



European
Commission



A Europe that protects our borders and delivers on a comprehensive migration policy

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TOWARDS A MORE UNITED, STRONGER AND MORE DEMOCRATIC UNION



‘Our common European values and our historic responsibility are my starting point when I think about the future of Europe’s migration policy. My experience tells me that Europe will need more solidarity to prepare for the future. The future of a prosperous continent that will always be open for those in need, but that will also deal with the challenge of migration together, and not leave some to cope alone.’

Then candidate for European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, **1 May 2014**

In 2015, faced with the most severe refugee crisis the world has seen since the Second World War, the EU managed to bring about a step change in migration management and border protection. The EU has offered protection and support to millions, saved lives, dismantled smuggling networks and brought irregular arrivals to Europe down to the lowest level recorded in 5 years. Nevertheless, more work is needed to make the EU’s migration policy truly future-proof in view of a constantly evolving geopolitical context and a steady rise in migratory pressure on a global scale.

30

main legislative initiatives have been presented by the Juncker Commission.

14


have been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

16

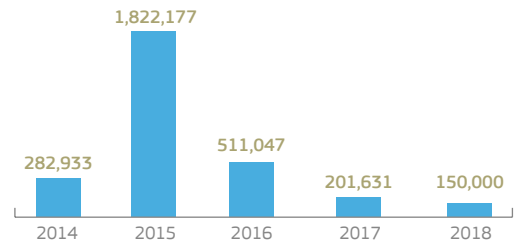
legislative initiatives are still on the table for the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to adopt.

IRREGULAR BORDER CROSSINGS REDUCED BY 90%

Saving lives, better managing migratory flows and fighting traffickers are the core objectives of the EU's migration policy. Following the EU-Turkey Statement, which was agreed in March 2016, arrivals to Greece were greatly reduced and remain 97% lower than the period before the Statement became operational. Arrivals in the Central Mediterranean in 2018 dropped by 80% compared to 2017 and so far in 2019, arrivals are over 90% lower than the same period in 2018. The total number of arrivals to Spain so far this year is 41% higher compared to the same period in 2018, with a significant decrease noted since February. In parallel, the number of lives lost in the Mediterranean has also gone down significantly.

 Around **730,000** lives saved in the Mediterranean since 2015

 Decrease of illegal border crossings into the EU: **90%** since 2015



PROTECTING OUR BORDERS WITH THE NEW EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD



Established in 2016, building on the foundations of Frontex, the **European Border and Coast Guard Agency** is today at the core of the EU's work to support Member States in protecting the external borders. In March 2019, the European Parliament and the Council agreed upon the Commission proposal to further reinforce the European Border and Coast Guard and equip the Agency with a **standing corps of 10,000 border guards** to ensure that Member States can rely on full EU operational support at all times. The Agency will also have a **stronger mandate on returns** and will cooperate more closely with **non-EU countries**, including those beyond the EU's immediate neighbourhood. This reinforcement will give the Agency the right level of ambition to respond to the common challenges facing Europe in managing migration and its external borders.



Around 1,000 officials are already deployed across Europe at external land and sea borders. And with the **hotspots established in Greece and Italy since 2015**, we can now better manage and control migration flows: Every single person arriving in these hotspots is identified and registered and goes through a security check.



In addition, **new border security systems**, such as the **Entry-Exit System** and the **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)**. The Commission has also reinforced the existing **Schengen Information System** to better track down dangerous criminals and terrorists and proposed new measures to achieve full **interoperability** of EU information systems for security, border and migration management to ensure that border guards and police officers have access to the right information exactly when and where they need it.

SOLIDARITY AT HOME: CONCRETE HELP TO MEMBER STATES

The EU has provided unprecedented financial and practical support to its Member States.

This includes funding from the EU budget of €22 billion for internal and external migration management, more than double of what was originally foreseen for the period 2015-2018. €9.6 billion comes from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) for internal migration management and €12.4 billion for addressing the external aspects of migration. While Member States under pressure can apply for emergency funding, long-term funding helps national authorities make their migration and border management future-proof.



Emergency funding awarded to support EU Member States since 2014
AMIF: €1.07 billion
ISF: €410 million

Learning the lessons of the past, the Commission proposed to almost triple funding for migration and border management within the EU to € 34.9 billion for the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027.

