



Arrivals and Departures: In the past 48 hours, 1,100 refugees entered the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Entry to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from Greece remains intermittent. An average of 3,000 people arrived daily to the Greek Islands this week.

Condition of People: In order to prevent overcrowding in Eidomeni, authorities set up several stop overs on the way from Pireus Port to Athens, and from Athens to the Eidomeni border crossing with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. People are sheltered temporarily in motels and sports centres. In addition, the transit centres in Athens (Schisto, Elaionas and Elliniko) as well as Diavata in Thessaloniki have become overcrowded. People remained overnight

in open spaces such as Victoria Square in Athens. Overall, it is estimated that between 12,000 and 15,000 refugees and migrants are present across the country.

The Greek Minister of Shipping and Island Policy announced through media channels that ferry service transporting refugees and migrants from the islands to the mainland will be temporarily suspended, in an effort to avoid further congestion.

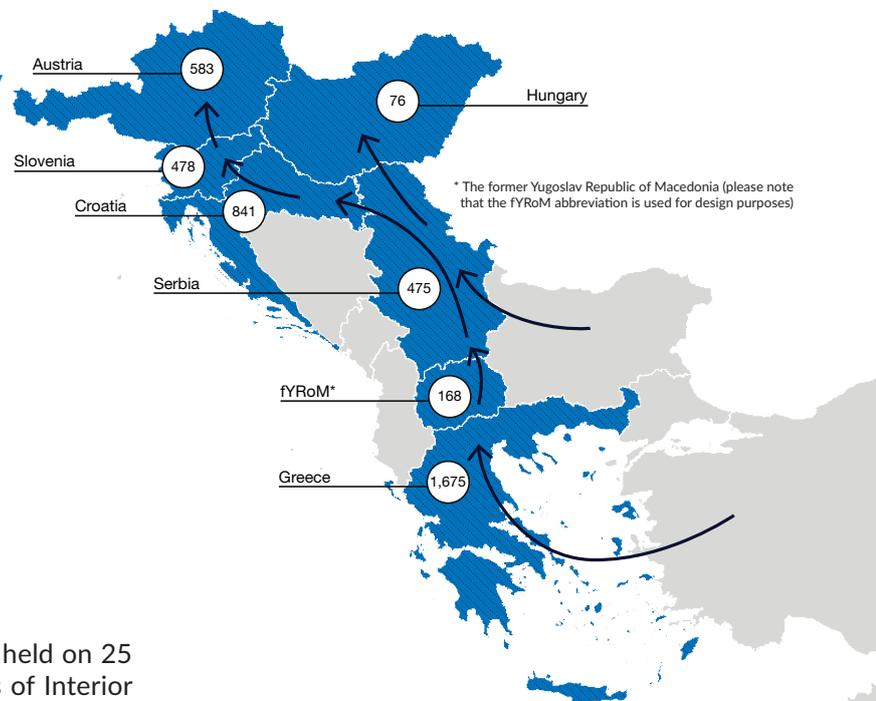
Serbian Prime Minister stated that the Government stands ready to accept refugees and migrants as part of a Europe-wide solution to the refugee crisis.

Deaths at sea: None reported.



Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

Greece	1,675
fYRoM*	168
Serbia	475
Croatia	841
Hungary	76
Slovenia	478
Austria	583



Critical Developments

At the Justice and Home Affairs Council held on 25 February 2015 in Brussels, EU Ministers of Interior reiterated that no unilateral decisions should be taken without prior consultation with countries concerned. This follows Austria's recent decision to limit on the number of asylum applications to be processed and further restrictions implemented along the Western Balkans route.

While Ministers underlined the humanitarian consequences of such measures, EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, added that contingency plans are needed and should not replace previous commitments. The JHA Council also met with Ministers of the Western Balkans and Turkish authorities, both attended by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

During his meeting with UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, highlighted the need for coordinated

action at the European and international level in handling the refugee crisis. In a separate press statement, Tsipras threatened not to respect EU agreements, should other countries continue to take actions that lead refugees and migrants having to remain in Greece. Meanwhile, Tsipras and German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, agreed to intensify collaborative efforts to implement all agreements, as well as the immediate start of the NATO mission aimed to prevent human smuggling.

In reaction to the invitation policy and the outcome of the Conference on "Managing Migration Together" with Western Balkan states held in Vienna on 24 February, the Greek Minister of Interior recalled its Ambassador to Austria.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein [expressed serious concern](#)

at security measures adopted at a recent meeting of the heads of police of Austria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia. The measures are already having a negative impact on the human rights of refugees and migrants in southern and central Europe, and are compounding the already exceptionally difficult situation in Greece.

