

EU-TURKEY STATEMENT

THE COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEADERS' AGENDA

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On 18 March 2016, EU Heads of State or Government and Turkey agreed on the **EU-Turkey Statement** to end irregular migration flows from Turkey to the EU, ensure improved reception conditions for refugees in Turkey and open up organised, safe and legal channels to Europe for Syrian refugees. Since then, irregular arrivals have dropped by 97%, while the number of lives lost at sea has decreased substantially. The EU has supported Turkey in its efforts to host refugees and is well on track to contract the €3 billion from its Facility for Refugees in Turkey by the end of 2017. Successful implementation requires continuous efforts and commitment from both the EU and Turkey.

THE EU-TURKEY STATEMENT IN ACTION

A GAME CHANGER


From **10,000** in a single day in October 2015, daily crossings have gone down to an average of around **84** today, while the number of deaths in the Aegean decreased from 1,175 in the 20 months before the statement to 137. That is almost one million people who have not taken dangerous routes to get to the European Union, and more than 1,000 who have not lost their lives trying.

ARRIVALS ON THE ISLANDS IN 2015

 **October 2015:**
Daily average
6,360 arrivals

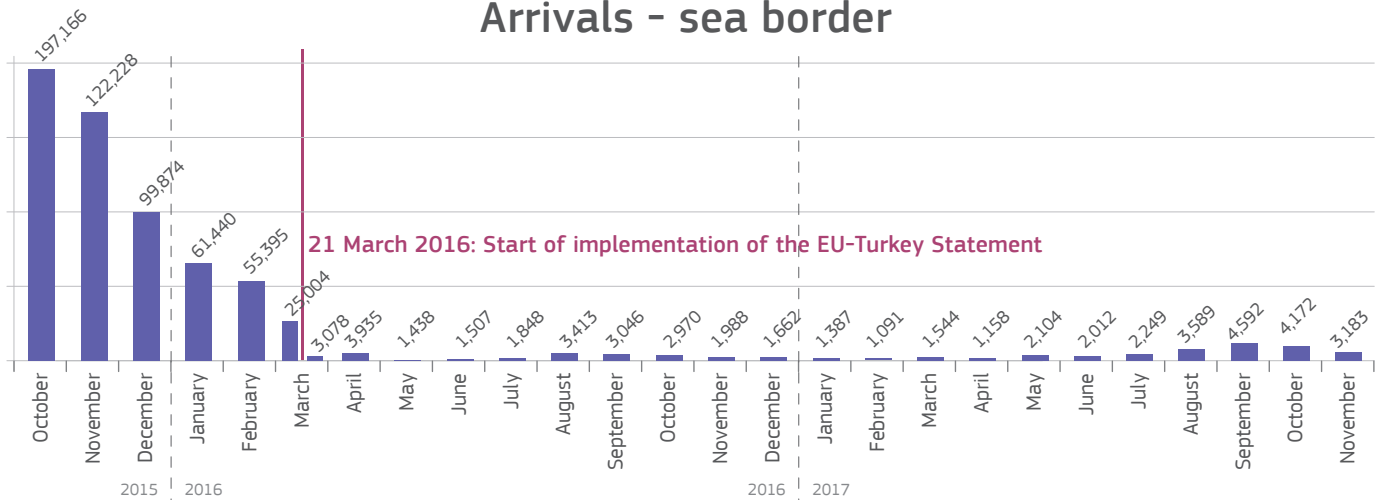
 **December 2015:**
Daily average
3,221 arrivals

ARRIVALS ON THE ISLANDS SINCE THE EU-TURKEY STATEMENT

 **Since 18 March 2016:**
Daily average
84 arrivals

 Drop of **97%**

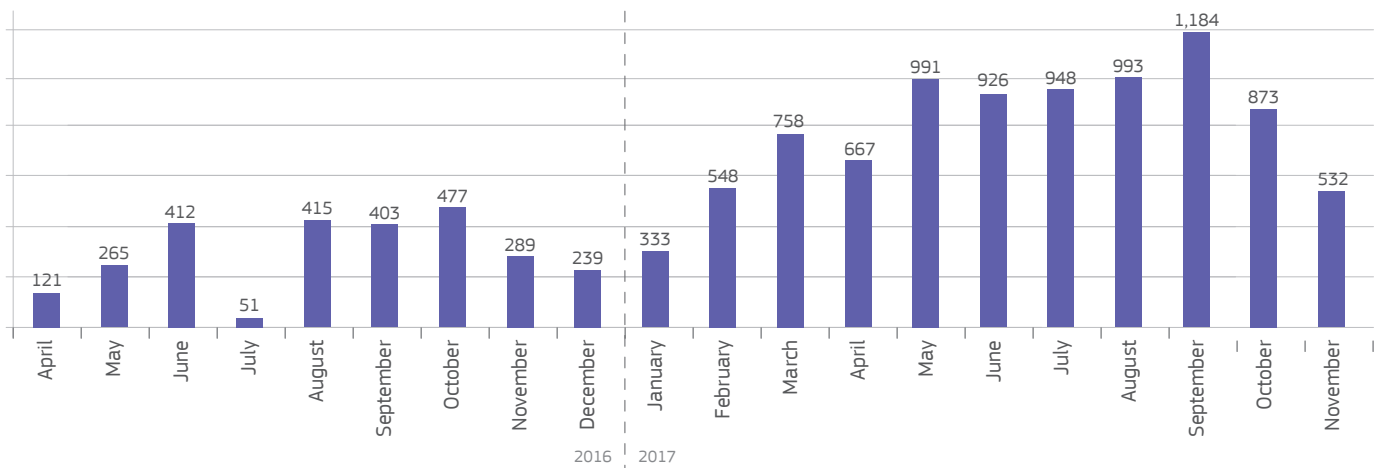
Arrivals - sea border



Resettlement: EU solidarity with Syrian refugees

Resettlements under the EU-Turkey Statement are continuing at a steady pace – in total, over 11,490 Syrian refugees have been resettled from Turkey to EU Member States so far.

