European
Commission

FACTSHEETS
COMPILATION
2018

*Migration and
Home Affairs*

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AGENDA ON MIGRATION

EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION

European Commission

MANAGING MIGRATION
EU Financial Support to Italy
December 2018

Asylum, Migration and integration Fund (AMIF)/ Internal Security Fund (ISF)/ Emergency Assistance

The management of migration and protection of our external borders are top priorities for the European Union. For several years, Italy was at the forefront of managing migration along the Central Mediterranean route. The Commission continues to support Italian efforts to improve the situation by mobilising long-term and emergency funding. Since the beginning of 2015, the Commission has allocated €225.8 million in emergency assistance to the Italian authorities as well as international organisations and NGOs operating in Italy. This emergency funding comes on top of the €724.35 million already allocated to Italy under the national programmes for 2014-2020 (€394.18 million from AMIF and €330.17 million from ISF).

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund supports Italian national efforts to improve reception capacities, ensure that asylum procedures are in line with Union standards, integrate migrants at local and regional levels and increase the effectiveness of return programmes. The Internal Security Fund supports national efforts to achieve a high and uniform level of control of the external borders and to fight cross-border organised crime.

Emergency assistance has been allocated to support the Italian authorities with, amongst others, border surveillance and Search and Rescue operations, improving the reception capacities, in particular for unaccompanied minors, legal and psycho-social counselling for migrants and refugees and support to victims of trafficking.

*information as of December 2018

All numbers in this factsheet have been rounded up or down.

AMIF

ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

The fund promotes the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration.

ISF

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND (ISF)

The Fund promotes the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders. The ISF is composed of two instruments, ISF Borders and Visa and ISF Police.

National Programmes 2014 - 2020
€724m (allocated)
Disbursed: €190m

Emergency Assistance
€225.8m (allocated)
Disbursed: 169.6m

Disbursed
€359.6m

LONG-TERM FUNDING TO ITALY (ALLOCATIONS) 2014 - 2020

ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

AMIF

€394.2m

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND (ISF)

ISF

ISF - Borders	ISF - Police
€265m	€64.5m

Funding for the relocation mechanism

Italy will receive **€500** for the transport costs of every relocated asylum seeker. **€43.6 million** has been allocated for the implementation of the Relocation & Resettlement mechanisms. **€8 million** has been paid as pre-financing up to December 2017

these amounts are already included in the Italy AMIF National Programme

EMERGENCY FUNDING

€120.7m

AMIF Emergency Assistance directly allocated to Italian authorities

€104.2m

ISF Emergency Assistance directly allocated to Italian authorities

€0.95m

Emergency Assistance allocated to International Organisations/Union Agencies (IOM, UNHCR, EASO) Source: AMIF and ISF
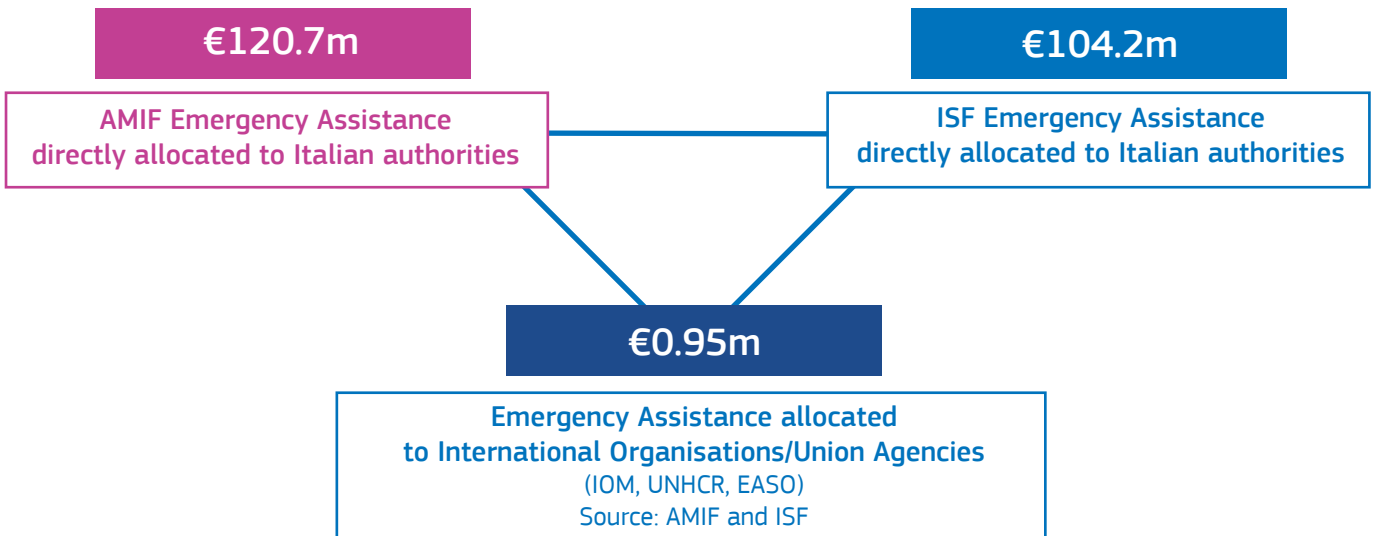
EMERGENCY FUNDING

Overview emergency assistance from AMIF & ISF Borders and Visa Funds – Italy

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Title of the action	Responsible Entity
AMIF	19/12/2018	€5.3m	ALFa – Accogliere Le Fragilità	Ministry of Interior – Prefecture of Turin
AMIF	17/08/2018	€9m	ICARE – Integration and Community Care for Asylum and Refugees in an Emergency	Regional Authority of Emilie-Romagna
AMIF	09/07/2018	€10.75m	SAAS – Support Action for Asylum Sections of Immigration offices and Border Police offices	Ministry of Interior
AMIF	12/07/2018	€6m	AVRIT – Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) from Italy	Ministry of Interior
ISF	17/05/2018	€4.4m	SAVE – Support Actions for Vulnerability emergency. Interventions in hotspots for identifying vulnerable migrants and for age assessment of minors in dubious cases through a multidisciplinary approach	Ministry of Interior
ISF	24/11/2017	€2.3m	Acquisition of units and vehicles of rescue and medical principals – health – HEALTH 2	Ministry of Interior
ISF	24/11/2017	€4.9m	Intervention to improve the monitoring of migration flows and fight crimes related to the trafficking of human beings during the surveillance of external borders – FALCO	Ministry of Interior
ISF	24/11/2017	€13.1m	Overtime retribution to the staff of Police involved in activities related to the management of migration flow – POLSTAFF 2	Ministry of Interior
ISF	24/11/2017	€5.85m	Deployment of a naval unit and embarked helicopters – PATROL 2	Navy
ISF	24/11/2017	€3.2m	Enhancement of the air-naval system for the control of the borders and surveillance of migration flow – AIRNAV	Financial Police
ISF	24/11/2017	€0.04m	Purchase of portable metal detectors – MED	Financial Police
ISF	24/11/2017	€0.15m	Purchase of explosive substance detectors – DETEX	Financial Police
ISF	24/11/2017	€0.5m	Interpretation service and tools to extract devise's information for immigration risks on terrorism – ISTIRT	Ministry of Interior
ISF	24/11/2017	€2.7m	Acquisition of equipment and devices for border surveillance and Search and rescue – SARMED	Coast Guard
ISF	24/11/2017	€2.5m	Implementation of a specific operational framework for border surveillance and to safeguard human life at sea – S.A.S	Coast Guard
ISF	24/11/2017	€4.74m	Linguistic and intercultural mediation for emergency action – III STEP	Ministry of Interior

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Title of the action	Responsible Entity
ISF	12/06/2017	€1.85m	Assessment of the Libyan Coast Guard legal framework and capability in terms of Search and Rescue Services.	Coast Guard
AMIF	02/06/2017	€58.2m	BORNER – Boost reception services for migrants in North-East temporary centres.	Ministry of Interior
AMIF	02/05/2017	€15.3m	Reception services for migrants eligible for relocation – (REC4REL).	Ministry of Interior
ISF	09/03/2017	€12.3m	Implementation of a specific operational framework for border surveillance and to safeguard human life at sea.	Coast Guard
ISF	22/12/2016	€0.73m	Acquisition of equipment, devices and services for border surveillance and Search and Rescue.	Coast Guard
ISF	22/12/2016	€9.55m	Overtime retribution to the staff of the Police involved in activities related to the management of migrations flows.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	22/12/2016	€11.3m	Improvement of the capacity of border surveillance and rescue of lives at sea.	Ministry of Defence Italian Navy
ISF	22/12/2016	€5.4m	Reactivation of maintenance/repairs for 1 EH 101 helicopter.	Ministry of Defence Italian Navy
ISF	22/12/2016	€2.3m	Linguistic and intercultural mediation for emergency action.	Ministry of Defence
AMIF	22/12/2016	€2.5m	PUERI – Pilot Action for UAMs: Early Recovery Interventions.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	22/12/2016	€0.65m	Instrumental needs assessment to cope with migratory fluctuations and investigations on illegal trafficking connected with them.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	22/12/2016	€0.2m	Support for standard operating procedures.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	22/12/2016	€4.9m	Implementation of refitting activity on OPV CP 904 "Fiorillo".	Coast Guard
ISF	22/12/2016	€0.8m	Acquisition of units and vehicles of rescue and medical principals.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	27/07/2016	€1m	Acquisition of a high-level insulation mobile unit, stretcher transport isolators with high bio-containment and a kit to deal with infectious agents (PPE) related to healthcare activities in the context of patrolling and surveillance of borders.	Ministry of Defence Italian Navy
ISF	27/07/2016	€2.25m	Implementation of a specific operational framework to safeguard human life at sea.	Coast Guard

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Title of the action	Responsible Entity
ISF	08/02/2016	€0.3m	Purchase of equipment for the fingerprinting needed to properly address the migration crisis.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	08/02/2016	€0.9m	Linguistic and Intercultural Mediation for Emergency Action.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	10/07/2015	€4.4m	Linguistic and Intercultural Mediation for Emergency Action.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	10/07/2015	€0.5m	Search and Rescue Operations IV.	Ministry of Interior
ISF	20/03/2015	€0.5m	Search and Rescue Operations III.	Ministry of Interior
AMIF	16/02/2015	€11.9m	Improve the capacity for dealing with exponentially growing accommodation needs for unaccompanied foreign minors arriving on IT territory, with particular reference to areas most affected by heavy migratory flows.	Ministry of the Interior – Department for Civil Freedoms and Immigration
AMIF	23/12/2014	€1.7m	Continuation for another 9 months of Praesidium IX (legal and social counselling by a consortium led by UNHCR and IOM in IT centres of first arrival and reception).	Ministry of the Interior – Department for Civil Freedoms and Immigration

Allocated Funds for International Organisations/ Union Agencies (IOM, UNHCR, EASO)

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Main activities	Responsible Entity
AMIF	11/01/2016	€0.9m	Complementary measures in light of the relocation programme from Italy to Member States of relocation.	IOM

European Commission

MANAGING MIGRATION
EU Financial Support to Greece

December 2018

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund / Internal Security Fund / Emergency Assistance

Addressing the refugee crisis and managing our external borders are top priorities for the European Union. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) supports Greek national efforts to improve reception capacities, ensure that asylum procedures are in line with Union standards, integrate migrants at local and regional levels and increase the effectiveness of return programmes. The Internal Security Fund (ISF) supports national efforts to achieve a uniform and high level of control of the external borders and to fight cross-border organised crime. To support the Greek authorities as well as international organisations and NGOs operating in Greece in managing the refugee and humanitarian crisis, the Commission has awarded over €816.4 million in emergency assistance since the beginning of 2015. The emergency funding comes on top of the €613.5 million already allocated to Greece under the national programmes for 2014-2020 (€328.3 million from AMIF and €285.2 million from ISF).