Response

Greek Defense Minister, Panos Kammenos, announced on the creation of five additional temporary accommodation centres in northern Greece to host around 20,000 people.

Challenges

In Greece, the establishment of new temporary accommodation facilities continues to cause tension amongst local communities, whilst refugees and migrants protest against restrictions to onward travel.

Weather Headlines

- Mainly settled weather on Saturday across south east Europe with good periods of sunshine in many parts.



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

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



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



22-25 February
2,435
-11% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
February (as of 25 Feb)
1,800
-7% from previous month



Social Media

Twitter Activity: [China Xinhua News](#) Twitter account posted a video: "NATO standing maritime force SNMG2 is conducting reconnaissance in Aegean Sea #MigrantCrisis"

[Kathimerini English](#) posted about the Greek government's decision to temporarily suspend ferries transporting refugees and migrants from the islands to the mainland.

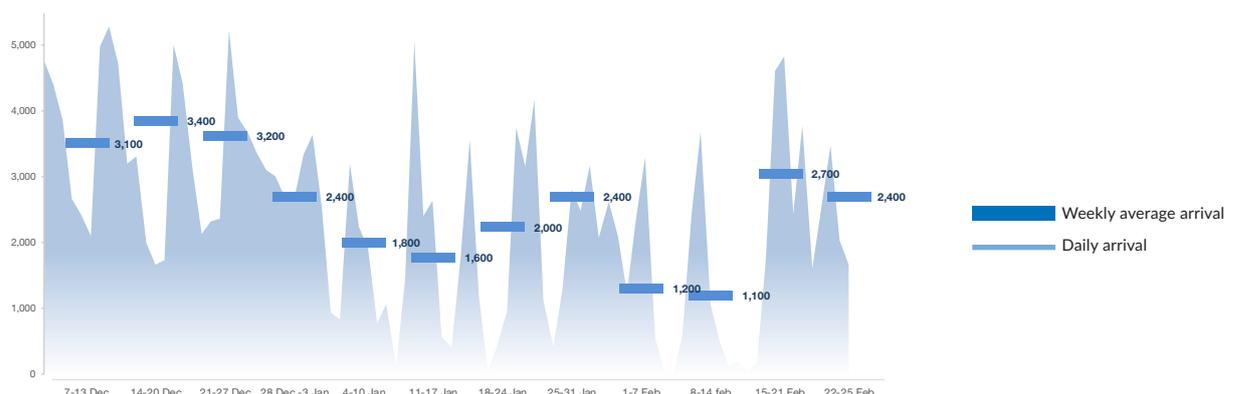
Current statistics for: #NATO

- 21 tweets, 33 retweets per hour
- Over 142,000 impressions per hour
- 19.78% of posts using #NATO originated from the US

Current statistics for: #Greece

- 67 tweets, 71 retweets per hour
- 41.46% of posts using #Greece originated from Greece with most people tweeting about the Greek government's order for a reduction of refugees and migrants transiting to Greece (and eventually to Western Europe) via the islands
- Over the past week, tweets using #Greece peaked during lunchtime hours (11am-2pm) and early evening (5pm) but steadily declined until 10pm.
- The Merchant Marine Ministry received instructions as of Friday morning and said they will use chartered ferries on the island of Lesbos to provide shelter over the weekend.

