

### **Weekly Report**



**Key Figures** 

Mediterranean

231,024 arrivals by sea in 2016\*

**2,896** dead/missing in 2016\*

#### Trends of sea arrivals

Between 27 June and 3 July, 239 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece – a decrease from the 358 that crossed the previous week. By the end of June, 158,311 people had crossed the sea to Greece in comparison with 75,204 in the same period in 2015. However, over the past three months, 6,373 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Greece – with just 1,489 arriving in June - in comparison with 62,763 who crossed the sea to Greece between April and June last year.

At the same time, 7,088 people arrived in Italy during the week – a decrease from the 7,829 the previous week but higher than most recent weeks. As of the end of June, 70,097 people had crossed the Mediterranean to Italy – on par with the 70,354 people that had arrived by June 2015. A total of 153,842 refugees and migrants crossed to Italy in 2015. The number of arrivals so far in 2016 is slightly higher than the corresponding figures for 2014 when 63,884 people had crossed by June out of a total of 170,100 that reached Italy that year.

As of June 2016, the top three nationalities among arrivals to Greece are Syrian Arab Republic (48%), Afghanistan (25%), and Iraq (15%). Among those arrivals, 38% are children, 21% women, and 40% are men. During the same period in Italy, Eritrea (13%), Nigeria (12%) and Gambia (8%) are the top three nationalities among arrivals with 16% children, 11% women and 73% men.

#### **Key developments**

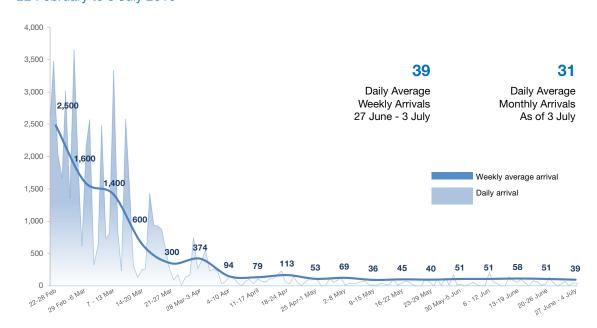
#### Situation in Greece

Conditions in many parts of the country remained difficult with soaring temperatures causing fainting and dehydration. The pre-registration exercise continued in several sites on the mainland despite the conditions and so far 17,744 persons have been pre-registered and 19,967 persons provided with a wrist-band in preparation for their pre-registration. In addition, 457 unaccompanied children and 319 separated children have been identified during the exercise and rapid best interest assessments were conducted. On 29-30 June, Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Yiannis Mouzalas, visited the islands of Chios and Lesvos, to help address tensions linked with the overcrowding of the reception facilities on the islands. Please see UNHCR briefing note on the pre-registration exercise issued on 1 July.

#### Situation at the Serbia-Hungary border

The number of refugees and migrants in Serbia rose to over 2,200, half of which were accommodated in governmental facilities. Conditions for asylumseekers at the Serbia-Hungary border waiting to enter Hungary via two transit zones remains difficult. During the previous week, over 400 asylum-seekers, 41% of which were children, were waiting outside the transit zones for an opportunity to enter Hungary and lodge an asylum application. As the total number of entries at both sites is usually restricted to approximately

# **Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece** 22 February to 3 July 2016



<sup>\*</sup> data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 5 July 2016



#### **Key Figures**

## Greece

**Total Weekly** Arrivals to **Greek Islands** 27 June - 3 July

**Daily Average** Arrivals to **Greek Islands** 27 June - 3 July

# 30, asylum-seekers are frequently waiting between 21 and 28 days to be admitted into the transit zones and hygiene and sanitation conditions in the sites are

concerning. During the week, Hungary apprehended 1,076 persons for irregular entry and reported preventing a further 2,103 persons from entering the country.

