

EUROPE MONTHLY REPORT



Three-year-old Diana from Iraq and her adoptive Finnish grandmother Mona play together on the island of Nagu. Diana visits once a week and the pair have built a strong relationship, since Diana arrived as a refugee with her father after her mother was abducted in 2015

TRENDS AND KEY FIGURES

Between 01 January 2017 and 31 August 2017, 130,400 refugees and migrants arrived by sea and land to Europe (Greece, Italy, Spain and Cyprus only, including arrivals to the Canary Islands and by land to Spain). Arrivals by sea in this period comprised of 16% children, 12% women and 72% men. In August, there was a decrease in the number of refugees and migrants entering Europe via the Central Mediterranean route to Italy (by 81%) compared to the same month last year and an increase through the Western Mediterranean route to Spain by 105% compared to August 2016 (from 1,533 to 3,144). Meanwhile arrivals through the Eastern Mediterranean route from Turkey to Greece increased during August 2017 in comparison to last year.

Between 1 January and 31 August, over 99,100 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, including over 13,200 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) (13% of sea arrivals). With reduced arrivals in Italy in July and August, especially from Libya, arrivals by sea in Italy in 2017 have dropped below those from the same period in 2016 by 14%. In Spain, over 15,300 persons have arrived by sea and land between January and August 2017 compared to 7,200 in the same period last year, an 111% increase. The number of arrivals to Andalucía, in southern Spain, (6,000), is 212% higher than the same period last year (3,200). All arrivals had departed reportedly from Moroccan coast. Since June, 2,700 sea and land arrivals were registered in Spain. An increasing number of Syrian families continue to arrive in Melilla. In the first six months of 2017, some 1,500 asylum applications were lodged at Madrid airport, quadrupling the number of applications at the airport compared to during the course of 2016.

Mediterranean

130,400 arrivals in 2017

estimated dead/missing in 2017

Greece

Italy

15,300

99,100

July August

July August June

Spain²

August

Cyprus

New asylum applications in EU countries 3

361,900 applications in 2017 1,235,300 applications in 2016 1,325,600 applications in 2015

¹ <u>data.unhcr.org/mediterranean</u> as of 31 August 2017. ² Includes land and sea arrivals in the Mediterranean and to the Canary Islands



27,228

from Greece

9,016

Italy

from

Returns EU-Turkey statement 4

Relocated in total 5

⁴ Source: Ministry of Citizen Protection, Greece as of 31 August 2017

⁵Source: European Commission as of 29 August 2017.

As of 31 August 2017, 15,300 refugees and migrants had reached Greek shores in 2017, compared to 163,700 arriving in the same period last year (a 91% reduction). Arrivals mainly originate from the Syrian Arab Republic (40%) and Iraq (16%). In August, 3,700 people arrived by sea in Greece, an increase of 64% from arrivals in July. 65% of arrivals in August are Syrian and Iraqi nationals. Arrivals in August have been to Samos (33%), followed by Lesvos (28%), Chios (15%), and the South Dodecanese islands (24%). Recent arrivals of mostly Syrian and Iragi families include very high numbers of pregnant women, people with disabilities and serious medical cases. In addition to the sea arrivals, an estimated 2,200 people have arrived this year at the Evros Greek-Turkish land border, based on provisional data as of 31 August 2017.

According to Turkish authorities, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) rescued/intercepted 2,667 people during August. The total number of rescues/interceptions by the Turkish Coast Guard of persons mostly headed to Greece by sea reached 12,061 as of 31 August 2017 since the beginning of the year. The figures rose from 1,743 persons in July 2017 to 2,667 persons in August 2017, which represents a 53% increase. Together with August figures, interceptions at the Greek and Bulgarian land borders increased to 17,067 persons since the beginning of the year.