Emergency support instrument

In urgent and exceptional circumstances, the European Commission can fund emergency humanitarian support for people in need within the European Union. The Emergency Support Instrument aims to provide a faster, more targeted way to respond to major crises. This includes helping Member States cope with large numbers of refugees, with humanitarian funding channelled to UN agencies, non- governmental organisations and international organisations in close coordination and consultation with Member States. € 643.3 million contracted to date since 2016.

All numbers in this factsheet have been rounded up or down.

AMIF

ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

The fund promotes the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration.

ISF

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND (ISF)

The Fund promotes the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders. The ISF is composed of two instruments, ISF Borders and Visa and ISF Police.

National Programmes 2014 - 2020
(Long-term Funding)
€613.5m (allocated)
Disbursed: €169.5m

Emergency Funding for Greece
€816.5m (allocated)
Disbursed: €409.1m

Disbursed
€578.6m

Long-term funding to Greece (allocations) 2014 - 2020

AMIF
ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

€328.3m

ISF
INTERNAL SECURITY FUND (ISF)

ISF – Borders	ISF – Police
€261.9m	€23.3m
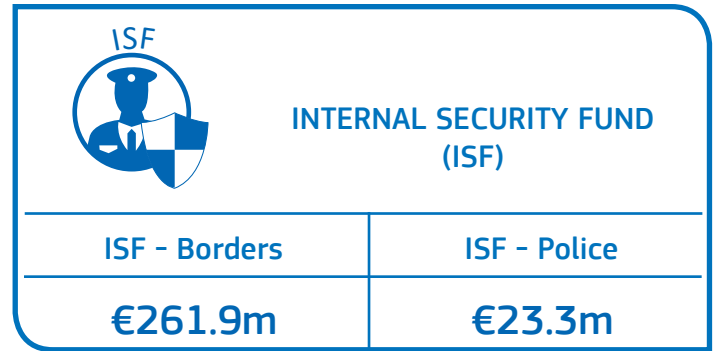
Emergency Funding (allocated)

€165.7m

AMIF Emergency Assistance directly allocated to Greek authorities

€101.7m

ISF Emergency Assistance directly allocated to Greek authorities

€548.9m

Emergency Assistance allocated to International Organisations/Union Agencies
(IOM, UNHCR, EASO)
Source: AMIF and ISF
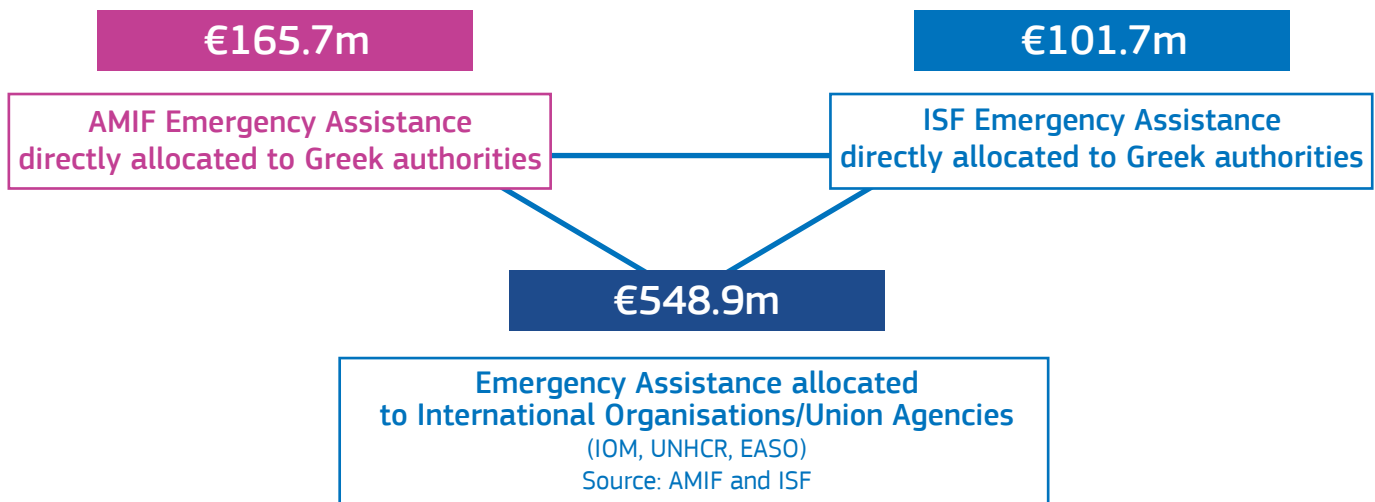
Emergency Funding

Overview emergency assistance from AMIF & ISF Borders and Visa Funds – Greece

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Title of the action	Responsible Entity
ISF	11/12/2018	€10.47m	Deployment of HCG maritime assets and Border Surveillance Officers in the South Eastern maritime borders of the EU in order to safeguard the human life at sea and improve the management of the intense migratory flows for 2018	Hellenic Coast Guard
ISF	11/12/2018	€22.53m	Deployment of HCG maritime assets and Border Surveillance Officers in the South Eastern maritime borders of the EU in order to safeguard the human life at sea and improve the management of the intense migratory flows for 2019	Hellenic Coast Guard
AMIF	31/07/2018	€25.69m	Immediate Response to the Refugee – Migrant Crisis by providing them sheltering and accommodation, catering, health care and transportation on the mainland	Ministry of Defence
ISF	31/07/2018	€3.17m	Provisional services to the TCNs and operational support to the Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) in the Evros region at the external borders	Ministry of Migration
ISF	31/07/2018	€2.25m	Fylakio – Immediate Response to the Refugee – Migrant Crisis by providing them sheltering and accommodation, catering, health care and transportation on the mainland	Ministry of Defence

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Title of the action	Responsible Entity
ISF	07/06/2018	€7.1m	Provision of security services for RICs in Eastern Aegean islands	Ministry of Interior
AMIF	22/12/2017	€7m	Immediate response to the refugee-migrant crisis by providing shelter, accommodation, catering and transportation in the mainland and in the EasterAegean Islands.	Ministry of Defence
AMIF	30/11/2017	€7.25m	Ensuring and enhancing access to a fair and efficient Asylum Process in Greece	Ministry of Migration Policy
ISF	27/07/2016	€0.44m	Construction works of the sewer system and water supply network in Samos	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform
ISF	27/07/2016	€7.2m	Emergency assistance for the effective management of immigration flows in the Greek territory	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform
ISF	19/07/2016	€10.1m	Immediate enhancement of the response to the refugee crisis by providing shelter and accommodation, catering, health care, transportation at hotspots, ensuring this way healthy and safe living conditions for the target group (continuation of the project awarded in March)	Ministry of Defence
AMIF	19/07/2016	€52.2m	Immediate enhancement of the response to the refugee crisis by providing shelter and accommodation, catering, health care, transportation at open accommodation centres, ensuring this way healthy and safe living conditions for the target group (continuation of the project awarded in March)	Ministry of Defence
AMIF	19/07/2016	€24.18m	Comprehensive emergency heath response to refugee crisis	Ministry of Health
AMIF	17/05/2016	€2.1m	Ensuring a fair and efficient Asylum Process, including in the context of the implementation of the EU-Turkey agreement	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform
ISF	17/05/2016	€3.06m	Upgrading the existing IT-system of the Hellenic Police for the registration process of third-country nationals	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform
ISF	17/05/2016	€7m	Provisional services to third-country nationals and operational support to the Hellenic Police services at the external borders	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform
ISF	18/03/2016	€6.6m	Immediate enhancement of the response to the refugee crisis by providing shelter and accommodation, catering, health care, transportation at hotspots, ensuring this way healthy and safe living conditions for the target group	Ministry of Defence
AMIF	18/03/2016	€23.9m	Immediate enhancement of the response to the refugee crisis by providing shelter and accommodation, catering, health care, transportation at open accomodation centres, ensuring this way healthy and safe living conditions for the target group	Ministry of Defence
ISF	03/03/2016	€3.24m	Enhancement of human resources in First Reception Centres	First Reception Service
AMIF	08/02/2016	€12.76m	Provision of prefabricated shelter houses for the hosting of third country nationals	Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Title of the action	Responsible Entity
ISF	08/12/2015	€3.27m	Immediate enhancement of the response to the public health challenge presented by the refugee/migrant emergency on the front line of first reception in the Eastern Aegean Sea	Ministry of Public Health
ISF	05/11/2015	€0.68m	Reinforcement of the Orestiada Police Directorate with police personnel	Hellenic Police
AMIF	05/11/2015	€2.54m	Return of third countries nationals to their country of origin	Hellenic Police
AMIF	16/10/2015	€5.99m	Transportation, Accomodation, Alimentation of TCNs in need of international protection and/or potential asylum seekers to mainland	General Secretary for Co-Ordination
ISF	01/10/2015	€0.39m	Administrative reinforcement of First Reception Service	First Reception Service
ISF	01/10/2015	€1.1m	Emergency assistance covering the deployment of additional staff members and Special Forces to the severely affected Eastern Aegean HCG Authorities in order to improve the management of the intense migratory flows	Hellenic Coast Guard
ISF	01/10/2015	€4.03m	Emergency support enhancing the operational capacity of the Greek authorities and Civil Society Organisations to manage the extreme rise in refugee and migrant flows into Greek national and European territory	First Reception Service
ISF	01/10/2015	€2.36m	Reinforcement of the Eastern Aegean Police Agencies	Hellenic Police
ISF	01/10/2015	€2.89m	Emergency assistance covering unexpected maintenance and repair costs related to the intense use of HCG maritime assets as well as Search & Rescue and medical Equipment in view of ensuring a high level domain awareness of the severely affected Eastern Aegean EU external borders and to minimize the losses of human lives at sea	Hellenic Coast Guard
ISF	17/06/2015	€0.69m	Emergency assistance in support of the organisation, provision of legal information and interpretation for the effective management of immigration flows in the Eastern External Borders	First Reception Service
ISF	17/06/2015	€0.48m	Emergency assistance for the procurement of Search & Rescue Equipment to avert losses of migrants' life at sea	Hellenic Coast Guard
ISF	17/06/2015	€2.20m	Emergency assistance covering staff related costs in order to ensure a high level domain awareness of the severely affected Eastern Aegean EU external borders and to minimize the losses of human lives at sea	Hellenic Coast Guard
AMIF	20/01/2015	€1.18m	Support the operation of the Greek Asylum Service, especially the provision of mobile asylum units on 4 border islands.	Asylum Service