### Italian Navy recovers ship in which up to 800 thought to have drowned

On 29 June, the Italian navy recovered a ship that sank off Sicily on 18 April 2015 with an estimated 700-800 people aboard and only 28 people survived in what it could be one of the worst tragedies in the Mediterranean Sea. The wreck was brought to the Sicilian port of Augusta and the process of identifying the deceased still on board will begin. During the past week, further deaths en route to Italy were reported and the bodies of 10 women recovered after an inflatable boat sank about 20 miles from the Libyan coast. The Italian Coast Guard rescued 108 survivors. So far this year, 2,896 refugees and migrants have lost their lives while attempting to reach Europe via the Mediterranean which is a 57 % increase in comparison to 1,847 during the same period in 2015.

#### Update on relocation and returns

As of 1 July, 21 EU Member States and Switzerland had pledged places for 6,351 (10%) of the 66,400 persons to be relocated from Greece by September 2017, and the applications of 3,804 persons have so far been accepted. No further relocations took place from Italy this week so the total relocated from the country remains 789 with 71 relocated in June and 153 in May. No returns from Greece to Turkey took place during the week.

#### **EU Developments**

On 28-29 June, despite the UK referendum On 28-29 June, despite the UK referendum dominating the discussions of the European Council, EU leaders also focused on migration. Regarding the implementation of the 18 March EU-Turkey Statement, they concluded that the progress achieved so far had to be further advanced, that continuous support needed to be provided to Western Balkan countries including for their fight against smuggling, and that action was required to accelerate the implementation of the relocation and resettlement schemes. The situation in the Central Mediterranean was also discussed with EU Leaders calling for a further implementation

# Italy

Arrivals to Italy 27 June - 3 July

**Daily Average Arrivals to** Italy 27 June - 3 July

## **Arrivals and People Present\* per Country** 3 July 2016



01	Greek Islands Arrivals: 42 Present*: 8,612
	Greece Mainland Arrivals: 69 Present*: 48,464
02	fYRoM** Arrivals: 0 Present*: 248
03	Serbia Arrivals: 300 Present*: 2,200
04	Croatia Arrivals: 0 Present*: 60
05	Hungary Arrivals: 134 Present*: -
06	Slovenia Arrivals: 0 Present*: 296
07	Austria Arrivals: 108 Present*: -

<sup>\*</sup> Number of people present in Greece and estimated number of people currently present in countries along the previous route not applying for asylum

\*\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (please note that the fYRoM abbreviation is used for design purposes)



of the Valletta Action Plan and highlighting the need for a Partnership Framework with countries of origin and transit that would (i) ensure fast and operational returns for migrants staying irregularly in EU countries, (ii) apply the necessary leverage by using all relevant EU policies, including development and trade, and (iii) "mobilise elements falling within the Member States' competence and seek synergies in relations with specific countries".

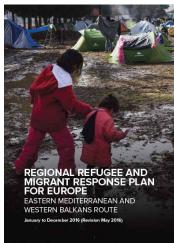
The Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU started on 1 July. In addition to the common priorities of its trio (Netherlands-Slovakia-Malta), Slovakia will also aim at implementing its own program, formally adopted on 30 June. Sustainable migration and asylum policies will be one of the Slovak Presidency's four overarching priorities. Among others, the Presidency will aim at protecting the EU's external borders, promoting cooperation with third countries and further developing the Common European Asylum System.

On 30 June, the European Commission proposed a Special Measure during the Steering Committee of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey in order to allocate an additional EUR 1.4 billion to support refugees in

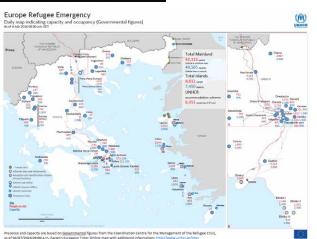
Turkey. This would include projects in the areas of education, health, municipal and social infrastructure and socio-economic support, and would complement the EUR 740 million already allocated for humanitarian and non-humanitarian assistance under the Facility. The Special Measure represents a commitment to speed up the allocation of funds under the Facility, in order to bring the total amount allocated to EUR 2 billion by the end of July, with a view to further increasing it to EUR 3 billion or more by the end of 2017

On 30 June, the European Commission proposed a draft budget for 2017 of EUR 134.9 billion. It includes EUR 5.2 billion (about 4%) to be specifically allocated to better managing the EU's external borders and address refugee related issues, one of the draft budget's priority areas. More precisely, these funds would aim among other things at developing policies for legal migration, including resettlement, supporting the reception and integration of refugees, protecting the EU's external borders, and addressing the root causes of migration in cooperation with countries of origin and transit.

#### **Key Documents from the Portal**













#### **Timeline Overview**



Highlights



20 March · Start of the EU-Turkey Statement



#### 3 April

· Greece implemented a new law highlighting the creation of the Reception and Identification Service, restructuring of the Asylum Service, the creation of an Appeals' Authority, and the creation of new Regional Asylum Offices



4 April

#### · First returns take place under the EU-Turkey Statement: 202 people returned to Turkey from Greece

# 6 April

- The European Commission (EC) published Communication on reforms to Common European Asylum System (CEAS)
- Council agreed its negotiating position on the EC's proposal for a European Border and Coast Guard.



#### 27 April

 Turkey amended labour legislation to grant those holding subsidiary protection work permits.



#### 21 April

 Justice and Home Affairs Council - EU Home Affairs Ministers discussed the implementation of existing measures and on work on the European border and

coast guard proposal.



· Foreign Affairs Council discussion on the external aspects of migration, including assessment of progress in implementing measures as part of the EU-Turkey Statement.



•Turkish government amended the Temporary Protection Regulation regarding access to temporary protection for Syrian nationals who irregularly travel to Europe and who are returned to Turkey from Greek islands.



- The EC released propos als to reform the Common European Asylum System, with proposals to reform the Dublin Regulation, the EURODAC system and to turn the European Asylum Support Office into an European Union Agency for Asylum.

  The EC releases Third Progress Report by Turkey in fulfilling the requirements of its visa liberalization roadmap.

- •The EC proposed to prolong proportionate controls at certain internal Schengen borders, namely in Germany, Austria, Sweden, Denmark and Norway for a maximum period of six months

#### 6 May

·Bulgaria to readmit irregular arrivals to Turkey from 1 June



Justice and Home Affairs Council, EU Interior Ministers discussed implementation of the 18 March EU-Turkey Statement, broader responses to the situation, relocation, the European Border and Coast Guard, and visa policy



- •The EC adopted its third progress report on the EU's emergency relocation and resettlement schemes. assessing actions taken up to 13 May 2016.
- The Turkish President approved the legislative framework regarding the EU-Turkey Statement with regards to the readmission of people from Greece

#### 12 May

· Council backs the EC's proposal to prolong internal border checks.



•The Foreign Affairs Council discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation with the countries of origin and transit through a common EU approach, and adopted conclusions on EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia, as well as on the EU regional strategy for Syria and Iraq.

#### 1 June

·Last batch of provisions of the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement entered into force.

- •The EC launched migration package with Communications on an Action Plan on the Integration of Third Country Nationals and on Establishing a new Partnership Framework with Third Countrie under the European
- · Agenda on Migration, and a Proposal for a Directive on the Conditions of Entry and Residence of Third Country Nationals for the Purposes of Highly Skilled Employment.



• Justice and Home Affairs Council - EU Home Affairs Ministers reaffirmed that returns to Turkey from Greece should be stepped up and that the EU's assistance through Frontex and EASO should also be prioritized in contributing to these returns through efficient admissibility and eligibility support.



• The Greek Asylum Service started pre-registration for applications for international protection, supported by UNHCR and EASO

#### 17 June

- •The EC released its Fourth Report on Relocation and Resettlement. •The EC also released its <u>Second Report on the Progress Made in the Implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.</u>
- •The EC adopted a recommendation on the specific urgent measures to be taken by Greece in the view of the resumption of transfers to the country under the Dublin III Regulation.

### 20 June

• UNHCR offices across the region celebrated World Refugee Day with a variety of events and awareness-raising activities during the week