EU agencies, such as the European Border and Coast Guard, the European Asylum Support Office and Europol provide operational assistance on the ground. Through its agencies, the EU is supporting Member States with manpower, expertise and equipment, on land and at sea, to manage and strengthen the external borders, provide protection to those who need it, effectively return those who do not and, above all, to save lives.

Through the relocation mechanism, almost 35,000 asylum seekers - all eligible candidates for relocation - have been transferred to other EU Member States between 2015 and 2017.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Under the Juncker Commission, migration has been fully embedded in the EU's foreign policy. The new Partnership Framework on Migration combines all EU policies and instruments to effectively address challenges outside the European Union related to migration. Concrete actions have been put in place and are delivering on the priorities to:

- Save lives
- Break the business model of traffickers and smugglers
- Enhance cooperation on returns and readmissions
- Address root causes of migration
- Improve opportunities in countries of origin
- Ensuring legal pathways for those in need of international protection

Visible achievements



Protection: Together with United Nations agencies, the EU works to improve protection of migrants and refugees along the Central Mediterranean Route: 6 transit centres have been put in place in Niger under the EU – IOM partnership; since May 2017, over 38,000 people have been assisted to voluntarily return to their homes from Libya and the Sahel and Lake Chad region; more than 3,500 people in need of international protection have been evacuated from Libya in view of further resettlement since the launch of the Joint African Union-European Union-United Nations Taskforce in November 2017; over 13,000 migrants have been rescued in the desert by the IOM with Nigerien authorities. EU-financed projects will continue to support migrants and refugees currently in detention centres and disembarkation points in Libya while efforts of the Joint Task Force to empty the centres continue.



Fighting traffickers and smugglers: Operation Sophia has contributed to arrest 151 suspected smugglers and traffickers, 200 people arrested and brought to court in Niger with EU support; EU will support G5 Sahel Joint Force in taking action in the region with €100 million in funding; increased cooperation and exchange of information between European Agencies like Europol and European Border and Coast Guard with local authorities.



Cooperation with partners has reached an unprecedented level: Support to partner countries in reforming their migration management systems, dedicated European migration liaison officers deployed to EU Delegations in 12 key countries of origin and transit, reinforced work through multilateral initiatives such as the Contact group for the Mediterranean. The EU is working on improving practical arrangements on return and readmission with countries of origin. Formal readmission agreements or practical arrangements on return and readmission are now in place with 23 countries of origin and transit.



Opportunities: The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, worth €4.2 billion, provides assistance along migratory routes and supports opportunities for migrants in their home countries through initiatives that boost economic development, create jobs and increase stability.

- EU budget contribution: €3.7 billion
- Member States contribution: €494 million

Over 5.3 million people receive basic social services, food security and nutrition programmes. 41,000 jobs have been created or facilitated and 40,000 people have benefitted from training and skills development activities.

SAFE AND LEGAL PATHWAYS: A NEW BOOST FOR RESETTLEMENT

In September 2017, the Commission launched a new resettlement scheme for at least 50,000 refugees, the biggest EU resettlement scheme to date - under which 25,000 persons have already been resettled. In total, over 50,000 of the most vulnerable refugees in the Middle East and in Africa have found shelter in the EU since 2015 thanks to EU resettlement programmes.



By October 2019:

Member States should complete the remainder of resettlements.

OVERHAULING THE EU'S ASYLUM RULES

Learning the lessons of the last years, the EU needs a robust and effective system for sustainable migration management. The reform package presented by the Commission will put in place efficient and fair procedures that leave no room for abuses and secondary movements. The Commission has put all necessary proposals on the table but despite important progress in the negotiations, Member States have yet to agree on a common approach to the reform. The Commission will continue working with both the European Parliament and the Council to advance towards the finishing line.

WHAT THE NEW RULES WILL MEAN IN PRACTICE

1. NO MORE
SECONDARY
MOVEMENTS

2. NO MORE
ABUSE OF
THE SYSTEM

3. EFFICIENT
AND FAIR
PROCEDURES

4. A MORE
EFFICIENT AND
FAIRER SYSTEM
FOR ALLOCATING
ASYLUM
APPLICATIONS
AMONGST MEMBER
STATES