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 December to 25 February





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia

Key locations crossed by refugees



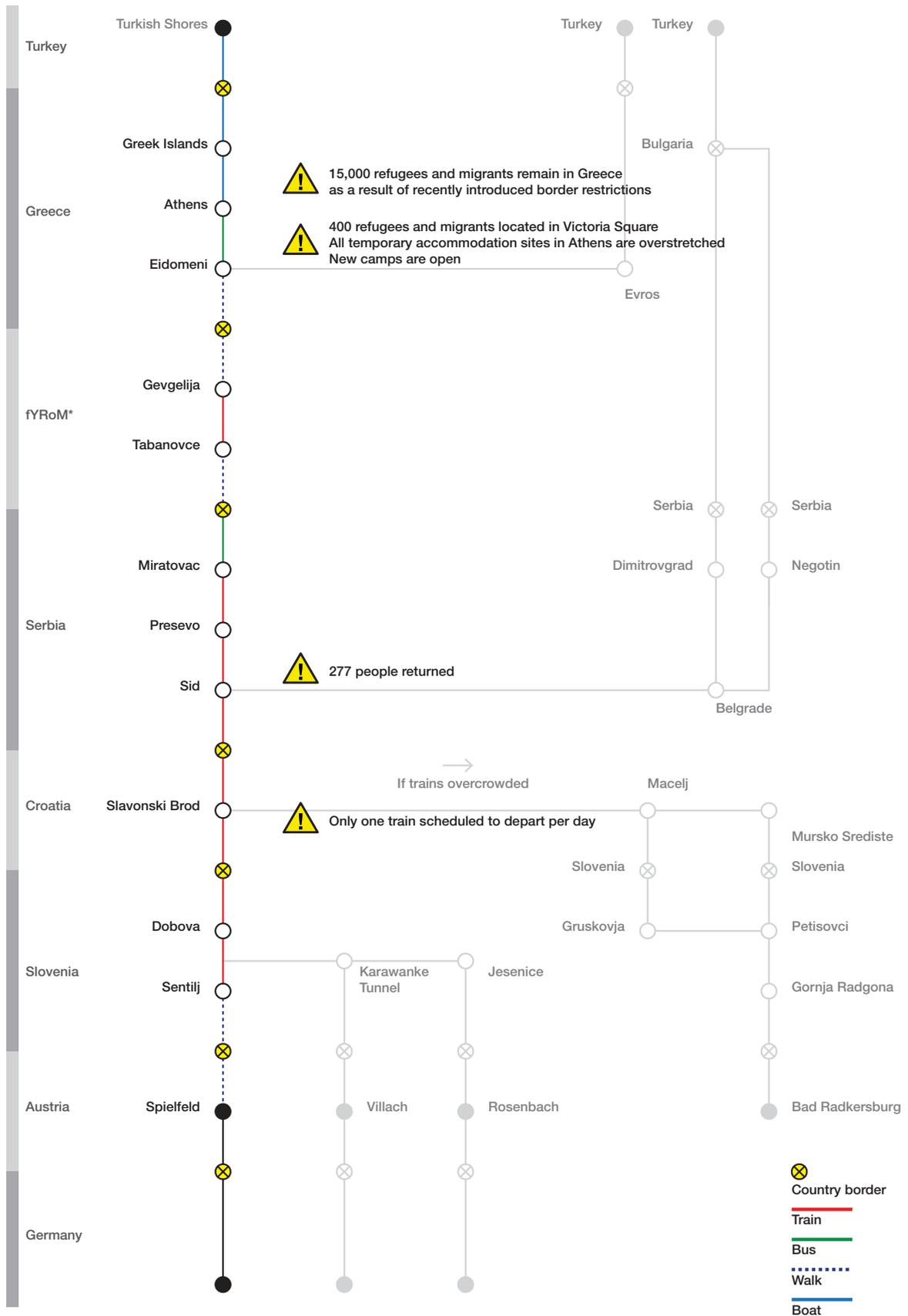
Weather Assessment

- Saturday will be a settled day across most of the region with sunshine in many areas. Temperatures will be below zero on Saturday morning in the north particularly in parts of Slovenia, Croatia and northern Serbia. Later in the day, rain will affect western Slovenia.
- On Sunday, a deep low pressure west of Italy will start to affect the region with some strong winds and rain moving across SE Europe, this weather system is likely to bring some very strong winds and gales into the Aegean Sea on Monday and Tuesday. The seas around the Greek Islands will become rough on Monday with large waves. It will be dangerous for small boats to travel in these conditions and past analysis of these events has shown lower arrivals in the Greek Islands. In addition, some heavy rain showers will affect parts of the Greek mainland and around the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border on Monday.
- Heavy rain will affect parts of Slovenia and northern Croatia on Sunday night and Monday. There may be some localised flooding and ground conditions will be very muddy if traveling on foot.

Source: UK Met Office, WMO and Local National Met Services



Situation Overview



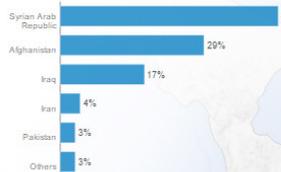


Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

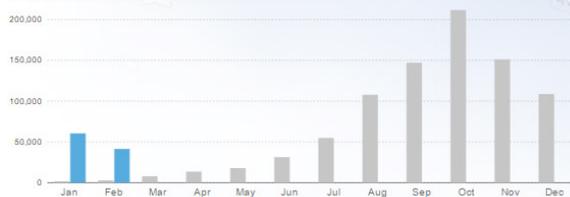
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. 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



101,906 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

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



Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals

