulation does not take place within the six-month time limit, the responsibility of processing an asylum application automatically shifts to the member state that is seeking that return (Austria). In addition to the expiration of the transfer period, the Court found that it is not necessary that the obligation to take back the individual has been refused by the responsible member state (Bulgaria).

Furthermore, the Court also found that Art 27 of DRIII must be interpreted to mean that an applicant for international protection must have access to an effective and rapid remedy, either through an appeal or a review against the transfer decision. That remedy must be

capable of allowing the applicant to rely on the expiration of the six-month period. Generally, the Court's decision reinforces the importance of the six-month limitation on returns under DRIII and of applicants' right to an effective remedy when that deadline is in question.

ECJ Case [C-165/16](#) Toufik Lounes V Secretary of State for the Home Department

14 November 2017

This case concerned the situation of an Algerian national, Mr Lounes, and his spouse Ms Ormazabal, a double UK-Spanish citizen. Prior to their marriage, Ms Ormazabal had moved to the UK and acquired British citizenship while also retaining her Spanish nationality. Following their marriage, Mr Lounes applied for a residence card as a family member of an EU national. The application was refused by the British court on the ground that Ms Ormazabal ceased to be regarded as an EU national, for the purposes of being covered by EU free movement law, after she became a British citizen.

In a long-awaited judgment, the ECJ confirmed that the Free Movement [Directive](#) ceased to apply to Ms Ormazabal once she acquired British nationality. Consequently, her spouse, Mr Lounes, could not benefit from a derived right of residence in the UK on the basis of that Directive.

However, the Court also considered Article 21(1) TFEU, which governs EU citizens' right to move and reside freely within the EU at Treaty level. It ruled that, in order to ensure that an EU citizen (such as Ms Ormazabal) can fully enjoy their freedom of movement and their right to family life, a non-EU national who is a family member of that EU citizen (Mr Lounes) must be granted a derived right of residence. Consequently, the Court stated that Mr Lounes was in fact eligible for a derived right of residence in the UK under EU law; not on the basis of the free movement Directive, but under Article 21(1) TFEU.

Under normal circumstances, a citizen of a member state cannot use free movement rights to derive a right of residence for their family member(s). This case shows that dual citizenship can be an exception to that norm.



Harraga guys in Palermo

Children and Youth

Inclusion

Asylum

By Alessandra Sciorba & Francesca Silva, [CIAI](#) (Centro Italiano Aiuti all'infanzia)

In recent years, Palermo (Italy) has become a safe haven for many children who have reached Italy alone after fleeing from their countries of origin: girls and boys “who burn the borders” – in Arabic, harraga means “the one who burns” – willing to risk everything to migrate. These children are unaccompanied children who travel without their families. Their number has increased significantly in Italy in recent years: migrant children arriving by sea were about 5.000 in 2013, more than 25.000 in 2016, and almost 15.000 in 2017 until October (Source: [Italian Ministry of Interior](#)).

Although the Convention on the Rights of the Child and national law define them as children, they are nevertheless considered migrants in the first instance. As such, these children suffer violence as much as other adult migrants due to the EU's closed border policies and rising xenophobic sentiments in various European countries. As a result, it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide care-based models for unaccompanied migrant children.

When they reach Italy, these minors often disappear: in September 2017, 5.463 children went missing after registration. The relocation system is not working for them either: only 49 underage migrants were relocated from Italy to other EU countries in 2017. Moreover, the Dublin system is inefficient when it comes to family reunification, forcing those who want to join their families outside Italy to leave the country irregularly, which again makes them vulnerable to trafficking.

When they reach Europe, unaccompanied children face a contradictory legislation and hosting system which on the one hand subjects them to a process of infantilisation that often undervalues their true competences and resources and, on the other hand, obliges them to follow rigid bureaucratic procedures linked to their migrant status such as the long

and stressful asylum procedure. During this time, it is difficult to engage them in education or social activities, as they are unsure about their future. Any progress that they might have made in this regard can be disrupted once they come of age and are transferred to centers that are far away from the services they were using previously.