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Title of the action	Responsible Entity
AMIF	20/12/2018	€5.25m	Targeted support in enhancing the sites' reception capacity in the mainland	UNHCR
ISF	12/12/2018	€0.36m	Emergency Procurement of Winter Non-Food Items for the Reception and Identification Centres in Greece	IOM
AMIF	31/10/2018	€43.7m	FILOXENIA – Temporary Shelter and Protection for the Most Vulnerable Migrants in Greece	IOM
AMIF	04/10/2018	€22.79m	PEDIA – Providing Education and Immediate Accommodation to Migrant Children in Greece	IOM
AMIF	31/07/2018	€6.4m	Emergency measures to enhance accommodation capacity and Site Management Support in the sites of Greece	IOM
AMIF	28/06/2018	€20m	Continuation of support to site management of Kara Tepe (Lesvos) and targeted support to protection activities in support to the Greek Government	UNHCR
AMIF	19/02/2018	€2.3m	Open Centre fo Migrants Registered for Assisted Voluntary Return (OCAVRR II)	IOM
AMIF	19/02/2018	€6m	Emergency response in accommodating unaccompanied migrentr children – ERACUMIC	IOM
AMIF	31/07/2017	€9.3m	Continuation of targeted support to guarantee a smooth transition from emergency mode to stable management of the refugee and migrant situation and provision of services let by the Greek Government	UNHCR
AMIF	06/07/2017	€6.48m	Support to management of Kara Tepe (Lesvos) and Souda (Chios) sites (including provision of core relieve items, catering and transport services; protection, educational activities and healthcare)	UNHCR
AMIF	24/05/2016	€24.9m	Strengthen the Common European Asylum System, safe pathways to the European Union for persons in need of international protection and acceleration of the implementation of relocation to alleviate the heavy burden that presently weights on Greece, in the context of the fast-track returns to Turkey.	EASO
AMIF	17/05/2016	€13m	Emergency support to assist most vulnerable migrants stranded in Greece	IOM
AMIF	17/05/2016	€30m	Supporting UNHCR Greece Emergency Response Plan and strengthening the capacity of the asylum service	UNHCR
AMIF	26/02/2016	€1.5m	Assisted voluntary return of third country nationals to their country of origin	IOM
ISF	08/02/2016	€1.12m	EASO emergency support for the Greek hotspots to strengthen their fingerprinting capacity	EASO
AMIF	08/12/2015	€20m	Relocation programme from Greece to other EU Member States for beneficiaries in clear need of international protection	IOM
ISF	17/08/2015	€2.7m	Strengthening of the first reception response to new arrivals in mixed migratory movements on the Aegean islands	UNHCR
ISF	08/07/2015	€1.43m	Strengthening of the first reception response to new arrivals on the Aegean Islands and in the region of Evros in Greece. 'New Arrivals Intervention' – phase II	UNHCR

Greece – Indirect management				
Fund	Delegation Agreement signed	EU contribution	Title of the action	Responsible Entity
AMIF	20/12/2018	€61.00m	Improving the Greek Reception System through Site Management Support and Targeted Interventions in Long-Term Accommodation Sites	IOM UNICEF
AMIF	20/12/2018	€191.49m	2019 ESTIA programme: Multi-Purpose Cash Grants & Rental Accommodation Scheme	UNHCR
AMIF ISF	26/01/2016	€80m (AMIF: €75m ISF: €5m)	Support to Greece for the development of the hotspot/relocation scheme as well as for developing asylum reception capacity	UNHCR

Emergency support instrument – Total amount of emergency support allocated so far: €643.3 million				
Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Main activities	Responsible Entity
Contracted to date: €643.3 million				
ESI	01/04/2018	€0.8m	Protection activities	Smile of the Child
ESI	01/03/2018	€15.8m	Site Management	Danish Refugee Council
ESI	01/03/2018	€1.5m	Interpretation services to facilitate access to healthcare, protection services	Metadrasi
ESI	01/03/2018	€2m	Health and protection activities	Spanish Red Cross
ESI	01/01/2018	€167.5m	Emergency Support To Integration & Accommodation (ESTIA). Rental and cash scheme	UNHCR
ESI	01/01/2018	€3.35m	Health services	Médecins Du Monde
ESI	01/01/2018	€9.325m	Site Management	Arbeiter-Sama-riter-Bund
ESI	01/09/2017	€23.7m	Transportation of children from and to schools, site management and safe zones for unaccompanied minors	IOM
ESI	01/08/2017	€10.04m	Safe zones for unaccompanied minors and protection activities	International Rescue Committee
ESI	01/07/2017 (implementation finished)	€94.67m	Rental scheme: financing of accommodation for refugees in apartments	UNHCR
ESI	01/06/2017 (implementation finished)	€0.9m	Mental health services for refugees in urban settings	Médecins Du Monde
ESI	01/05/2017 (implementation finished)	€6m	Basic health care, psycho-social support, preparedness	IFRC
ESI	01/04/2017 (implementation finished)	€17.9m	Campsite management in 13 refugee campsites	Danish Refugee Council

Fund	Award Decision taken	EU contribution	Main activities	Responsible Entity
ESI	01/04/2017 (implementation finished)	€42m	Multi-purpose cash assitance	UNHCR
ESI	01/11/2016	€22.79m	Child protection services particularly targeting unaccompanied minors	UNICEF
ESI	15/09/2016 (implementation finished)	€5.83m	Non-formal education assistance and comprehensive protection assistance for vulnerable children, including unaccompanied minors	Terre des Hommes
ESI	01/09/2016 (implementation finished)	€6.56m	Multi-purpose cash assistance	Mercy Corps
ESI	01/08/2016 (implementation finished)	€3m	Rehabilitation and upgrades of sites in the islands of Chios and Lesvos	UNHCR
ESI	01/08/2016 (implementation finished)	€32.7m	Transportation of children from and to schools, construction of new sites and rehabilitation of existing centres	IOM
ESI	01/08/2016 (implementation finished)	€3.72m	Provision of assistance to extremely vulnerable refugees in the urban areas of Athens and Thessaloniki	CARE
ESI	01/08/2016 (implementation finished)	€16.4m	Food aid, non-formal education, shelter assistance via an urban rental scheme	Norwegian Refugee Council
ESI	01/06/2016 (implementation finished)	€9.3m	Shelter, health- and psycho social support, non- food items, child friendly spaces, legal support and interpretation services	Arbeiter-Sama-riter-Bund
ESI	16/04/2016 (implementation finished)	€9.65.m	Child friendly spaces, non-formal education classes, psycho-social support and nutrition with special focus on unaccompanied minors	Save the Children
ESI	01/04/2016 (implementation finished)	€13.5m	Water, sanitation and hygiene, food, protection, winterisation of shelters, psycho-social support and counselling	OXFAM
ESI	01/04/2016 (implementation finished)	€20.73m	Protection, psychosocial support, safe spaces for women, safe learning and healing spaces for children, water, sanitation/hygiene and food assistance, cash assistance	International Rescue Committee
ESI	01/04/2016 (implementation finished)	€14.7m	Food distributions, site management support, shelter, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance	Danish Refugee Council
ESI	01/04/2016 (implementation finished)	€62m	Upgrading of existing shelter solutions and site standards in preparation for the winter, provision of non-food items and essential services including water, sanitation, hygiene and protection assistance with an emphasis on unaccompanied minors as well as multi-purpose cash assistance	UNHCR
ESI	16/03/2016 (implementation finished)	€10.2m	Primary health care, referrals for specialised medical care, psychosocial support for migrants and refugees	Médecins Du Monde
ESI	16/03/2016 (implementation finished)	€17m	Basic health care, food parcels, water, sanitation and hygiene, psycho- social support, winterisation and cash assistance	IFRC

European Commission

REFORMING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM:
WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL REFORMS WOULD CHANGE AND WHY WE NEED THEM NOW

While compromise is still needed on some elements of the EU's asylum reform, enormous progress has been made on the overall set, with 5 out of the Commission's initial 7 proposals ready for adoption. Though part of a far-reaching reform, each individual proposal has a clear added value on its own and their swift finalisation would make a difference on the ground.

1 Qualification Regulation

December 2018

Strong added value

The new Qualification Regulation will ensure greater convergence of recognition rates across the EU, guarantee the rights of recognised refugees and discourage Schengen-endangering secondary movements

Ready to be concluded

2019

Broad agreement found between co-legislators. Adoption is possible in early 2019.

THE NEW QUALIFICATION REGULATION WILL ENSURE:

Greater convergence of recognition rates

Harmonised criteria for protection will ensure applicants have the same chance of getting asylum under the same conditions wherever they apply in the EU. This will result in greater convergence of recognition rates which still vary greatly amongst Member States and help put a stop to asylum shopping.

Protection when and as long as it's needed

Member States will be obliged to withdraw the protection status when protection is no longer needed. Before deciding on an asylum application possible internal protection alternatives in countries of origin will have to be assessed.

Firmer rules sanctioning secondary movements

The new rules will discourage secondary movements by introducing sanctions. For example, the clock will be restarted when calculating the required continuous legal residence for EU long-term resident status each time the refugee is found in a Member State where he/she does not have the right to stay or reside.

Stronger integration incentives

The new rules will help strengthen integration prospects by clarifying rules on social security and social assistance and allow Member States to link certain social benefits to compulsory integration measures.

Better protection for families and minors

Families formed in transit countries will now also be able to benefit from a right to family unity and the best interest of minors will be strengthened in decisions relating to asylum applications and family unity rights.

Improved internal security

The new rules introduce an obligation to withdraw a refugee status in cases where a person commits criminal acts or poses a threat to national security.