Resettlements



Continued support to Greece

In line with the Joint Action Plan on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, endorsed by EU Heads of State or Government in December 2016, the Commission and EU agencies have continued to provide funding, technical assistance and experts to increase the migration and asylum management capacities of the Greek administration. Around 340 experts from the European Asylum Support Office are deployed in Greece. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency is supporting the Greek authorities with over 740 officers to save lives, perform border surveillance and identify and register arriving migrants through the ongoing joint Operation Poseidon.

Since 2015, the Commission has made more than €1.3 billion available from the EU budget to support the Greek authorities to manage migration and help improve reception capacities and conditions for migrants and asylum seekers, in particular on the islands. The Commission is also supporting the Greek authorities with the transfer to the mainland of vulnerable asylum seekers as well as of those entitled to family reunification.

Thanks to EU support and funding, all migrants and refugees staying in Greece today benefit from a minimum level of services, such as shelter, catering, clothing, healthcare, protection and access to the asylum procedures.

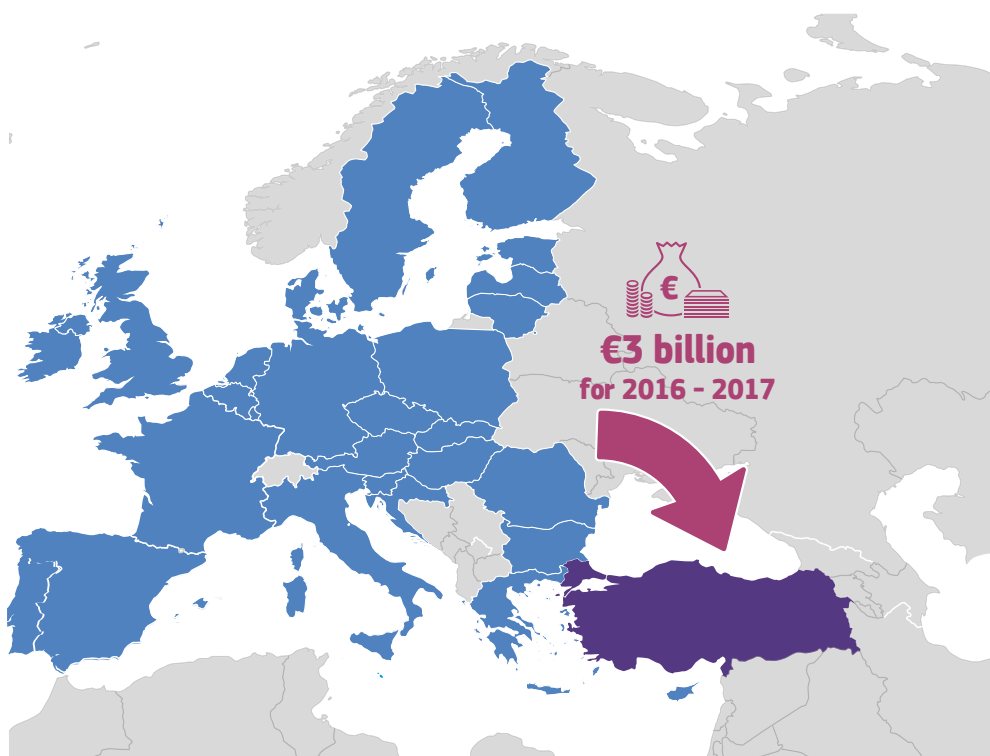
More progress on returns to Turkey needed

The pace of returns to Turkey from the Greek islands under the Statement remains very slow, with only 2,059 migrants returned since March 2016. Significant additional efforts are still needed to reduce the backlog of asylum applications, address the insufficient pre-return processing and detention capacity in Greece to improve returns.

In addition, 2,041 migrants have returned voluntarily from the islands since June 2016, supported by the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR). In total, 11,391 migrants have returned voluntarily from both the Greek islands and mainland through the programme.

EU support to Syrian refugees in Turkey

The EU is supporting Syrian refugees in Turkey with €3 billion for 2016 and 2017 through its Facility for Refugees in Turkey - €1 billion from the EU budget and €2 billion contributed by EU Member States. The EU is well on track to contract the €3 billion under the Facility by the end of 2017 - €922 million have already been disbursed so far. The money goes to projects to address the needs of refugees and host communities with a focus on humanitarian assistance, education, health, municipal infrastructure and socio-economic support. Under the EU-Turkey Statement Member States have also agreed that the EU should mobilise an additional €3 billion for the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey shortly after the currently available resources have been contracted.



2,000,000 Syrian refugees will get access to primary healthcare service



Almost **500,000** Syrian children have access to formal education



11,445 Syrian children have benefited from catch-up classes



1,100,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees receive monthly cash transfers



Over **20,000** Syrian patients have received medical treatment by 585 medical and non-medical staff



1,605 persons have participated in professional training