



Planning and Preparation: UNHCR released reports highlighting results of surveys of Afghan and Syrian arrivals to the Greek islands between 15-31 January 2016.

Link to reports:

[Syrian](#) nationals
[Afghan](#) nationals

Arrivals and Departures: The number of refugees and migrants arriving to the Greek islands in January fell to 68,000, down nearly 40% in comparison with December 2015, due largely to poor weather conditions.

Austria has introduced daily limits of people allowed entry/transit and asylum with a maximum of 3,200 people transiting to Germany and a maximum of 80 asylum applications to be accepted in Austria per day. Since the implementation of these caps, however, the respective limits have not yet been reached.

According to media, Hungarian authorities reported a sharp rise in the numbers of refugees and migrants attempting to enter through its southern borders in

February, the first significant surge since the borders were sealed last year. Around 1,500 migrants tried to enter the EU member state illegally from Serbia this month, the Hungarian police stated. Some 500 people were apprehended between Friday and Sunday alone.

Condition of People: According to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border police, negotiations took place between FYR Macedonian and Serbian authorities regarding Afghan nationals and others stranded at the border crossing. Only Syrian and Iraqi nationals on site would receive new registration documents. At the Vinojug reception centre, registration software remains offline. Registration figures are being entered manually until the new system is available and functional.

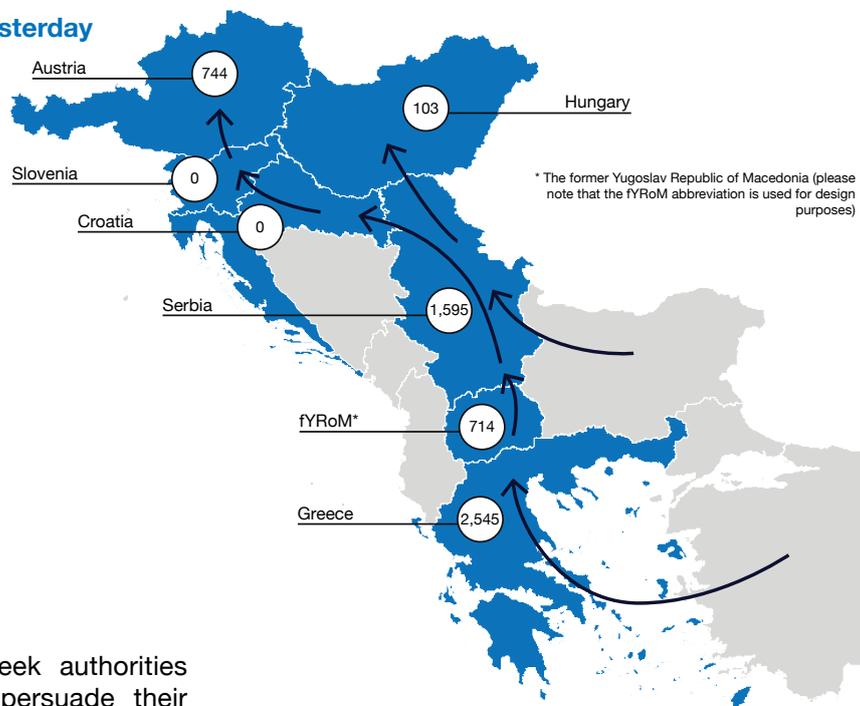
In Serbia, only Syrians and Iraqi nationals were allowed entry from from the former Republic of Macedonia. At Sid, people were not able to enter Croatia from Serbia as train transport was not available. 747 people were accommodated in Sid and Principovac Refugee Aid Points.

Deaths at Sea: None reported.



Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Greece | 2,545 |
| FYRoM* | 714 |
| Serbia | 1,595 |
| Croatia | 0 |
| Hungary | 103 |
| Slovenia | 0 |
| Austria | 744 |



Critical Developments

According to media sources, Greek authorities are taking diplomatic action to persuade their counterparts in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to allow entry to people of Afghan nationality. Greek authorities state that 5,000 people are present at the border crossing and 3,000 people are being temporarily accommodated in Athens. Authorities fear that the limits imposed at the Austrian borders will trigger similar action across other countries along the transit route.

EU Commissioner Avramopoulos launched the Europol's new European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), which, according to media, will see a team of migration and crime specialist focus on two regional "hotspots" in particular: Catania in Sicily and Piraeus in Greece.

Today in Slovenia, the majority of respondents to the latest public opinion poll released by the daily Delo newspaper support measures aimed at controlling the migration flow. They believe the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-Greece border should be completely shut to refugees and migrants. 54% of respondents are in favour of measures for the drastic reduction of the number of migrants reaching Europe.

Response

In Greece, the Schisto camp (a repurposed former military base with the capacity to accommodate 1,200) opened, as thousands of refugees and

migrants arrived in Piraeus. The three open temporary accommodation sites at Schisto, Eleonas and Elliniko are currently stretched to capacity.