RECOGNITION RATES CONTINUE TO VARY GREATLY AMONG MEMBER STATES, 2017
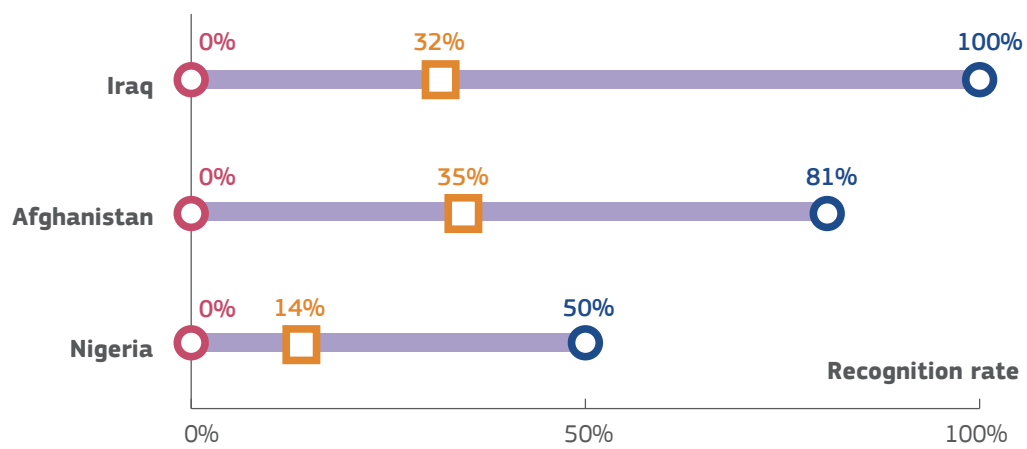
	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Iraq	0%	32%	100%
Afghanistan	0%	35%	81%
Nigeria	0%	14%	50%

Recognition rate

- ⬤ Minimum
- ☐ Average
- ⬤ Maximum

Source: Eurostat.

European Commission

REFORMING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM:
WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL REFORMS WOULD CHANGE AND WHY WE NEED THEM NOW

While compromise is still needed on some elements of the EU's asylum reform, enormous progress has been made on the overall set, with 5 out of the Commission's initial 7 proposals ready for adoption. While part of a far-reaching reform, each individual proposal has a clear added value on its own and their swift finalisation would make a difference on the ground.

2 Reception Conditions Directive

December 2018

Strong added value

The new Reception Conditions Directive will ensure asylum seekers are received under harmonised and decent conditions throughout the EU. It will help prevent secondary movements by clarifying the rights and obligations of asylum seekers.

Ready to be concluded

2019

Broad political agreement found between co-legislators. Adoption is possible in early 2019.

A REFORMED RECEPTION CONDITIONS DIRECTIVE WILL ENSURE:

Adequate reception conditions across the EU

Member States will be obliged to have contingency plans in place to ensure sufficient reception capacity at all times, including in times of disproportionate pressure. The European Union Agency for Asylum will provide guidance to assist Member States in applying common standards on reception conditions.

Right to reception conditions in the responsible Member State only

Asylum seekers will only be provided with full reception conditions in the Member State responsible for their asylum application. This will help prevent Schengen-endangering secondary movements.

Reporting obligations

To discourage asylum seekers from absconding, Member States can assign them a place of residence and impose reporting obligations. In addition, to ensure an efficient procedure, Member States can assign asylum seekers to a geographical area within their territories.

Earlier access to the labour market

Asylum seekers will be granted the right to work no later than 6 months after their application was registered.

Better protection for child migrants

Minors will receive education within 2 months after their asylum request was lodged. Unaccompanied minors will immediately receive assistance and will be appointed a representative no later than 15 days after an asylum application has been made.

European Commission

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3 European Union Agency for Asylum

December 2018

Strong added value

The reinforced Asylum Agency will be able to provide a rapid and full service to Member States in normal times as well as in times of particular pressure, including by carrying out the entire administrative stage of the asylum procedure if requested, as a concrete form of European solidarity.

Ready to be concluded

Political agreement reached on the Commission's initial proposal from 2016. New targeted amendments proposed by the Commission in September 2018. Adoption is possible in early 2019.

THE REINFORCED EU ASYLUM AGENCY WILL ENSURE:

Full operational support on asylum procedures whenever needed

The Agency and its deployable Asylum Support Teams will be able to provide a full range of support activities, including carrying out the entire administrative stage of the asylum procedure upon a Member State's request, and also offer assistance with appeals, in full respect of the independence of the judiciary.

A greater convergence across the EU in the assessment of protection needs and of reception conditions

In addition to the guidance it already provides, the reinforced Agency will develop guidance, operational standards, indicators and best practices on the situation in countries of origin and on reception conditions, provide training and help Member States prepare contingency plans.

Monitoring

The Agency will also monitor the operational and technical application of the Common European Asylum System to help prevent possible shortcomings and swiftly provide support when necessary and requested by a Member State.

BUILDING AN EU ASYLUM AGENCY CAPABLE OF GIVING FULL AND RAPID SUPPORT TO THE MEMBER STATES

2020
500

2018
220

2012
10-50
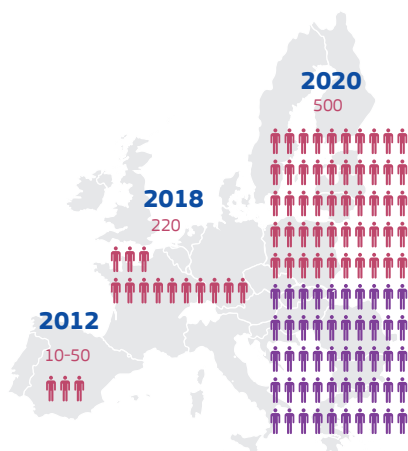
By 2020, 500 operational staff and a reserve pool of 500 experts will be available to support Member States.

The Agency's supporting tasks will include

- Identification and registration of asylum seekers
- Admissibility and substantive interviews
- Preparing administrative decisions on applications (national authorities will continue to take all decisions)
- Support to independent appeal bodies
- Interpretation and translation

European Commission

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4 Eurodac Regulation

December 2018

Strong added value

The new Eurodac Regulation will expand the EU's identification database, helping authorities track secondary movements, tackle irregular migration and improve returns of irregular migrants.

Ready to be concluded

Broad agreement found between co-legislators. Adoption possible in early 2019.

THE NEW EURODAC REGULATION WILL ENSURE:

Better identification of asylum seekers

Member States will be able to store and search facial images in Eurodac in addition to fingerprints, in full compliance with data protection rules. This will help ensure they have all the elements needed at their disposal to identify asylum seekers, and help mitigate some challenges faced by Member States, for example with damaged fingertips and refusal to provide fingerprints.

More effective returns

The new system will no longer be limited to asylum applicants but will also store data on non-EU nationals found irregularly staying in the EU. The data retention period for irregular migrants apprehended at the external borders will be extended beyond the current 18 months to 5 years. This will make it easier to identify and re-document these individuals for the purpose of return and readmission.

Better protection of child migrants

By registering minors from the age of six, the new system will help improve the safety of child migrants, for example to detect cases of human trafficking and exploitation but also to establish family links should a child go missing.

Better tracking of secondary movements

With additional information available in the system, national authorities will have a more complete picture of each registered person when tracking irregular secondary movements.

IMPROVING RETURNS: EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF EURODAC TO IRREGULAR MIGRANTS CAN HELP INCREASE RETURN RATES WHICH TO DATE REMAIN UNSATISFACTORY.

45.8% effective returns in 2016
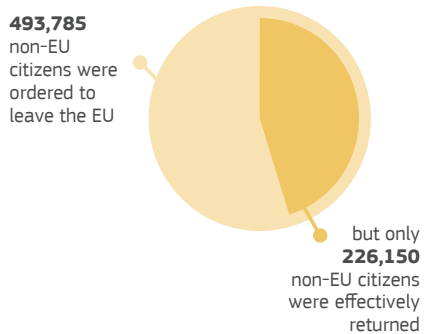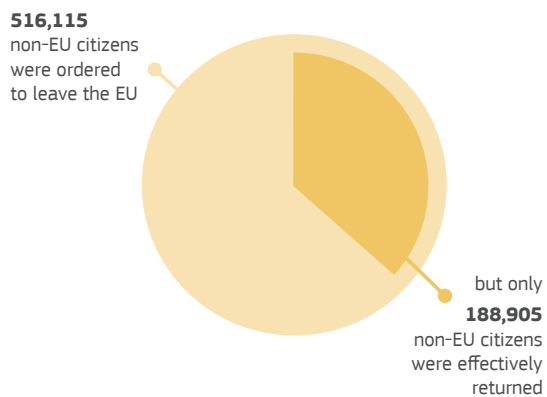
493,785 non-EU citizens were ordered to leave the EU

but only **226,150** non-EU citizens were effectively returned

36.6% effective returns in 2017

516,115 non-EU citizens were ordered to leave the EU

but only **188,905** non-EU citizens were effectively returned

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5 Union Resettlement Framework

December 2018

Strong added value

The Union Resettlement Framework Regulation will help reduce irregular migration by ensuring safe and legal alternatives. It will replace the current ad-hoc schemes and set EU-wide 2-year plans for resettling genuine refugees. By contributing collectively to global resettlement efforts, the EU will strengthen its partnership and solidarity with third countries hosting large numbers of persons in need of international protection.

Ready to be concluded

Broad agreement found between co-legislators. Adoption is possible in early 2019.

THE NEW UNION RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK REGULATION WILL ENSURE:

The first ever collective legal framework for resettlement

The new framework will provide a common set of procedures for the selection and treatment of resettlement candidates and also ensure financial support from the EU budget.

Greater impact of the EU's joint resettlement efforts

The new framework will allow the EU as a whole to agree on targeted regions and countries from which resettlement should take place, placing the EU in a stronger position globally.

A flexible framework built on voluntary participation

Member States will continue to decide to whom and to how many people they will grant protection.

Fewer irregular arrivals

Ensuring safe and legal pathways for persons in need of protection will help reduce irregular flows and facilitate relations with countries of origin and transit.

Predictable timelines and clear decision-making

The Framework will be implemented through EU-wide plans, adopted by the Council on a proposal from the Commission, setting out a total number of persons to be admitted every 2 years.

Common eligibility grounds and stringent security checks

Access to the scheme will be reserved for persons in genuine need of international protection. Member States can give preference to persons with demonstrated social links or other characteristics that can facilitate integration. Obligatory refusal grounds will apply to persons posing security threats.

SINCE 2015, DIFFERENT EU RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES HAVE HELPED OVER 43,700 OF THE MOST VULNERABLE FIND SHELTER IN THE EU.
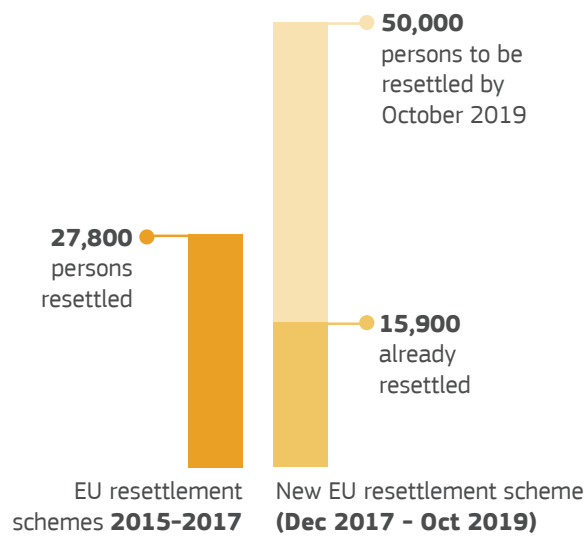
50,000
persons to be
resettled by
October 2019

27,800
persons
resettled

15,900
already
resettled

EU resettlement
schemes **2015-2017**

New EU resettlement scheme
(Dec 2017 – Oct 2019)

European Commission

REFORMING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM:
WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL REFORMS WOULD CHANGE AND WHY WE NEED THEM NOW

While compromise is still needed on some elements of the EU's asylum reform, enormous progress has been made on the overall set, with 5 out of the Commission's initial 7 proposals ready for adoption. Progress has also been made on the Asylum Procedure Regulation in both Parliament and the Council. A common asylum procedure is one of the cornerstones of an effective and fair asylum system, making a real difference on the ground.