Since January 2017, UNHCR and partners have observed a

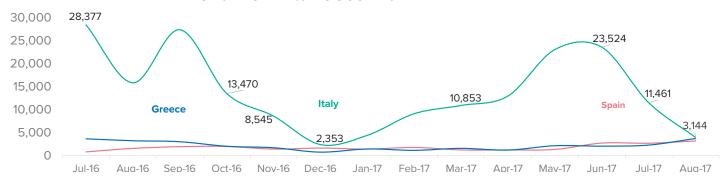
trend of a significant number of irregular backward movements of refugees and migrants departing Serbia for Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and subsequently to Greece. According to testimonies, their movements were mostly voluntary, with the intention to return — most of them to Greece, but some only to Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in order to attempt irregular onwards movements. Individuals have stated poor living conditions in transit centres, access to relocation and family reunification in Greece among reasons for voluntary irregular backwards movements.

Dead and missing: as of 31 August 2017, an estimated 2,428 people have died or gone missing while trying to reach Europe by sea, compared to 3,180 for the same period in 2016.

Relocation: according to the European Commission (EC), 27,228 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece and Italy as of 29 August 2017, including 19,016 from Greece (out of 66,400 originally foreseen, 28% of the total) and 8,212 from Italy (out of 39,600 originally foreseen, 20% of the total) respectively.

Returns: In August, 18 people were returned from Greece to Turkey on the basis of the EU-TUR Statement. The total number of people returned under the statement is 1,307 as of 31 August

MEDITERRANEAN ARRIVALS - JANUARY to AUGUST 2017



OTHER SITUATIONS IN EUROPE

Turkey 3.4 millio

Refugees and asylum seekers 6

Syrian Arab Republic 3,150,000 Afghanistan 141,247

> Iraq 137,077

> > 32,349 Iran

⁶ Source: UNHCR as of 5 Sep 2017

Ukraine 1.6 millio

Internally Displaced Persons 7

Refugees: 8 3,253

Asylum seekers: 9 5.049

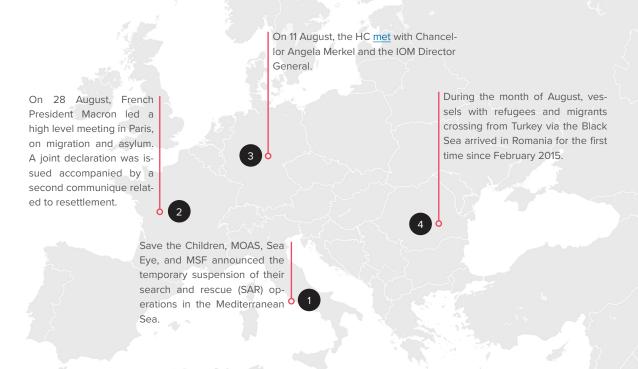
Stateless persons:10 5.463

⁷ Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine as of August 2017 8 UNHCR, State Migration Service of Ukraine. Includes persons granted complementary

protection as of June 2017 9 UNHCR as of August 2017 ¹⁰ State Migration Service of Ukraine as of June 2017



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE



Includes Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

In Italy, as of the end of August five NGOs (MOAS, Save the Children, Proactiva Open Arms, Sea Eye and SOS Mediterranee) had signed the code of conduct (CoC). On 10 August, Libya announced that foreign vessels would be prohibited from operating in its SAR zone without authorization. During the month of August, Save the Children, MOAS, Sea Eye, and MSF announced the temporary suspension of their search and rescue (SAR) operations in the Mediterranean Sea.

On 19 August, Italian police conducted an unexpected eviction of over 800 refugees and migrants from Eritrea and Ethiopia, who had been squatting in a building in central Rome since 2013. No alternative solutions were offered to the vast majority of the evicted people, most of whom could not take their belongings, including documents. UNHCR visited the evicted people, with a view to facilitating their dialogue with relevant authorities. UNHCR has also been following-up on the matter, liaising with both refugees and authorities in order to identify adequate longer-term solutions. UNHCR issued two press releases on the 20th and 24th of August requesting urgent solutions and adequate services for the evicted refugees in Rome.

In 2017 so far, over 13,000 UASC reached Italian shores. In 2016, over 25,000 UASC had been registered at landing points in Italy. Through EU-AMIF funding, the Italian government currently finances 20 projects providing first-line reception for UASC across the national territory. In order to enhance capacity of first line UASC reception, the Italian Minister of Interior

launched a new public call for supporting the national reception system for UASC (1,100 new daily places will be added in first line reception centres). While there is still progress to be made UNHCR welcomes this as a step forward.

On 31 July, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released <u>a report</u> detailing poor reception conditions and obstacles in accessing asylum for refugees and migrants arriving by sea in **Spain**. The research was conducted at the main arrival sites on Spain's southern coast (Málaga Motril and Almería) in May 2017. UNHCR's main concerns are reflected in the report, in relation to accommodation, legal assistance and procedures.

On 28 August, French President Macron led a high level meeting in Paris, France on migration and asylum, with the participation of Germany, Spain, Italy, Niger, Chad, Libya and the EU. A joint declaration was issued accompanied by a second communique related to resettlement. Key principles from the Declaration include: an approach that is compatible with international law to tackle illegal migration towards Europe, complementary alternative pathways such as facilitating family reunification, coordination among European and African countries, recognition for humanitarian protection and asylum needs, increased resettlement and returns of irregular migrants not entitled to international protection. Reinforced cooperation with UNHCR on human rights protection and resettlement was reiterated throughout the meeting. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo

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Grandi, issued a <u>Statement</u> on the Paris meeting whereby he "welcomes commitments made at the Paris meeting on migration and asylum." He further stated that he is "encouraged by the announcement of a comprehensive plan of action that will support long-term solutions to the complex issue of mixed migration and help address its root causes, in close cooperation with countries of origin and transit and in line with international law."

In Greece, UNHCR voiced its concern in a recent statement over the deteriorating situation on Greece's eastern Aegean islands. Increased arrivals during August has put a strain on already overcrowded reception facilities and is hampering efforts to improve conditions. The statement noted that the situation is most worrying on Lesvos, Chios, Samos and Leros, which have received the largest number of arrivals, including many children. While there has been progress to date, UNHCR called for robust action to improve conditions in reception facilities on the islands and stated the need for the urgent deployment of additional national services staff, especially in the areas of health, psychosocial support and protection of unaccompanied children. Full management of the response to the refugee situation on the islands has been recently transferred from NGOs and international organizations to the Greek authorities so this is a challenging period and arrivals on Lesvos, Samos and Leros have now outpaced the rate at which people are being authorized to transfer to the mainland, further worsening already very challenging living conditions. The statement noted that many people have been staying on the islands for months and the conditions have affected their physical and mental health and that more security is needed due to the threat of violence, self-harm and sexual assault.

On the mainland, the living conditions for asylumseekers are gradually improving as the Government is progressively discontinuing the use of sites. Instead, more people are accommodated in apartments with the help of UNHCR, NGOs and municipalities. In August, UNHCR signed an agreement with the municipality of Larisa, Greece thus providing an additional 420 places of rented accommodation for asylum-seekers, along with other municipalities participating in the accommodation scheme.

Between January and August this year, nearly 6,000 persons were granted refugee status or subsidiary protection in Greece in first instance procedures, a 119% increase from the 2,700 persons granted international protection in Greece in all of 2016. UNHCR has raised concerns with the Government on the urgent need to develop further national integration policies for refugees.

In August, NGOs in Greece raised questions regarding integration measures with Greek authorities. On 01 August, 21 NGOs sent a letter to Minister Mouzalas raising concerns about the lack of an accommodation programme for recognized refugees in Greece. On

03 August, 25 NGOs issued a joint letter-report to the Greek authorities raising the issue of the difficulties in the granting of AMKA (Social Security number), AFM (Tax Registration number) and unemployment cards to applicants of international protection, requesting their intervention to harmonize administrative practices with legislation. On 23 August, Deputy Prime Minister Dragasakis announced that a comprehensive social integration policy for refugees and migrants is one of the government's priorities for the end of 2017.

Also in Greece, an urgent challenge with potentially grave consequences is the limited number of available places in shelters for unaccompanied children which at 1,200 falls short of the 2,400 unaccompanied children estimated to be in Greece. As a consequence, increasingly more children spend longer periods in detention because of a lack of available shelter space for them. UNHCR and Greek authorities are working to refer unaccompanied children who turn 18 to UNHCR's accommodation scheme, thus freeing up much needed accommodation in shelters. While this will ease accommodation pressures these young adults will still need care and support for medical and social services during this transition period. UNHCR is also working with national authorities and partners to diversify alternative care measures for unaccompanied children in Greece, including through a Supported Independent Living programme in which children are assisted by dedicated guardians and support teams.

In August 2017, 33,400 refugees and asylum-seekers in Greece benefited from cash assistance in order to meet their basic needs for the month. This assistance was provided directly by UNHCR, and indirectly through UNHCR-funded partners. Additionally, UNHCR completed the transition to the UNHCR Greece Cash Alliance cards which began in February 2017. Between February 2017 and 30 August 2017, UNHCR has distributed 4.75 million in cash assistance directly through its prepaid cards to some 24,500 people. By 31 August, 18,300 accommodation places were available through UNHCR's Accommodation Scheme and 32,700 people had benefitted from apartments and buildings, hotels, host families and relocation sites since the start of the programme in November 2015.

On 18 August, **UNHCR Liaison Office in Vienna** met with the newly appointed OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and briefed him on the main OSCE-UNHCR activities such as joint training sessions on the Protection Checklist, the launch of the new <u>Handbook on Statelessness in the OSCE Area</u>, and other related issues.

On 11 August, the High Commissioner held a meeting in **Germany** with Chancellor Merkel and IOM's Director General. Chancellor Merkel pledged €50 million for UNHCR's and IOM's work in Libya (including €20 million for UNHCR) and expressed support for the High Commissioner's call to increase EU resettlement to 40,000 places.

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Chancellor #Merkel pledges strong German support to #UNHCR+IOM work in Libya to improve conditions & find solutions for refugees+migrants.

3:43 PM - Aug 11, 2017 · Berlin, Germany

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During the month of August, vessels with groups of refugees and migrants crossing from Turkey via the Black Sea arrived in **Romania** for the first time since February 2015. On 13 August, a group of 71 persons - mostly Iraqi nationals (69), including 29 children, arrived in Mangalia and a second group of 70 persons mostly Iraqis (68), including 23 children, arrived in Mangalia a week later on 21 August. Some of those arriving by this route this month told UNHCR there were trying to reunify with family members already in the EU. Between 24 and 29 August, the Turkish Coast Guard intercepted one vessel and rescued another headed to Romania. The largest group intercepted was off the coast of Kastamonu comprising 332 persons, including 119 children.

In the Caucasus, the situation along the Line of Con-

tact in **Nagorno-Karabakh** remained tense with casualties reported on a regular basis throughout August. The daily average of incidents violating the ceasefire further increased during August.

In **Georgia**, as part of the efforts to facilitate local integration of refugee children, UNHCR provided training to enhance the skills of teachers for providing education to refugee and asylum-seeking children. The National Centre for Teachers' Professional Development is developing a two-day module for teachers' training to assist teachers aiming to foster a peaceful environment in the classroom.

In **Belarus**, UNHCR organised a workshop on developing fundraising skills for its national partners from across the country. The goal of the event was to build partners' capacity to mobilize external resources to sustain projects assisting refugees and asylum-seekers. Speakers from the Embassies of the United States, the Netherlands and Poland, as well as project managers of UNDP and the EU Delegation briefed the participants on the humanitarian and technical assistance programmes available for Belarusian organizations. The event was attended by the representatives of various state entities and NGOs such as the Ministry of Interior, State Border Committee, Gomel Temporary Accommodation Centre and the Belarusian Red Cross.

As the conflict in **Ukraine** enters its fourth year, uncertainty lingers for displaced <u>Ukrainians</u>. Nearly 1.6 million internally displaced Ukrainians struggle to find safety, adequate housing and access to employment. UNHCR remains concerned about the hardship and difficulties civilians face daily, including protection from the effects of the armed conflict and lack of freedom of movement. UNHCR and its partners are advocating to ensure that displaced people have full access to government services and continue to call on all parties involved in the conflict to ensure protection of civilians and civilian settlements.

EU RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

In August, UNHCR released <u>comments</u> on the European Commission's proposal for a recast Reception Conditions Directive. UNHCR welcomes provisions regarding strengthened safeguards for children, additional guarantees for persons with specific needs, earlier access to the labour market and the requirement for contingency planning and preparedness. However, UNHCR is concerned by some of the proposed changes restricting the freedom of movement of asylum-seekers, including through the use of detention, and by the type of measures chosen to seek to limit irregular intra-EU onward movement.

On 4 August, the European Asylum Support Office

(EASO) <u>published</u> an updated country of origin information <u>report</u> on the security situation in Pakistan. The report was initially published in August 2015 and first updated in July 2016.

On 23 August, EASO <u>released</u> a country of origin information <u>report</u> on Afghanistan, entitled Key socio-economic indicators, state protection, and mobility in Kabul City, Mazar-e Sharif, and Herat City. The report covers issues such as economic growth, employment, poverty, food security, access to education, healthcare, housing, mobility, coping strategies and actors and protection.

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DESPERATE JOURNEYS REPORT

In August, a new report released by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, showed a decline in the number of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe in the first half of 2017, mostly due to fewer people crossing the sea from Turkey to Greece than in the same period last year. However, without legal means available to them many still resorted to being transported by ruthless people-smuggling and trafficking networks, risking death, serious abuses, or both. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi was quoted in a press release linked to the report saying, "We can't afford to ignore abuses clearly taking place simply because they happen out of our sight."

In the first half of 2017, almost 3,000 refugees and migrants were believed to have died along sea or land routes at or near Europe's borders. Those arriving in Italy by sea reported surviving the deadly desert crossing from Niger, kidnappings, torture and detention in Libya, along with the dangerous sea crossing while those crossing from Turkey to Greece or Bulgaria have reported experiences such as being held captive for extortion or else abandoned by smugglers, and being sent back across borders at night by masked police. At least 29 people, including three unaccompanied children, died in the first half of 2017 as they tried to travel onwards from one EU Member State to another and push-backs, including denial of access to asylum procedures and the use of violence in some cases, were reported from several European States.

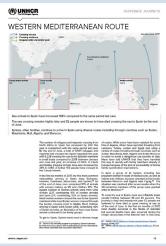
The report highlighted that more needs to be done to

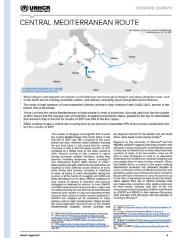
enable more refugees to enter Europe legally, including for those trying to join family members already in the EU, rather than having to resort to irregular and dangerous journeys. It noted that a different and more comprehensive response is required, including efforts to address the root causes of displacement, and more support to help States receiving and hosting refugees to provide protection and solutions. Within the EU, more solidarity is needed to ensure protection and assistance to those arriving in Europe, including through the speeding up, and extension of the relocation scheme, as well as efficient and speedy family reunion and implementation of the humanitarian and discretionary clauses under Dublin.



Download the report @ https://goo.gl/AQ6J2Y









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REFUGEE STORIES

Pensioner couple take Iraqi girl under their wing in Finland

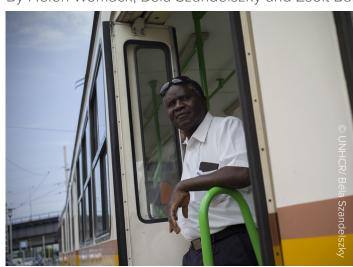
By Caroline Bach

Diana and her father Azaldeen were among 100 refugees who found a new home on the small island community of Nagu in Finland in October 2015. Both were struggling to come to terms with the kidnapping and disappearance of Diana's mother in their home city of Baghdad. Just two at the time, Diana was fearful of all that was new and strange. 80-year-old Nagu resident Mona Hemmer took the pair under her wing, becoming a grandmother figure to Diana and helping to bring stability into her new life. Now aged three, Diana has blossomed. Azaldeen and Diana have now received refugee status and residence permits, and Azaldeen has decided to stay in Nagu and study Finnish.



Drama featuring amateur actors wins praise for nuanced portrayal of both refugees and Hungarians.

By Helen Womack, Bela Szandelszky and Zsolt Balla



Cinema-goers in Hungary are earnestly discussing 'The Citizen', ('Az Allampolgar') a film that is winning awards around the world for its portrayal of an African refugee coping with casual racism, struggling with bureaucracy and trying to fit into Hungarian society. The film, directed by Roand Vranik, features a mix of amateur and professional actors and was planned back in 2012, well before hundreds of thousands of refugees passed through Hungary in 2015. The story is about supermarket security guard Wilson Ugabe, who is trying to become a Hungarian citizen. The film offers a portrayal of refugees' difficulties and, at the same time, Hungarians' sense of isolation because of the impenetrability of their language to outsiders. But the director and actors agree that there is nothing so particular or obscure about Hungary that would prevent the country, an EU member, from being a good destination for refugees, if only there was the political will to accept more refugees.

Divided by conflict line, Ukrainian families struggle

By Tania Bulakh

Surrounded by minefields, crossing points are the only way to travel back and forth between conflict-torn areas in Eastern Ukraine. For many Ukrainians, this dangerous yet inevitable route is a part of their regular travel routine. This is the dangerous crossing that elderly couple Valentina and Gennadiy go through together like thousands of other Ukrainians do just to visit family, receive social payment and seek medical treatment. Valentina, 70, can barely walk with a stick. Her husband Gennadiy grasps her hand tightly to help, but he too has difficulties walking. To get through a checkpoint, Valentina and Gennadiy must walk on foot and then wait in line for the necessary documents, all before getting to the checkpoint on the other side where are frequently long queues and delays. A journey like this can be hard for anyone – but for vulnerable people with limited mobility it is excruciating. "This is inhuman," says Valentina, wiping away her tears.

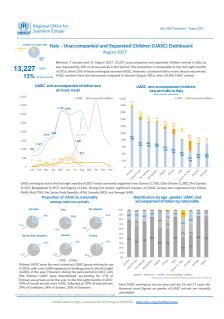
The Ukrainian authorities have registered more than 6 million crossings of the contact line since the start of 2017, already fast approaching the overall 8.5 million crossings from 2016.



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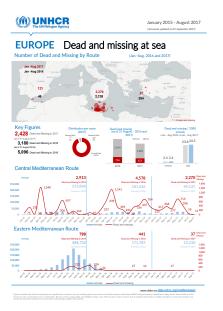


KEY DOCUMENTS FROM THE WEB PORTAL



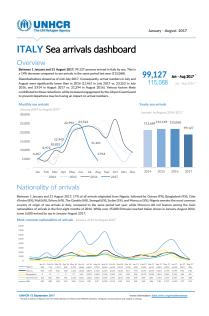
and Separated Children (UASC) Dashboard

Between 1 January and 31 August 2017, 13,227 unaccompanied and separated children arrived in Italy by sea.



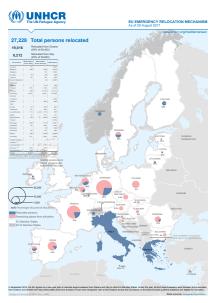
Dead and missing at sea

Between January and August 2017, 2,428 refugees and migrants have died or are missing at sea.



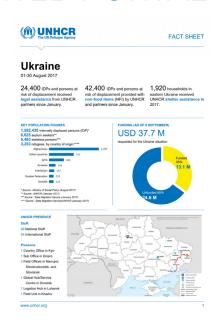
ITALY sea arrivals dashboard August 2017

Between 1 January and 31 August 2017, 99,127 persons arrived in Italy by sea. This is a 14% decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (115,068).



Relocation in Europe

Snapshot of the number of refugees relocated within Europe, totalling 27,228 within the EU Emergency Relocation Mechanism.



Ukraine country factsheet

As of the end of August, 24,400 have received legal assistance and 42,400 have been provided with non-food items. See also the operational update.



Accomodation in Greece

Snapshot of the number of accomodation places available in Greece, currently totalling 19,389.

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ELINE OVERVIE

20 March 2016

Start of the EU-Turkey Statement .

03 April 2016

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.

04 April 2016

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

06 April 2016

The European Commission (EC) published Communication on reforms to Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

07 April 2016

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.

27 April 2016

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

04 May 2016

The EC released Proposals to reform the CEAS, 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.

18 May 2016

The Turkish President approved the legislative framework regarding the EU-Turkey Statement with regards to the readmission of people from Greece.

13 July 2016

The EC released:

- Its proposals to <u>recast</u> the Asylum Procedures Directive, recast the Qualification Directive and <u>amend</u> the Reception Conditions Directive.
- Its proposal on an EU
 Resettlement Framework.

20 September 2016

Leader's Summit on Refugees was held in New York bringing together countries and international organisations, and announced pledges to increase efforts in support of refugees.

06 October 2016

The EC officially launched the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Agency.

05 December 2016

UNHCR presented a paper to the EU to call for stronger EU action on refugees.

08 December 2016

The EC released a $\underline{\text{recommendation}}$ to Member States to gradually resume Dublin transfers to Greece under certain circumstances.

31 December 2016

362,376 refugees and migrants reached Europe in 2016 and 5,096 went dead or missing.

19 January 2017

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UNHCR, IOM and 72 other partners launched the <u>Regional Refugee and</u> <u>Migrant Response Plan</u> to help respond to the situation of refugees and migrants in Europe in 2017.

02 February 2017

UNHCR and IOM released a joint statement on addressing migration and refugee movements along the Central Mediterranean route.

Informal European Council meeting. EU Leaders adopt the Malta Declaration on "addressing the Central Mediterranean route".

14 February 2017

UNHCR calls for concrete measures to be adopted by the Greek authorities, the EU and its Member States to ensure wwadequate care, support and solutions for the women, men and children seeking asylum in Greece.

07 March 2017

UNHCR is deeply concerned at a new law which has been voted at the Hungarian Parliament and which foresees the mandatory detention of all asylum seekers, including many children, for the entire length of the asylum procedure.

09-10 March 2017

European Council Migration on the agen-

25 March 2017

Informal European Council meeting. EU Leaders adopt the Rome Declaration. Migration and asylum included in the "safe and secure Europe" overarching area of work.

10 April 2017

UNHCR urges suspension of transfers of asylum-seekers to Hungary under the Dublin Regulation.

12 April 2017

The EC releases the communication on the protection of children in migration.

UNICEF and UNHCR welcome EU policy to protect migrant and refugee children.

12 May 2017

On 12 May, Frontex' Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights, which UNHCR is co-chairing, published its **Annual Report**

18 May 2017

On 18 May, a Justice and Home Affairs Council took place in Brussels. Among other issues, EU Home Affairs Ministers discussed the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), focusing on the issues of responsibili-

The European Commission (EC) released i) the 13th Report on Relocation and Resettlement; ii) the 6th Report on the EU-Turkey Statement; iii) the 4th Report on the Migration Partnership Framework and iv) the 4th Report on the European Border and Coast Guard.

15 June 2017

The EC launched infringement procedures regarding the re-location programme against Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

01 July 2017

Estonia took over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU for six months (July-December 2017). UN-HCR released <u>updated recommenda-</u> <u>tions</u> to the Estonian Presidency.

04 July 2017

the EC released an Action Plan on Measures to Support Italy, Reduce Pressure along the Central Mediterranean and Increase Solidarity.

26 July 2017

The EC moved to the next step of infringements procedures against Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic for non-compliance with the relocation decisions

2017