



European
Commission

RELOCATION & RESETTLEMENT

Sharing responsibility and opening legal pathways to Europe

September 2017

Europe has consistently shown generosity and true solidarity towards those in need of protection during the migration crisis. Over the past year alone, we have opened our doors to more than 700,000 persons in need of protection. But many of those arriving on our shores have risked their lives in doing so. Through our resettlement and relocation schemes, we enable the most vulnerable to reach Europe through legal and safe pathways and we ensure that responsibility is shared fairly between Member States.

RELOCATION – SHARING RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE EU



«We have made enormous progress on relocation over the past two years. The success of the scheme must be assessed against its capability **to relocate all those present and eligible – a perfectly feasible objective** if Member States continue their efforts during the last stage of the scheme.»

EU Migration Commissioner **Avramopoulos**

In September 2015, based on a proposal by the Commission, Member States decided to set up an **Emergency Relocation System** to support **Italy and Greece** who were faced with an unprecedented increase in arrivals. Two years on, almost all registered candidates have been successfully relocated – a **total of more than 27,000 persons** in need of protection. The results achieved so far show that relocation works – helping refugees start a new life and ensuring that responsibility is shared amongst Member States.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

How many in total?

The relocation scheme applies to eligible asylum seekers arriving in Greece and Italy between September 2015 and September 2017. Based on the arrival figures at the time and the expectation that they would continue at the same rate, Member States agreed to support Greece with the relocation of 63,302 persons in need of international protection and Italy with 34,953 – a total of **around 98,000**. But with the EU-Turkey Statement reducing irregular flows to Greece by 97 % and the majority of migrants arriving in Italy not being eligible, the **number of persons to be relocated turned out to be much lower**.

Who is eligible?

Nationalities with an overall asylum recognition rate of **75% or higher** in EU Member States. Currently: Eritrea, Syria, Yemen, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bhutan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates.

How many relocations so far?

Total: **27,695**
From **Greece**: 19,244
From **Italy**: 8,451

How many still to be relocated?

At the moment, there are **2,800 persons in Greece** awaiting relocation with another 2,000 likely to become eligible. In **Italy, 7,200 eligible** persons have arrived in 2017 so far - but only 4,000 have been registered. With **new arrivals on a daily basis**, Italy needs to step up efforts to swiftly identify and register all those eligible for relocation.

All have to contribute

Setting up the relocation mechanism was decided by Member States in legally binding Council decisions. Almost all Member States have respected their legal obligations with regular pledges and relocations. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland are the only exceptions and the Commission has launched **infringement procedures** against them.

For how long?

Member States' legal obligations do not stop after September 2017: Under the current scheme, all eligible migrants arriving in Greece and Italy until 26 September 2017 have the right to be relocated and they must be transferred to the Member State of destination in a reasonable timeframe thereafter.

RESETTLEMENT - OPENING LEGAL PATHWAYS TO EUROPE

«I encourage Member States to be as ambitious as possible and step up our collective efforts to provide legal avenues for refugees. Along the Central Mediterranean route, resettlement of persons in need of international protection will contribute to stabilising the challenging situation and will increase our common efforts to save lives and offer alternatives to irregular and dangerous journeys to Europe. In parallel, Member States should continue resettling people displaced by the Syrian conflict from Turkey.»

EU Migration Commissioner **Avramopoulos**

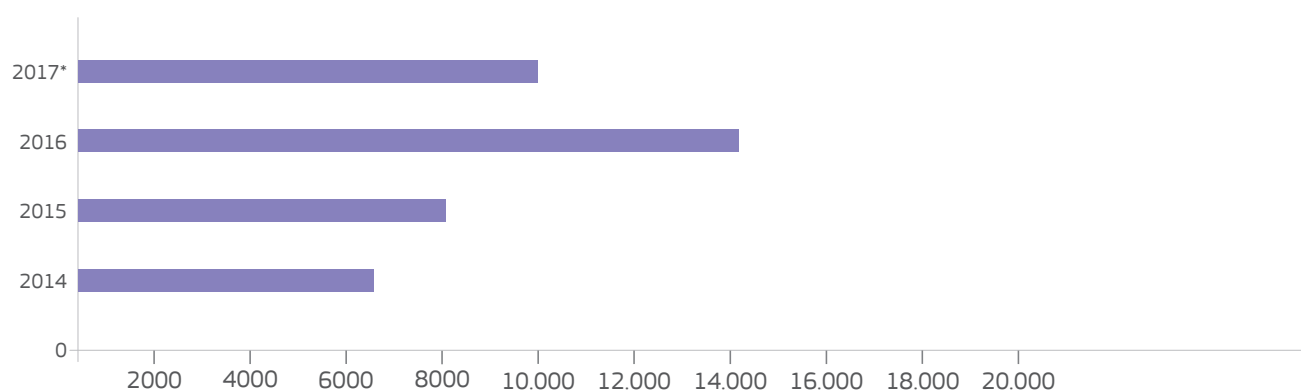
Increasing legal pathways to Europe for those in need of international protection is a key part of the EU's work to prevent people resorting to criminal smuggling networks and taking dangerous irregular journeys to Europe. The Commission has been working successfully with Member States over the past few years to increase the EU's collective resettlement efforts.

The EU has had a European resettlement scheme in place since July 2015 to provide legal and safe pathways to enter the EU. Through this scheme, Member States have agreed to resettle over 22,000 persons in need of

international protection during the period 2015-2017. Over 17,000 persons, mainly from Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, have been resettled so far, over 75% of the agreed target.

Member States are also successfully resettling Syrian refugees from Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016, having provided protection to over 8,800 Syrians so far. In total, over 22,500 people have been resettled so far under both EU-level resettlement schemes.

RESETTLEMENTS TO EU MEMBER STATES:



*September 2017

The EU budget supports Member States with **€10,000 or €6,000** per resettled refugee, depending on whether the resettlements are carried out under the July 2015 scheme or the 1:1 mechanism with Turkey respectively.

WAY FORWARD >>

In July, the Commission launched a new resettlement exercise and invited Member States to submit new resettlement pledges for 2018. Whilst ensuring continued resettlement from Turkey and the Middle East, increased focus should be put on resettlement from North Africa and the Horn of Africa. The Commission has for the time being set aside €377.5 million to support financially the resettlement of at least 37,750 persons during 2018.

To further increase resettlement efforts and establish a common European policy on resettlement, the Commission in July 2016 proposed to create an EU Resettlement Framework. Through the coordination of national efforts, a unified procedure and common criteria, the EU Resettlement Framework will ensure that the EU's collective efforts are scaled up.