6 Asylum Procedure Regulation

December 2018

Strong added value

The Asylum Procedure Regulation will streamline the asylum procedure and make it more efficient, allowing for swifter procedures to identify those in need of protection and those who are not, including at the borders. It will also ensure common guarantees for asylum seekers – together with stricter rules to prevent abuse.

Agreement not yet reached

2019

European Parliament position adopted. Council still to adopt a negotiation mandate. Political agreement is possible in early 2019.

A REFORMED ASYLUM PROCEDURE REGULATION WILL ENSURE:

Simpler asylum procedure

The overall procedure will be streamlined. EU-wide time limits will be set for cases where applications are inadmissible or in cases where an accelerated procedure is used. Time limits will also be introduced for lodging appeals.

Common guarantees for asylum seekers

Asylum seekers with special needs and unaccompanied minors will see their safeguards reinforced.

Stricter rules to prevent abuse

Applicants will have clearer obligations to cooperate with the authorities and consequences if they do not cooperate will be stricter. Applications can be considered implicitly withdrawn when asylum applicants do not cooperate. Accelerated procedures will apply for example in cases where persons abuse the process or pose a security threat and also to persons coming from a safe country of origin.

Common rules on safe countries

The new rules will provide clear criteria for when a third country can be considered safe for asylum seekers to be sent back to and find protection there, in line with the Geneva Convention. The new rules may also provide common European lists for safe countries.

European Commission

REFORMING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM:
WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL REFORMS WOULD CHANGE AND WHY WE NEED THEM NOW

Significant progress has already been made on the overall set of the EU's asylum reform, with 5 out of the Commission's initial 7 proposals ready for adoption. Progress has also been made on the Commission proposal to reform the Dublin Regulation. However, on a number of crucial issues Member States' divergent positions continue to persist and have prevented the start of negotiations with the European Parliament. The Council must now find a way forward based on a spirit of compromise from all sides so that the reform of the Dublin Regulation can be completed.

7 Dublin Regulation

December 2018

Strong added value

The reform of the Dublin Regulation provides a fair and sustainable mechanism for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum claim. It is indispensable for the establishment of a future-proof EU asylum system that can stand the test of time and meet challenges old and new.

Agreement not yet reached

European Parliament position adopted. Council still to adopt a negotiation mandate. Political agreement is possible in early 2019.

DUBLIN – A POSSIBLE WAY FORWARD

There is already progress in the Council on the broad contours of a mechanism including financial and material support to Member States under pressure and those taking part in solidarity efforts, as well as priority access to support from EU agencies. A way forward towards a balanced compromise as called for by Leaders at the June European Council could be based on :

Full support
Member States would pledge on a voluntary basis for contributions to one of the 3 central pillars of the EU's migration approach: the external dimension, border protection, or the internal dimension.

Coordination
Cooperative coordination mechanisms would adjust and tailor contributions to the needs on the ground.

Preventing secondary movements
To prevent abuse, the new rules will ensure that asylum requests can only be processed in the Member State determined responsible.

A safety net
For times of particular pressure, affected Member States will have the assurance they will receive real support in the absence of sufficient voluntary pledges.

TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE PREDICTABILITY:

Temporary arrangements could be put in place, foreshadowing some elements of the future system already now. The Commission stands ready to assist Member States with this. Such temporary arrangements could include elements such as:

Predictable arrangements for disembarkation

Efficient workflows and procedures to allow for quick processing of people arriving or being disembarked

Voluntary relocation to other Member States of persons in need of protection

Swift return of those persons not in need of protection and use of detention where needed

Full EU support through EU agencies and the EU budget

REFORMING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM:
WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL REFORMS WOULD CHANGE AND WHY WE NEED THEM NOW

In addition to the 7 proposals to reform the Common European Asylum System tabled in 2016, the Commission put forward 3 new proposals on 12 September 2018 (one of which updates one of the 7), bringing the total to 9.

8 European Border and Coast Guard

December 2018

Strong added value

Without replacing Member States' responsibility, the reinforced European Border and Coast Guard will ensure that Member States can rely on full EU operational support at the external borders at all times. In addition, the Agency's capacity to support returns and to cooperate with non-EU countries will be further reinforced.

Commission proposal tabled in September

European Parliament and Council to adopt negotiation positions. Political agreement is possible in early 2019.

THE REINFORCED MANDATE FOR THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD WILL ENSURE:

A new standing corps of 10,000

To ensure predictable and appropriate resources, the Agency will be able to rely on its own staff and its own equipment, such as vessels, planes and vehicles.

A tool at the service of Member States

While the mandate of the European Border and Coast Guard expands, it serves to support Member States and does not replace their responsibilities in external border management and return.

Expanded tasks and powers

Members of the standing corps – under the authority and control of the Member State – will be able to carry out tasks requiring executive powers such as identity checks, authorising or refusing entry at the external borders.

More support on return

The Agency can already organise and finance joint return operations. Now it will also be able to support return procedures in Member States, for example by identifying irregularly staying non-EU nationals, acquiring travel documents and preparing return decisions for national authorities.

Cooperation with non-EU countries

The Agency will be able – subject to prior agreement of the country concerned – to launch joint operations and deploy staff outside the EU, beyond countries neighbouring the EU, as is the case today.

WHY A 10,000 STANDING CORPS?

The 10,000 standing corps was carefully designed – including its size and composition – to be able to address Member States' current and future needs.

It is weighted on:

experiences from the migration crisis	new tasks of the Agency	persistent personnel and equipment gaps

*The solution offered by the standing corps is a **reliable, flexible** and **sustainable** way of managing the EU's external borders in the spirit of European solidarity.*

DID YOU KNOW?

✓ During the migration crisis the European Border and Coast Guard had to increase its deployments across Europe **5 times**.

✓ The staff and equipment pledges made by Member States covered only **49% of the actual deployment needs for land borders**.

✓ In 2017, the Agency organised 342 returns operations, deploying 625 officers, and **returning 14,271 people**.

✓ As of 2020, the Agency will operate the central unit of the **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)** with 250 staff members.

✓ 10,000 European Border and Coast Guard staff represents **only 8.7% of the total 115,000 Member States staff** in charge of border management.

REFORMING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM:
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In addition to the 7 proposals to reform the Common European Asylum System tabled in 2016, the Commission put forward 3 new proposals on 12 September 2018 (one of which updates one of the 7), bringing the total to 9.

9 Return Directive – a targeted review

December 2018

Strong added value

The new rules on return will help speed up return procedures, better prevent absconding and secondary movements and increase effective returns in full respect of fundamental rights.

Commission proposal tabled in September

European Parliament and Council to adopt negotiation positions. Political agreement is possible in early 2019.

THE RECAST RETURN DIRECTIVE WILL ENSURE:

A new border procedure

Persons whose asylum applications have been rejected during border procedures will be channelled directly into simplified and accelerated return procedures, with shorter time limits for appeals. This will ensure that return decisions can be quickly adopted and fully enforced at the border and in controlled centres.

Clear procedures and rules to prevent abuses

To avoid delays, return decisions will have to be issued immediately after or together with a decision ending the legal stay (such as a rejected asylum application). Fixed timelines of a maximum of 5 days will apply for appeals to return decisions in the case of rejected asylum claims. New obligations for migrants to cooperate will be introduced, including on identity verification and to obtain travel documents.

Efficient voluntary returns

To promote voluntary returns and enhance financial and practical support, Member States will have to set up voluntary return programmes. At the same time, Member States will be able to shorten the period granted for voluntary departure to prevent absconding.

Clear rules on detention

Common criteria for determining the risk of absconding, the possibility to detain individuals posing a threat to public order or national security and an initial general detention period of not less than 3 months will help ensure return decisions can be effectively carried out.

Strong fundamental rights safeguards

Existing EU safeguards for the fundamental rights of migrants will continue to apply, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement. This also applies to situations where individuals to be returned are placed in detention.

NEW COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES

To improve cooperation on readmission, the EU is following a cooperative approach with key countries of origin and transit, taking into account the number of potential returnees as well as the possible added value of a common EU approach. With six new readmission arrangements agreed since 2016 (Afghanistan, Guinea, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire), the EU has now 23 readmission agreements and arrangements in place. Member States must now make full use of these new tools to increase returns. And the European Union as a whole must continue to seek cooperation on return and readmission with key partners.

Top nationalities
(arrivals 2017)

Nationality	Current return rate	Arrivals 2017
Nigeria	24%	18.305
Côte d'Ivoire	4%	12.911
Guinea	4%	12.799
Morocco	29%	11.320
Bangladesh	23%	9.246
Iraq	34%	8.689
The Gambia	7%	8.351
Tunisia	25%	6.494
Afghanistan	14%	4.163
Ethiopia	9%	963

Legend:
- Current return rate
- Negotiations ongoing
- New arrangement agreed

European Commission
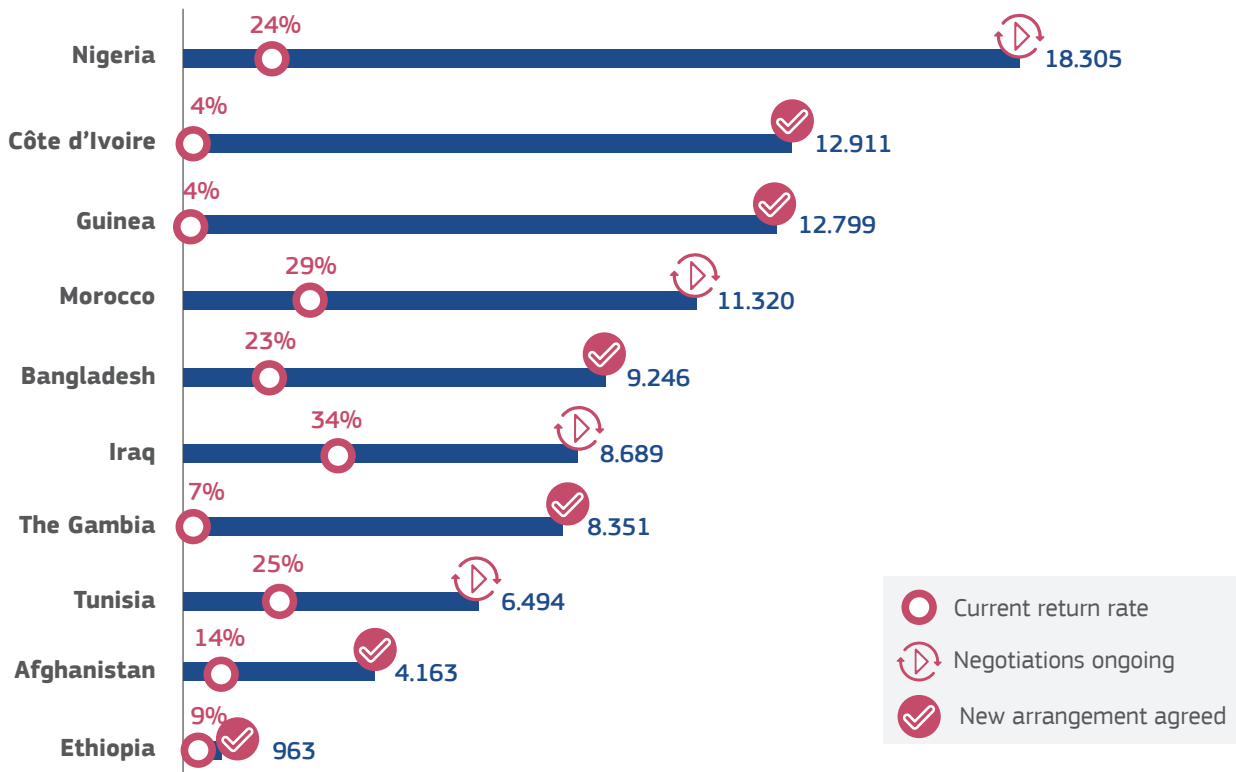
STATE OF THE UNION

2018

A reinforced European Union Agency for Asylum

'*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.*'

Jean-Claude Juncker, 1 May 2014

The European Commission is proposing to further reinforce the operational capacity of the EU Agency for Asylum, equipping it with the necessary staff, tools and financial means to support Member States throughout the asylum procedure. This will help Member States to process asylum applications swiftly, avoid backlog and contribute to preventing secondary movements. The Agency will now be able to provide a rapid and full service to Member States, including by assisting in carrying out the entire administrative stage of the procedure, whenever and wherever they need the extra help, particularly at hotspots and in controlled centres. The reinforced EU Agency for Asylum will work in full complementarity with the European Border and Coast Guard — together they will now be able to deploy migration management support teams at all times to offer integrated support on borders, asylum and return where needed.

Increased assistance to Member States

The Agency's staff will be available, at the request of Member States or upon its own initiative in agreement with a Member State, to provide operational and technical assistance throughout the asylum procedure as well as during the procedure under the Dublin Regulation. Member States will take all final decisions.

The Agency's tasks will include:

Identification and registration of asylum seekers

Assisting with or carrying out admissibility and substance interviews

Preparing administrative decisions on applications for international protection for the responsible national authorities

Providing logistical and other support to independent appeal bodies

Providing interpretation and translation services

The deployment of Asylum Support Teams

Under the Dublin procedure: assist with the procedure to determine the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application and other related procedures; and assist with carrying out or with coordinating the allocation or transfer of asylum applicants within the Union.

Deployment of migration management support teams

Migration management support teams are comprised of experts in all aspects of migration, including the European Asylum Agency's asylum experts and legal staff as well as operational staff from the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps and experts from Europol and other EU Agencies. The teams can be deployed to provide the full range of support activities to the requesting Member State.

Member States
- request support from migration management support teams

European Commission
- coordinates needs assessment and deployment on the ground

DEPLOYMENT OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TEAMS
Including experts from:

> **European Union Agency for Asylum**   > **Europol**

> **European Border and Coast Guard**   > **other relevant Union agencies**

Member States
- receive integrated support on borders, asylum and return

More financial support

In addition to the Commission's initial proposal on the EU Agency for Asylum, which provided for a budget of €364 million until the end of 2020, an additional €55 million per year between 2019 and 2027 is proposed. For the next budget period (2021–2027), the Commission has proposed a budget of €1.25 billion for the Agency.

European Commission

A stronger and more effective European return policy

#SOTEU

12 September 2018

'People who have no right to stay in Europe must be returned to their countries of origin. When only 36% of irregular migrants are returned, it is clear we need to significantly step up our work. This is the only way Europe will be able to show solidarity with refugees in real need of protection.'

Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017

An effective and humane return policy is an essential part of the EU's comprehensive approach to better managing migration and reducing the incentives for irregular migration. Europe will continue to show generosity and solidarity towards those genuinely in need of protection. However, returning those who are not fleeing war or persecution and who do not have the right to stay in the EU, in full respect of their fundamental rights, is equally important for a well-functioning asylum system. It will also send a strong signal against undertaking dangerous irregular journeys to the EU in the first place.

New and stronger rules to increase the effectiveness of the EU's return policy

A targeted review of the EU's Return Directive: adopted in 2008, **the Return Directive** establishes common, fair and transparent standards and procedures for the return of non-EU nationals without a legal right to stay in the EU. However, an inefficient and inconsistent application of the Directive by Member States has affected the overall efficiency of return procedures in the EU. The new rules will remove obstacles and inconsistencies that hinder effective returns. They will help speed up return procedures, prevent absconding and unauthorised secondary movements and increase the overall EU return rate, in full respect of fundamental rights and the principle of *non-refoulement.*

45.8% effective returns in 2016
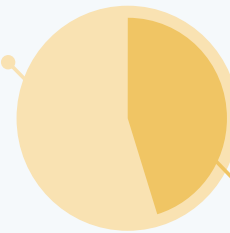
493,785 non-EU citizens were ordered to leave the EU

but only **226,150** non-EU citizens were effectively returned

36.6% effective returns in 2017

516,115 non-EU citizens were ordered to leave the EU
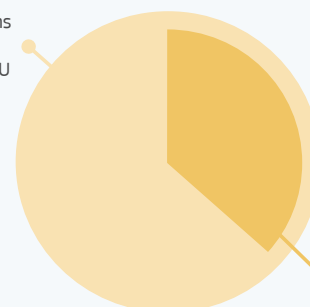
but only **188,905** non-EU citizens were effectively returned

CLEAR PROCEDURES

● Return decisions should be systematically issued in parallel with or immediately after a decision terminating legal stay, for example when issuing a negative asylum decision or after the expiry of a visa or residence permit.

ACCELERATED BORDER PROCEDURES

● Simplified return procedures will apply for persons whose asylum applications have been refused during border procedures to ensure return decisions can be quickly adopted and fully enforced at the EU's external borders, including in controlled centres.

BETTER MONITORING

● Member States will have to establish national return management systems to ensure timely information is available on the identity and legal situation of every person to be returned

MORE EFFICIENT VOLUNTARY RETURNS

● Member States should enhance assistance for returnees, including with support for their reintegration in the country of origin.

● Member States will also have the possibility to shorten the period granted for voluntary departure or decide not to grant it in order to prevent absconding or respond to possible threats to public order or national security.

PREVENTING ABUSE

● There will be stronger links with asylum procedures and harmonised timelines for appeals against return decisions in the case of rejected asylum seekers who have to file their appeal against a return decision within five day;

● There will be an obligation to cooperate for persons subject to a return procedure, including on identity verification and to obtain travel documents.

HARMONISED RULES ON DETENTION

To better ensure return procedures can be completed, a more efficient use of detention is needed:

● common criteria for determining the risk of absconding;

● the possibility to detain individuals posing a threat to public order or national security;

● setting a minimum period of detention of at least 3 months
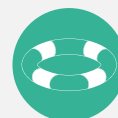
STRONG FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS SAFEGUARDS

● The existing EU safeguards for the fundamental rights of migrants will not change, including the respect of the principle of *non-refoulement*. This also applies to situations where individuals to be returned are placed in detention.

● Member States must continue to guarantee the respect of family unity, and always take into account the best interests of the child and the special needs of vulnerable persons. The rules also continue to ensure access to an effective remedy to challenge a return decision.

A comprehensive EU policy on return

The review of the Return Directive proposed today is part of reinforced efforts at EU level to increase effective returns. These efforts include strengthening the support provided to Member States by the **European Border and Coast Guard** and improving **cooperation with countries of origin** to take back their own nationals as well as **financial support** from the EU budget.

Increased cooperation with non-EU countries

To increase the enforcement rate of return decisions, the EU has been stepping up cooperation with the home countries of irregular migrants so that they fulfil their international obligation to take back their own nationals residing irregularly in Europe. The EU is mobilising **all incentives and leverages** available at national and EU level, including coordinated measures on visa policy, to enhance cooperation on return and readmission. Under the **Migration Partnership Framework** launched in 2016, the European Union and its Member States are employing their collective leverage in a coordinated manner to agree tailor-made approaches with non-EU countries to jointly manage migration and further improve cooperation on return and readmission. Significant progress has been made over the past months.

- The EU has concluded **readmission agreements** with 17 countries, and negotiations are ongoing with an additional six countries (Belarus, Nigeria, Tunisia, China, Jordan, Algeria).

- The EU has also stepped up work to improve **practical cooperation on readmission** with countries of origin of irregular migrants. Work is ongoing with several key countries, with six new arrangements agreed in the last two years alone (Afghanistan, Guinea, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire).

Persons returned in operations supported by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency

Year	Persons returned
2015	3,576
2016	11,606
2017	14,884
2018 (until August)	8,966
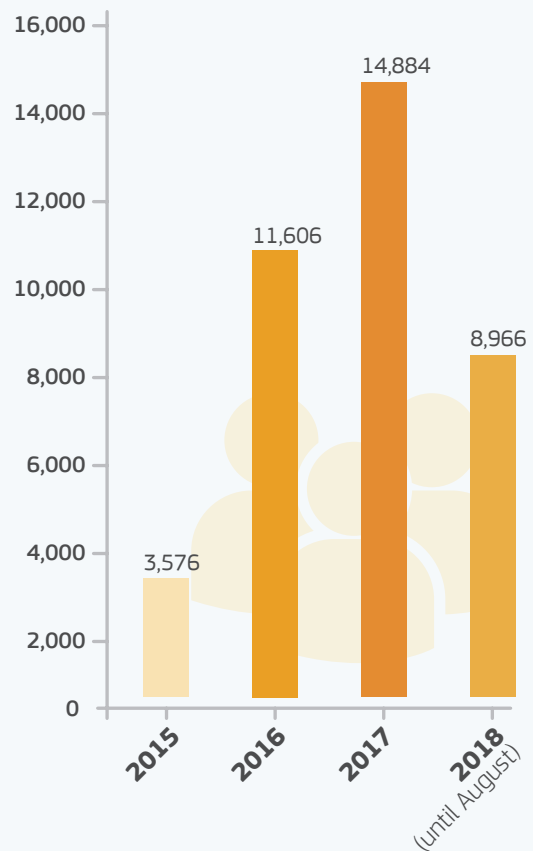
Reinforcing support from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency

Since its establishment in October 2016, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency has become **a true EU hub for returns**, capable of effectively supporting Member States in returning those who have no right to stay in the EU. Today the Commission proposed to **further strengthen the supporting role of the European Border and Coast Guard** which will now be able to assist Member States in carrying out return procedures, including in the preparation of return decisions, the identification of individuals to be returned and the acquisition of travel documents.

So far, the pace of return operations organised by the Agency has continued to grow, reaching a total number of 14,884 persons returned in 2017 and 8,966 from January to August 2018.

Financial support from the EU budget

The Commission is providing substantial financial assistance to support Member States in carrying out effective returns. Under the current financial framework (2014-2020), more than €1 billion in EU funding has already been channelled to Member States' return and readmission activities. For the next period 2021-2027, the Commission has proposed to increase funding for migration management by 51% to reach €10.4 billion with return being one of the main funding priorities. In addition, the **European Border and Coast Guard Agency** fully finances the support it provides to Member States on return.

European
Commission

Enhancing safe and legal pathways to Europe

12 September 2018

'A truly united, European migration policy also means that we need to look into opening legal channels for migration [...] if there are more, safe and controlled roads opened to Europe, we can manage migration better and make the illegal work of human traffickers less attractive.'

Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 9 September 2015

Developing orderly legal pathways for persons in need of protection and creating channels for labour migration has been a priority of the Juncker Commission from the very outset. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach to migration and goes hand in hand with a firm policy on tackling irregular flows and ensuring stronger border protection, streamlined asylum procedures and more effective returns.

Legal migration: the way forward

A new EU Blue Card — attracting highly skilled workers

In a steadily improving EU economy shortages in certain high-skill sectors of the labour force are to be expected in the near future, with some Member States already facing a rising number of unfilled vacancies. Whilst the EU will continue to invest in the full activation, training and upskilling of the EU workforce, a strategic and pro-active EU policy on legal migration is needed to complement these efforts and contribute to a more competitive EU economy. This is why the Commission, in June 2016, proposed a revised EU Blue Card scheme to make it easier and more attractive for highly skilled workers and their families to come to the EU and ensure that Member States can get the workforce they need when they need it.

NEXT STEPS

- The Commission calls on the Council to swiftly agree on a position that adds value compared with the current Blue Card scheme in view of relaunching negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council to ensure that an ambitious agreement can be reached and that the new EU Blue Card is adopted before the European Parliament elections in May 2019.

EU Blue Cards issued (total EU-wide)

Year	EU Blue Cards issued
2015	4,900
2016	9,000
2017	11,500
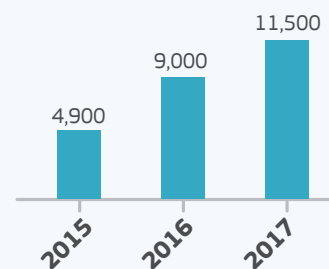
Resettlement — safe pathways for those in need of protection

EU resettlement initiatives have demonstrated that unsafe and irregular migration can be replaced with legal and safe channels for persons in need of international protection. Since 2015, two successful EU resettlement programmes have helped over 38,000 of the most vulnerable people find shelter in the EU. In September 2017, the Commission launched a new resettlement scheme in which Member States pledged to resettle more than 50,000 persons in need of protection — the largest EU resettlement scheme to date. To coordinate European efforts in the long term, the Commission has proposed to set up a permanent Union Resettlement Framework as part of the overall asylum reform.

NEXT STEPS

- Member States must swiftly step up their efforts to implement the total commitment of 50,000 resettlement places by October 2019.

- The European Parliament and the Council should agree soon on the Commission proposal for a Union Resettlement Framework.

EU resettlement schemes

50,000 persons to be resettled by October 2019

24,800 persons resettled

13,200 already resettled

EU resettlement schemes **2015-2017**

New EU resettlement scheme **(Sep 2017 - Oct 2019)**
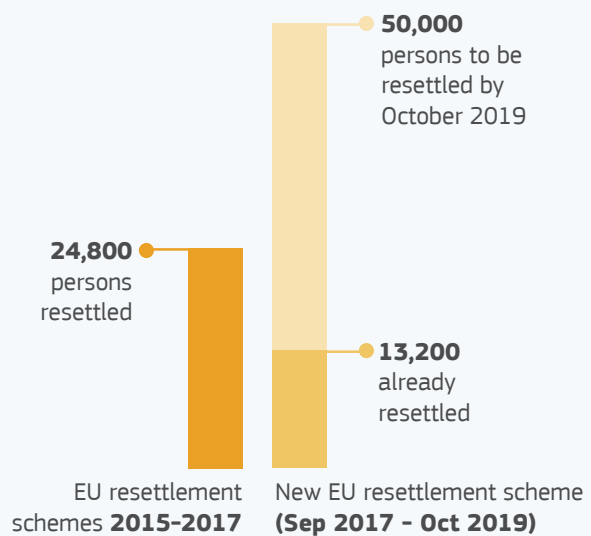
Pilot projects on legal migration — strengthening cooperation with African countries

Legal migration is an important element for the EU to strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with third countries, and should be fully integrated into the EU's foreign policy. Enhanced and tailored cooperation on legal migration with countries of origin and transit will help reduce irregular migration, contribute to filling gaps in certain sectors of Member States' labour markets and be an incentive to improve cooperation on migration management overall, including on readmission and returns. As part of its strategy to actively promote the external dimension of legal migration, the Commission has taken the initiative to develop, together with Member States, a number of pilot projects with African countries to promote legal migration schemes for labour or traineeship purposes.

NEXT STEPS

- The Commission calls on Member States to fully engage and cooperate on developing pilot projects with African countries and with other non-EU countries in the future, with the first projects to be launched by the end of 2018. The Commission will provide support on funding and practical cooperation.

European Commission

A strengthened and fully equipped European Border and Coast Guard

#SOTEU

12 September 2018

'I want a standing corps of 10,000 in place by 2020 ready to support the over 100,000 national border guards in their difficult tasks. We need to establish a genuine, efficient EU border guard — in the true sense of the word. For this to happen we also have to address the question of equipment [...] We need more planes, more vessels, more vehicles [...]'

Jean-Claude Juncker, European Parliament, Strasbourg, 3 July 2018.

Europe needs to be able to effectively manage its external borders, improve returns and provide a high level of security within the Union. This is why the Commission is proposing today to equip the European Border and Coast Guard with the operational capacity and powers needed to effectively support Member States on the ground. A new standing corps of 10,000 operational staff with executive powers and their own equipment will ensure that the EU has the necessary capabilities in place to intervene wherever and whenever needed — along the EU's external borders as well as in non-EU countries. It will be equipped with a stronger mandate on returns and will closely cooperate with the new EU Agency for Asylum. The standing corps is a game changer — it will contribute to ensuring that the EU collectively has the necessary means to protect its common borders, respond to future challenges and preserve the long-term viability of the Schengen area of free movement.

A new standing corps of 10,000 operational staff

The establishment of the European Border and Coast Guard in 2016 — put in place in record time following a Commission proposal — represented a step change in the EU's ability to collectively protect its external borders. However, the reliance on voluntary Member State contributions of staff and equipment has resulted in persistent gaps that have affected the efficiency of joint operations. The new standing corps of 10,000 operational staff with executive powers and own equipment will ensure that the EU has the necessary capabilities in place — constantly and reliably.

SCALING UP THE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD

EU operational staff deployed:

2020
10,000

2018
1,300

2014
<300

Reserve pool:
1,500
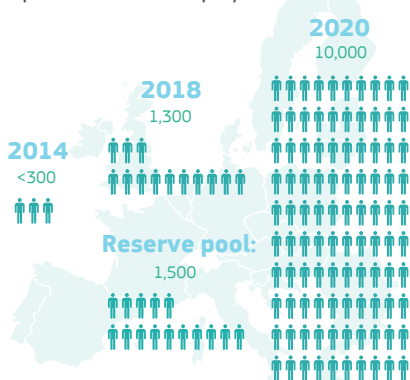
The European Border and Coast Guard Agency will acquire its **own equipment**, such as vessels, planes and vehicles, available to be deployed at all times and for all necessary operations. The Commission has earmarked **€2.2 billion** under the 2021-2027 EU Budget to allow the Agency not only to acquire, but also to maintain and operate the air, sea and land assets needed for its operations.

- **A reliable intervention force.** The standing corps will bring together Agency staff as well as border guards and return experts seconded or deployed by Member States. The corps will be fully operational with 10,000 operating staff by 2020. Gradually, the pool of national staff on short-term deployments will decrease and be replaced by statutory staff of the Agency and staff seconded by Member States for long-term durations to make sure the Agency can work with the predictability and flexibility it needs.

Composition of the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps of 10,000 operational staff

2020

1,500
1,500
7,000

2027

3,000
4,000
3,000

- Member State staff on short-term deployment
- Member State staff on long-term secondment
- Agency staff
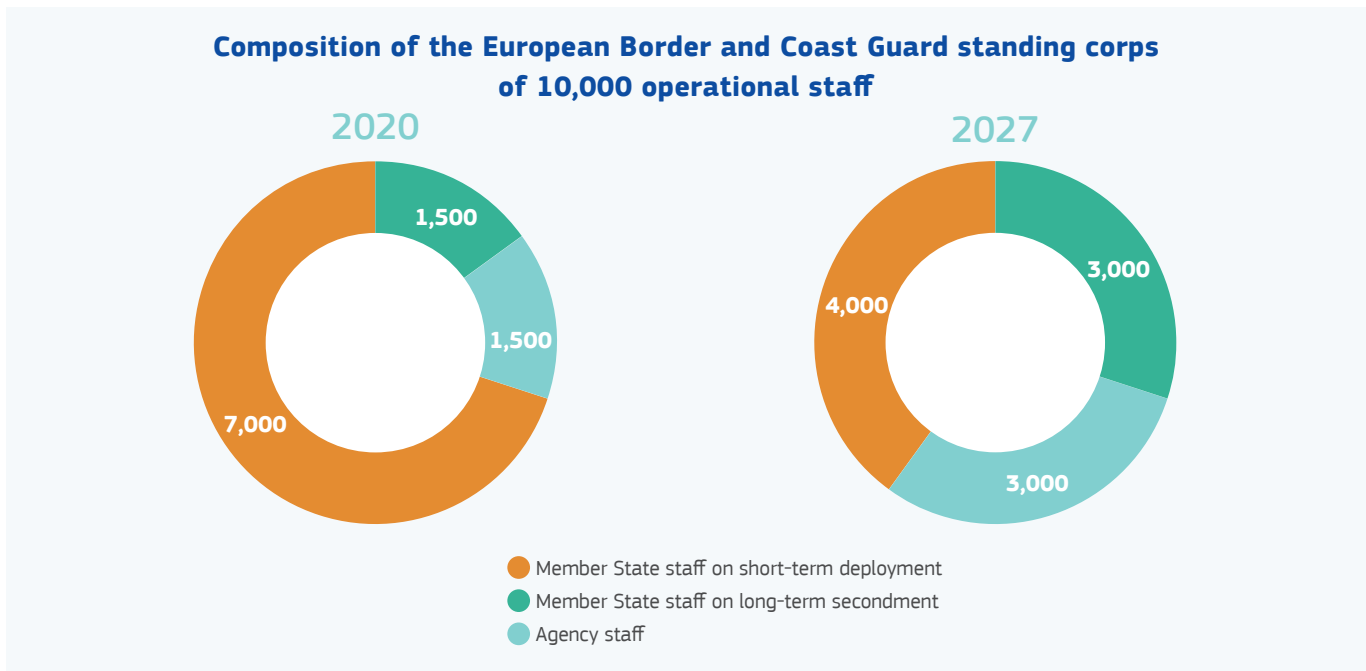
Source: European Commission.