Weather Headlines

- Temperatures remaining warmer than average, particularly over Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- A period of strong southerly winds, rain and thunderstorms will affect the Greek Islands with seas likely to become rough for a time on Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday afternoon.



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

8-14 February
1,147
-1% from previous week



22 February
2,545
New Week



15-21 February
2,747
140% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
February (as of 22 Feb)
1,724
-11% from previous month



Social Media

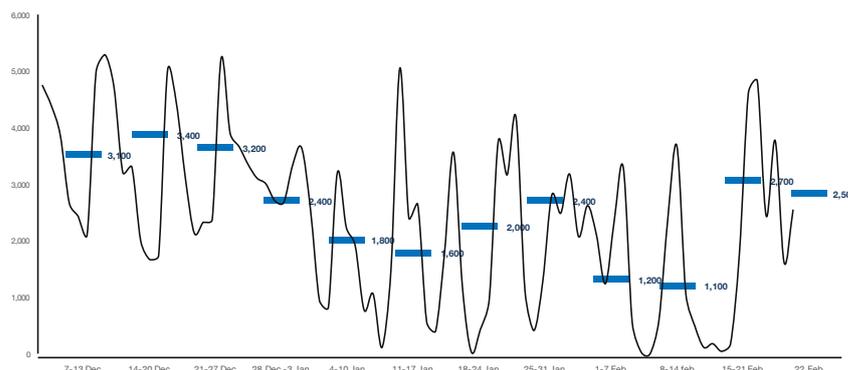
The Twitter account of the European Union's Law Enforcement Agency, [Europol](#), retweeted a post by China Xinhua News: "@Europol launches new center to fight #MigrantSmuggling". The new European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) is aimed at supporting EU member states in 'dismantling criminal networks involved in organized migrant smuggling'. This comes after reports revealed that people smugglers made profits of up to six billion euros in 2015.

[Frontex](#) posted a tweet highlighting that the Italian Coast Guard saved 12 refugees and migrants from a sinking rubber boat near the Greek island of Kos.

Current statistics for: #Frontex

- 875 impressions per hour
- 25% of posts using #Frontex originated from Sweden
- 34.72% were in German
- 20.83% were in English
- 11.11% were in French
- 9.72% were in Italian

