



Balancing responsibility and solidarity on migration and asylum

In managing asylum and migration policy comprehensively, responsibility and solidarity must go hand in hand. The European Commission has a number of immediate and long-term actions to strike the right balance between taking responsibility and ensuring solidarity of Member States.

COMPLYING WITH THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM (CEAS) AND ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY

- The European Union has the highest asylum standards in the world and the Commission, as Guardian of the Treaties enforces their implementation. The Commission and European Asylum Support Office (EASO) have produced and distributed a number of guidelines and operational guidance for Member States to use to assist them with the implementation of asylum legislation and regularly meets with the Member States.
 - On 27 May 2015, the Commission also published guidelines for Member States setting out a best practices approach for fingerprinting newly arrived applicants for international protection. Currently, Member States apply the existing legislation under varying conditions, using either detention, coercion or neither to ensure fingerprinting. As a result, the Commission services are putting forward a common approach for the process of fingerprinting.
 - EU legislation includes specific provisions to fight against abuses, for example by allowing swift processing of unfounded asylum applications for people coming from countries considered 'safe'. In the short term, the Commission and EASO are working to coordinate a more harmonised approach to national lists of safe countries of origin. In the medium term, the Commission is working towards a possible common EU list of safe countries of origin.

PUTTING SOLIDARITY INTO PRACTICE

- **Funding:** the European Commission is unlocking **€7 billion** in total under the *Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)*, and the *Internal Security Fund (ISF)* to address migration and security challenges in Europe. In addition, there is **€76.5 million** available in emergency funding under AMIF for the EU27 for 2014-2015. Italy, Spain and Greece are the top three recipients in absolute terms.
- **Relocation:** In May 2015, the Commission proposed a Council Decision for an emergency relocation mechanism to relocate 40,000 people in clear need of international protection from Italy and Greece. In July 2015, the Justice and Home Affairs Council adopted a decision to relocate **32 256** persons and adopted a resolution to this end. Ministers committed to agree on the distribution of the remaining **7 744** persons by the end of 2015.
- **Resettlement:** In May 2015, the Commission presented a recommendation for an EU-wide resettlement scheme for 20,000 displaced persons in clear need of international protection from the Middle East, North Africa and the Horn of Africa to Europe. The Council adopted conclusions on 20 July to resettle, through multilateral and national schemes, **22 504** displaced persons from outside the EU who are in clear need of international protection.
- **Hotspots:** Under the European Agenda on Migration, the Commission has proposed to create and send Hot-spot teams to assist frontline Member States (Greece and Italy in particular) in identifying, interviewing and fingerprinting newly arrived migrants. The European Asylum Support Office, Frontex and Europol will work on the ground with frontline Member States to swiftly identify, register and fingerprint incoming migrants. The work of the agencies will be complementary to one another. Those claiming asylum will be immediately channelled into an asylum procedure where EASO support teams will

- As guardian of the Treaties, the European Commission is responsible for monitoring full and correct implementation of the instruments of the Common European Asylum System. There are currently 35 open infringement cases that include one or more violations of the following instruments:

| Open infringement cases within the Common European Asylum System | | | | |
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| Asylum Procedures Directive 2005/85/EC | Reception Conditions Directive 2003/9/EC | Qualification Directive 2004/83/EC and 2011/95/EU | Dublin II Regulation 343/2003 | Long-Term Residence Directive 2011/51/EU |
| 4 cases: Greece Italy Cyprus Hungary | 5 cases: Greece France Italy Cyprus Hungary | 14 cases: Bulgaria Greece Spain France Italy Cyprus Lithuania Hungary Malta Poland Portugal Romania Slovenia Finland | 1 cases: Italy | 11 cases: Belgium Germany Greece France Italy Latvia Malta Austria Poland Slovenia Sweden |

A full published list of open and closed cases can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/eu-law-and-monitoring/infringements_by_policy_asylum_en.htm

help to process asylum cases as quickly as possible. For those not in need of protection, Frontex will help Member States by coordinating the return of irregular migrants. Europol and Eurojust will assist the host Member State with investigations to dismantle the smuggling and trafficking networks. Headquarters have been set up in Catania (Sicily, Italy) and in Piraeus (Greece) to implement the Hotspot approach.

- EU Civil protection mechanism:** The primary responsibility for dealing with the immediate consequences of emergencies lies with the country in which it occurs. When the scale of an emergency overwhelms national response capabilities, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism enables a coordinated assistance from its participating states. All 28 EU Member States participate in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, as well as Iceland, Norway, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Montenegro. Turkey has recently signed the agreement to officially join the Mechanism. The assistance includes *material assistance, expertise, intervention teams and modules, and specific equipment* for disaster stricken countries. The majority of participating states offer assistance free of charge.