About 43% of unaccompanied migrant children that arrive in Italy are living in Sicily and mainly in Palermo, which has shaped up to be a very inclusive and open-minded city in a region that has been hit hard by recession. CIAI is operating in Palermo together with a network of eight partners to enhance and improve the existing child protection system and to give 400 young migrants the necessary services and tools to be fully included in Italian society. The project named [Harraga Guys](#) looks at the migration phenomenon as an opportunity for our societies to evolve and to show a wider social interaction. Participation through beneficiaries that work together with young people for their welfare and autonomy is encouraged greatly. Using an approach that is based on integration and interaction, one of the objectives of the programme is to overcome common stereotypes of migration and create a long-lasting impact on common belief for years to come. The way we choose to face the widespread presence of migrant minors in our countries today will shape our future societies.

FACTS & FIGURES

In 2016, about 3,4 million first-residence permits were issued in the EU to non-EU citizens, a record number since comparable data have become available (2008)

Source: Eurostat, November 2017

UNHCR statistics on arrivals

Asylum

Recent data by the UNHCR [reveal](#) the following trends:

- 166,250 sea arrivals have been recorded since the beginning of the year. 121,916 have arrived in Italy, while 27,245 have arrived in Greece and 16,027 have arrived in Spain;
- So far, an estimated 3,049 people have been reported dead or missing in 2017;
- In Italy, the majority of refugees come from Nigeria, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire, while more than a third of refugees arriving in Greece originate from Syria (41,4%). In Spain, the majority of refugees come from Morocco and Algeria.

Latest numbers for relocation and resettlement

Asylum

On 6 September, the European Commission [published](#) its Progress report on the European Agenda on Migration:

- As of 9 November, 31,503 people have been relocated (10,265 from Italy and 21,238 from Greece). In total, 758 applicants remain to be relocated from Greece and 3110 from Italy;
- With regard to resettlement, out of the 22,504 resettlements agreed in 2015, over 81% have been completed, amounting to 18,366 people which have been resettled mostly from Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. The total number of people resettled under both EU resettlement schemes since their launch is 25,739. Following the Commission's Recommendation calling on member states to offer at least 50,000 resettlement places by 31 October 2017, 16 member states have pledged for a total of 34,400 resettlement places.

Relevant reports

Children and Youth

Asylum

Immigration Detention

Guide for Parliamentarians: Visiting places where children are deprived of their liberty as a result of immigration procedures

As part of its Campaign to end Immigration Detention of Children, the Council of Europe has [launched](#) a guide to prepare parliamentarians to visit children held in immigration detention. It includes practical tips and guidelines to equip parliamentarians to conduct visits, interview children and detention staff, effectively follow up their visit and ultimately become advocates to end immigration detention for children.

Save the Children: Keeping Children at the centre. Time for EU solidarity in protecting migrant and refugee children's rights

This report [captures](#) the dangers faced by children and their families on their way to Europe and the rights being denied to those that eventually reach Europe, including in relation to returns procedures. It calls for more solidarity with all children regardless of their status and between EU states, to ensure effective protection.

European Commission: Fourth Progress Report on the operationalisation of the European Border and Coast Guard

The Commission [reports](#) that an increased number of European Border and Coast Guard officers, now standing at 1,600, is supporting national forces in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Spain. At the same time, the Border Agency has completed the vulnerability assessments of Schengen states' external borders and issued corresponding recommendations. The pace of return operations is reported to be quickening by 157% compared to the same period of last year.

Council of Europe: Report of the fact-finding mission by Ambassador Tomáš Boček, Special Representative of the Secretary General on migration and refugees to Serbia and two transit zones in Hungary 12-16 June 2017

This Council of Europe report [encapsulates](#) the findings from Ambassador Tomáš Boček's visit to Serbia and two transit zones in Hungary. In the report, he voices his concerns about

effective access to the asylum procedure and the overcrowding of reception facilities in Serbia as well as serious concerns about the *de facto* deprivation of asylum seekers' liberty at the Hungarian transit zones and violent pushbacks of migrants and refugees from Hungary and Serbia. The report calls on Serbia and Hungary to take measures to ensure that their actions are brought into line with the requirements of the ECHR.

European Commission: Progress report on the European Agenda on Migration

The report [gives](#) an overview of the progress made in the different areas of work under the European Agenda of Migration. It highlights that the Central Mediterranean route continues to be the most important route for people who cross by sea and that, whilst numbers have decreased compared to 2016, they remain high at a total of 114,000 in 2017 so far. The report describes the hotspot approach as a cornerstone of European support to Italy and Greece (see also above). It stresses the EU Trust Fund for Africa's new focus on addressing the root causes of migration and it highlights the role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in improving the return rates. It finally notes the progress made in relocation and resettlement and calls for a sustained commitment of the member states.

IOM: Four Decades of Cross-Mediterranean Undocumented Migration to Europe. A Review of the Evidence

The report [reviews](#) evidence on undocumented migration to Europe along various Mediterranean routes, going back to the 1970s. It focuses on the magnitude of the flows, the characteristics of migrants crossing, the extent to which economic and forced movements can be separated, the evolution of sea routes to Europe and mortality during the sea journey. It also reflects on the causes of the so-called "migration crisis" (2014-2016) and the reasons behind the decrease of arrival numbers in 2017.

EU Funding opportunities

Inclusion Children and Youth Asylum

Calls for proposals - EU funding

The European Commission has published the following calls for proposals:

- [AMIF-2017-AG-INTE-01](#): Raising Awareness on migrants' contribution to EU Societies
 - o call out on 09.11.2017 - Deadline: 01.03.2018
- [AMIF-2017-AG-INTE-02](#): Community building at local level for integration including through volunteering activities
 - o call out on 09.11.2017 – Deadline: 01.03.2018
- [AMIF-2017-AG-INTE-03](#): Pre-departure and post-arrival support for the integration of persons in need of international protection who are resettled from a third country
 - o call out on 09.11.2017 – Deadline: 01.03.2018
- [AMIF-2017-AG-INTE-04](#): Promote swift integration of TCNs into the labour market through strengthened cooperation and mobilisation of employers and social and economic partners
 - o call out on 09.11.2017 – Deadline: 01.03.2018
- [AMIF-2017-AG-INTE-05](#): Integration of victims of trafficking in human beings

o call out on 09.11.2017 – Deadline: 01.03.2018

- [ISFP-2017-AG-THBX](#): Trafficking

o call out on 25.10.2017 - Deadline: 31.01.2018

- [MIGRATION-08-2018](#): Addressing the challenge of forced displacement

o call out on 07.11.2017 - Deadline: 13.03.2018

- [MIGRATION-05-2018-2020](#): Mapping and overcoming integration challenges for migrant children

o call out on 07.11.2017 - Deadline: 13.03.2018

- [MIGRATION-02-2018](#): Towards forward-looking migration governance: addressing the challenges, assessing capacities and designing future strategies

o call out on 07.11.2017 - Deadline: 13.03.2018

- [DT-MIGRATION-06-2018-2019](#): Addressing the challenge of migrant integration through ICT-enabled solutions

o call out on 07.11.2017 - Deadline: 13.03.2018

- [SU-GOVERNANCE-11-2018](#): Extreme ideologies and polarisation

o call out on 07.11.2017 - Deadline: 13.03.2018

- [GOVERNANCE-03-2018](#): Addressing populism and boosting civic and democratic engagement

o call out on 07.11.2017 - Deadline: 13.03.2018

Other opportunities

[Mapping, Tracking and Advocating for Funds to Address Migrants' Mental Health](#), Open Society Foundations

o Deadline: 15.12.2017

EU CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS

European Council and Council of the European Union



7-8 December

JHA Council



14-15 December

European Council



8 March

JHA Council

European Parliament



7 December

LIBE Committee Meeting










11 December

LIBE Committee Meeting

	11-14 December	EP Plenary
	11 January	LIBE Committee Meeting
	24-25 January	LIBE Committee Meeting
	29 January	LIBE Committee Meeting

Other events

	7 December	I Get You: Refugees and Citizens Together Against Racism and Xenophobia , Jesuit Refugee Service Europe
	7 December	Equinet Conference: Inclusion of and discrimination against migrants in Europe – the contribution of equality bodies , Equinet European Network of Equality Bodies
	12 December	'Constructing viable futures: Unaccompanied migrant young people transitioning to adulthood , University College London, University of Birmingham, University of Oxford
	12 December	EU Resettlement Policies: Past, Present, Future , European Policy Centre (EPC)
	11-12 January	The Ethics of Migration beyond the Immigrant-Host State Nexus , Migration Policy Centre
	15-16 January	International Forum on Migration Statistics 2018 , OECD, IOM and UNDESA
	25 January	Allocation of Competence in Asylum Matters under International and EU Law , Refugee Law Initiative

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) Reforming the European Asylum System; (3) Children and Youth on the Move; (4) Mobile EU citizens and (5) Building Inclusive European Societies and covers the period from 6 October 2017 to 4 December 2017. 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 (k.bamberg@epc.eu, m.llonch@epc.eu, fmcnamara@epc.eu, m.desomer@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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