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 December to 22 February





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia

Key locations crossed by refugees

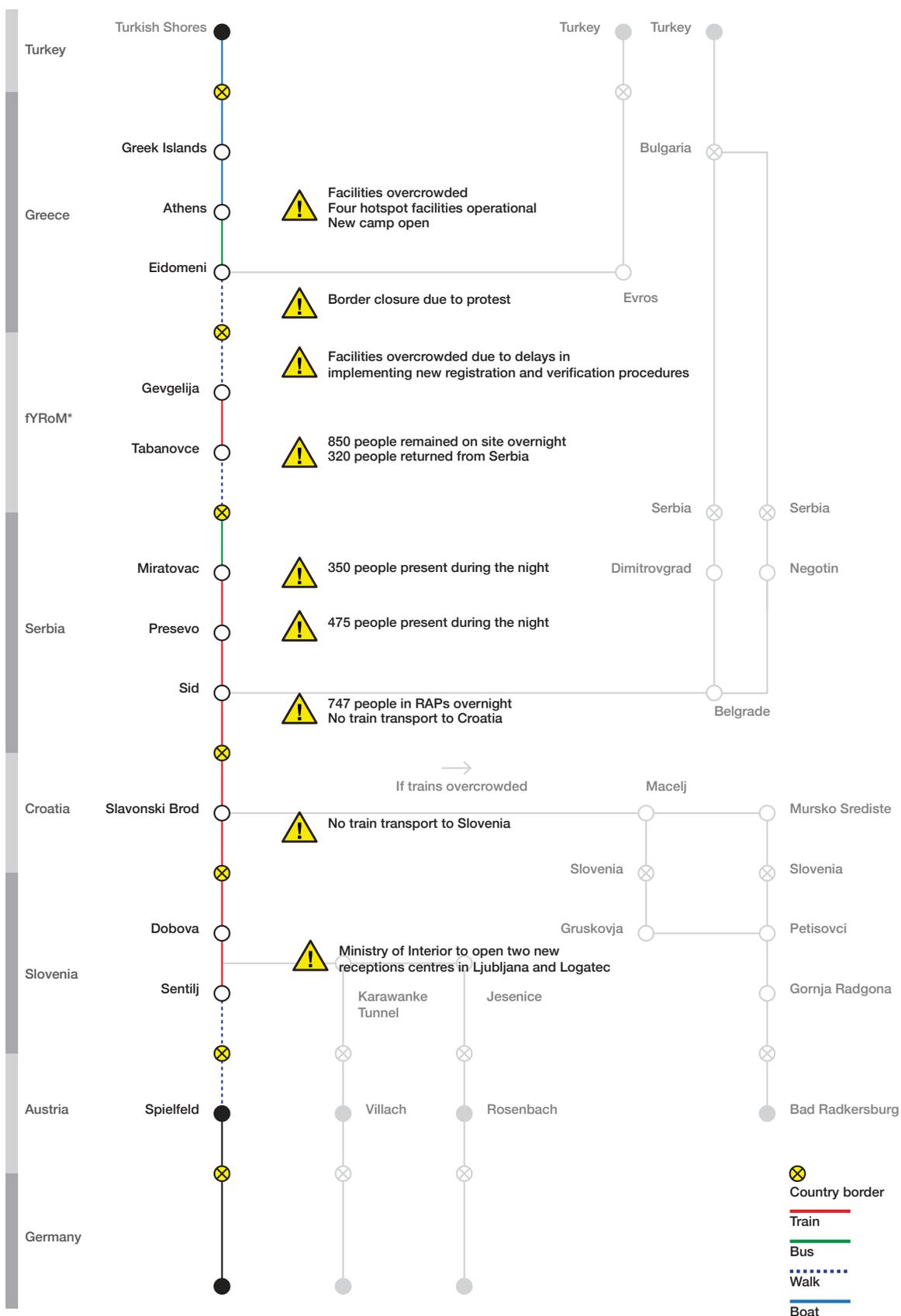


Weather Assessment

- Becoming rather unsettled across the region with rain moving into Croatia, Slovenia and northern Serbia, this will turn to sleet or snow over high ground later. Strong winds will accompany the wet weather.
- An area of low pressure moves through the Aegean on Thursday and strong southerly winds will cause sea states to become moderate or rough for a time on Wednesday. Rougher seas between the Greek Islands and Turkey have, in the past, caused a reduction in arrivals to the Greek Islands.
- Temperatures remain higher than average for the time of year everywhere with the possible exception of northern Slovenia and Austria. Colder air will move south, for a time, later in the week with minimum temperatures below freezing and the potential for some snow. This will come as a shock after the mild conditions with potential for people to suffer cold-related illness if they are unprepared.



Situation Overview



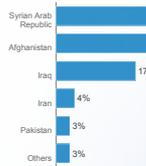


Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

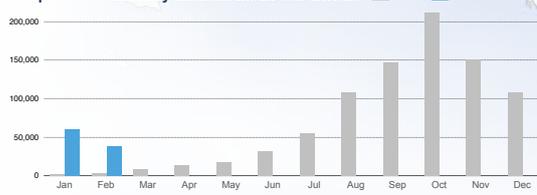
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent **100%** of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



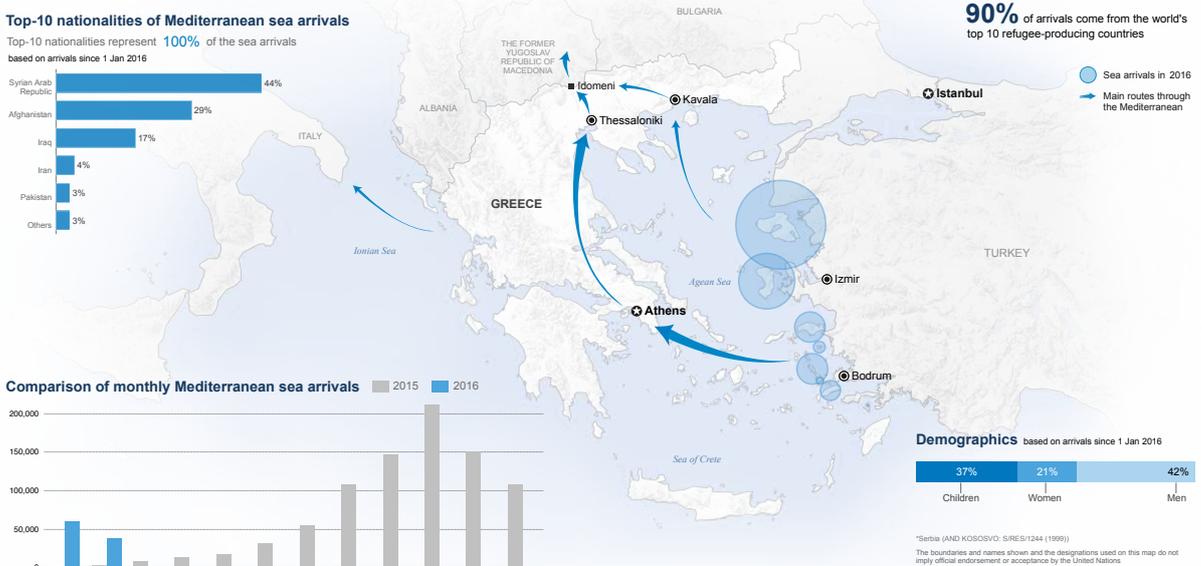
Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



© Last updated: 22 Feb 2016
98,432 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

90% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries



Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals

