



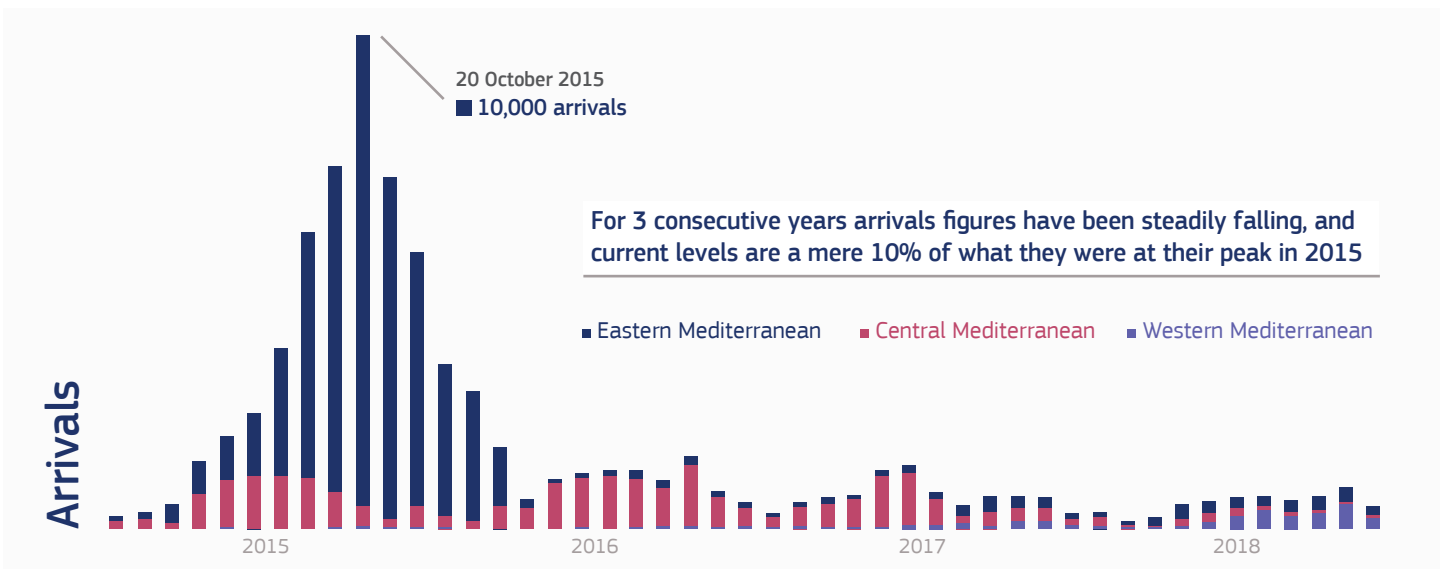
Migration

Immediate measures needed

March 2019

The past four years have seen an unprecedented effort by the EU to address the challenge of migration, which has contributed to reducing irregular arrivals to the lowest level in 5 years. However, some key problems remain unresolved such as developing an asylum system which is fit for purpose. The most pressing issues are working with Morocco to reduce crossings on the Western Mediterranean Route; improving conditions in Libya; continuing support to Greece, and setting up temporary arrangements on disembarkation in the EU.

THE SITUATION TODAY: IRREGULAR BORDER CROSSINGS ON THE 3 MAIN ROUTES



WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN: COOPERATING WITH MOROCCO

With 65,000 arrivals in 2018, Spain has become the EU's primary point of entry for irregular crossings. The EU is working on further strengthening its partnership with Morocco and stands ready to step up migration management support to Spain.

Key actions for the next weeks and months:

- Financial support for Morocco: Continued implementation of the €140 million programme to support border management in Morocco
- Returns: Swift resumption of negotiations on readmission, visa facilitation and legal migration with Morocco
- EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: Replenishment of the North African Window with €120 million from the EU budget

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN: IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN LIBYA

The AU-EU-UN Task Force has helped to address the situation of migrants in Libya, however continued efforts are needed to put an end to the untenable situation on the ground.

Key actions for the next weeks and months:

- Support the evacuation of migrants from detention and ensure unhindered access for humanitarian organisations in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM.
- Support priority projects on assistance at disembarkation and registration and traceability of persons disembarked.
- Coordinate resettlement of all those evacuated from Niger (almost 2,500 evacuated and 1,200 resettled so far) in relevant Member States.
- Facilitate the return of migrants to their home countries with the trilateral AU-EU-UN taskforce (almost 37,000 returns so far).

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN: IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN GREECE

The continued effectiveness of the EU-Turkey Statement and the major financial and operational support from the EU since 2015 have made a major contribution to alleviating the pressure on the Greek islands. However, many challenges remain. An effective and sustainable Greek national strategy with operational workflows is needed to coordinate migration management between all national actors.

This should lead to:

- Improved cooperation between national authorities in Greece
- Faster processing of asylum requests
- Increased returns to Turkey
- Adequate reception conditions, including by rapidly providing additional 2,000 reception places for unaccompanied minors

TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS ON DISEMBARKATION IN THE EU

Building on the experience made with ad hoc solutions over the summer of 2018 and in January 2019, temporary arrangements should be put in place to establish a more systematic and coordinated EU approach on disembarkation. Such arrangements would put solidarity and responsibility at EU level in practice and serve as a bridge until the reform of the Dublin mechanism is finalised.

This could include:

- A coordination structure and a transparent step-by-step work plan for following up on requests by Member States for assistance
- Financial support from the EU budget will be made available for Member States that relocate voluntarily or to support return operations.
- Financial support could also be made available to Member States under pressure
- EU Agencies can provide the necessary assistance, in areas such as first reception, registration, relocation and return.