- **Expanded tasks and powers.** The staff of the standing corps will be able to carry out border control and return tasks, including those requiring executive powers in order to play a useful operational role. Under the authority and control of the host Member State, at the external borders, they will be able to check identity, authorise or refuse entry at border crossing points, stamp travel documents, patrol borders and intercept persons who have crossed the border irregularly. The staff will also be able to assist in the implementation of return procedures, notably by preparing return decisions or escorting non-EU nationals subject to forced return.
- **Fully trained staff and high professional standards.** Operational staff of the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps will receive common training to ensure the highest professional standards and a common operational culture.
- **Antenna offices.** The Agency will be able to set up temporary antenna offices in Member States hosting its operational activities to facilitate close cooperation with national authorities and guarantee the smooth running of the Agency's operations.

A stronger mandate on returns

The Agency will be able to effectively **support Member States** with the procedures for returning those who have no right to stay in the EU — in full compliance with fundamental rights — notably as regards:

- preparation of return decisions for Member States who, in turn, take the final decision and remain responsible for issuing them;
- identification of irregularly-staying migrants;
- acquisition of travel documents;
- assistance in developing national return management systems to improve the coordination and monitoring of returns.

The Agency will also be able to assist **non-EU countries** with their return activities to other countries.

Strengthened cooperation with non-EU countries

Support for and cooperation with non-EU countries is essential for the protection of the EU's external borders. Under its new mandate, the Agency will be able to launch joint operations and deploy staff to countries outside the EU, beyond the current limitation to neighbouring countries, to provide support on border and migration management as well as on returns. Any deployment or other cooperation with non-EU country authorities will be subject to prior agreement between the EU and the countries concerned.

Improved situational awareness and responsiveness

The European Border Surveillance System will be fully integrated in the functioning of the European Border and Coast Guard. The European Border Surveillance System is crucial for swift and exhaustive situational awareness of incidents and migration flows and provides shared risk analysis as well as a response mechanism at local, regional, national or EU level.

Enhanced cooperation with the EU Asylum Agency

The European Border and Coast Guard will work hand in hand with the reinforced European Union Agency for Asylum. They will cooperate in the deployment of **migration management support teams**, in particular in hotspots and controlled centres, to offer **integrated support on borders, asylum and return** where needed.

Financing a strong and responsive force

The total cost of setting up the standing corps, acquiring the Agency's own equipment and addressing the existing and new tasks amounts to €1.3 billion for the period **2019-2020**. For the period **2021-2027**, a total of €11.3 billion is needed to cover all the upgraded tasks and functions of the Agency. In addition, Member State authorities will be able to receive support from the €9.3 billion **Integrated Border Management Fund** proposed by the Commission for the next budget period 2021-2027.

![European Commission logo]

MIGRATION: REGIONAL DISEMBARKATION ARRANGEMENTS

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS OF 28 JUNE 2018

> The European Council in its conclusions of 28-29 June invited the Council and the Commission to swiftly explore the concept of regional disembarkation platforms, in close cooperation with relevant third countries, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The Commission is today presenting a first outline of the possible way forward, on the basis of the joint UNHCR and IOM proposal.

In line with the UNHCR-IOM joint proposal, the objective of regional disembarkation arrangements is to provide quick and safe disembarkation on both sides of the Mediterranean of rescued people in line with international law, including the principle of non-refoulement, and a **responsible post-disembarkation process**. Regional disembarkation platforms should be seen as working in concert with the development of controlled centres in the EU: together, both concepts should help ensure a **truly shared regional responsibility** in replying to complex migration challenges.

DISEMBARKATION IN THIRD COUNTRIES: THE LEGAL SITUATION
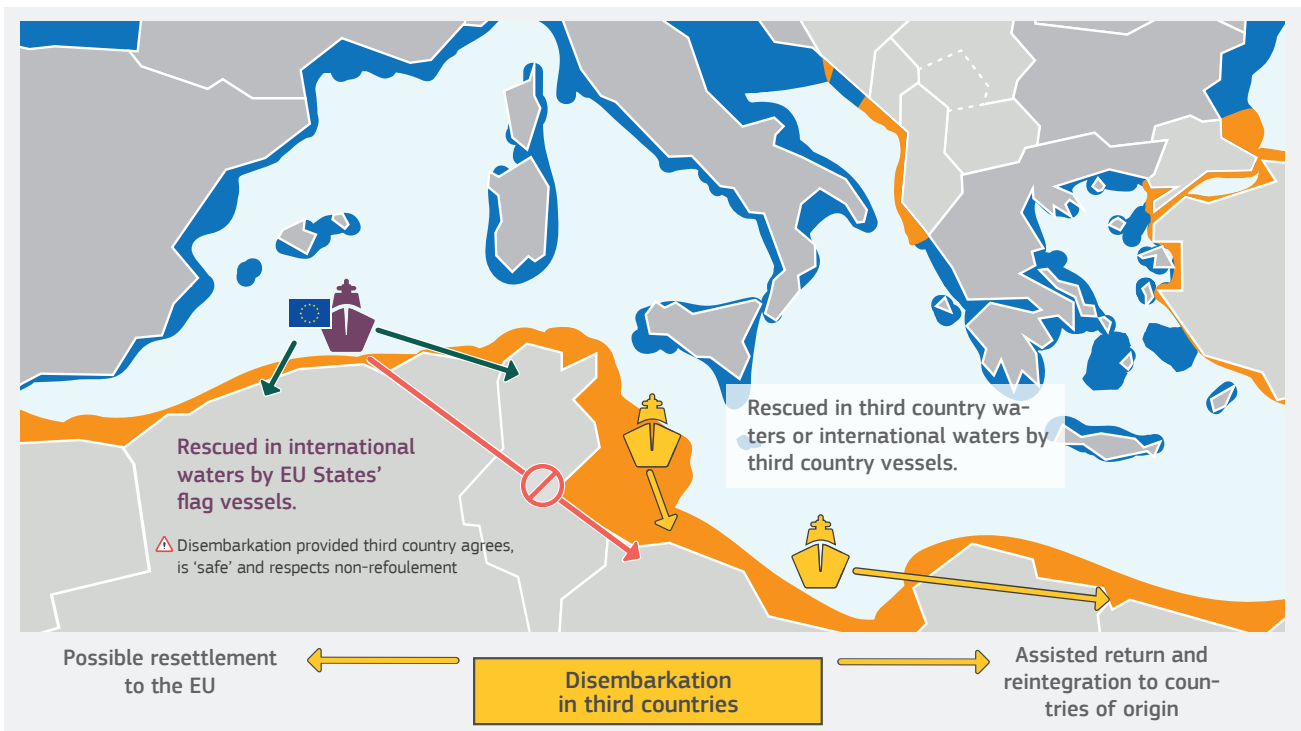
Rescued in international waters by EU States' flag vessels.

⚠ Disembarkation provided third country agrees, is 'safe' and respects non-refoulement

Rescued in third country waters or international waters by third country vessels.

Possible resettlement to the EU

Disembarkation in third countries

Assisted return and reintegration to countries of origin

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustrative purposes only and is NOT indicative of either precise territorial water delimitations or potential disembarkation points or countries.

■ territorial waters in the EU   ☐ international waters   ■ territorial waters in third countries

Disembarkation in a third country is possible if the search and rescue is carried out in the territorial sea of that country by its coast guard or by other third country vessels. If the search and rescue occurs in international waters and involves an EU State's flag vessel disembarkation can still take place in a third country, provided that the principle of non-refoulement is respected.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL DISEMBARKATION ARRANGEMENTS CONCEPT

- **Clear rules for all**: To reduce deaths at sea and ensure orderly and predictable disembarkation, all coastal states in the Mediterranean should be encouraged to establish search and rescue zones and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs).

- **Developed by the UNHCR and IOM** who will help ensure those disembarked can receive protection if they are in need of it, including through resettlement schemes; or will be returned to their countries of origin if they are not, including through the assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes run by the IOM.

- **Partnerships on an equal footing**: work with interested third countries will be brought forward on the basis of existing partnerships and offered support tailor-made to their specific political, security and socio-economic situation.

- **No pull factors**: resettlement possibilities will not be available to all disembarked persons in need of international protection and points of reception should be established as far away as possible from points of irregular departure.

- **No detention, no camps**: Regional disembarkation arrangements mean providing a set of established procedures and rules to ensure safe and orderly disembarkation and post-disembarkation processing in full respect of international law and human rights.

EFFECTIVE EU SUPPORT

The EU is ready to **provide financial and operational support for disembarkation and post-disembarkation activities** as well as for border management and other forms of support, for example by:

Providing equipment and training for search and rescue activities and border management	Helping establish adequate and safe reception facilities and assistance to cover essential needs	Support for returns, including voluntary returns, and reintegration support	Support for local solutions including local integration, temporary stay and asylum applications in a third country	Increased resettlement, including a new call for pledges if needed on top of the current scheme of 50,000 places

NEXT STEPS

Commission, UNHCR, IOM, Member States: further refine the concept of regional disembarkation arrangements	Member States share information on their existing partnerships with third countries	A common EU outreach strategy towards interested partner countries	30 July 2018: meeting with IOM and UNHCR in Geneva	Engage with partner countries based on joint EU approach and offer for support

MIGRATION: 'CONTROLLED CENTRES' IN EU MEMBER STATES

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS OF 28 JUNE 2018

> The European Council in its conclusions of 28-29 June called for the development of 'controlled centres' on EU territory – a new approach based on shared efforts for the processing of persons who, following their rescue at sea, are disembarked within the EU. The Commission is today presenting a concept paper on short-term measures that could be taken to improve the processing of migrants being disembarked in the EU.

The aim of controlled centres in the EU is to improve the process of distinguishing between individuals in need of international protection, and irregular migrants with no right to remain in the EU, while speeding up returns. The centres would be managed by the host Member State with full support from the EU and EU Agencies.

To test the concept, a pilot phase applying a flexible approach could be launched as soon as possible. This should include full EU support going to volunteering Member States, as well as Member States accepting to process a share of those disembarked.

SUPPORT FOR DISEMBARKATION

To assist any Member State granting access to their ports for the purpose of disembarkation, the Commission can put at their disposal a disembarkation team, ready to assist with the disembarkation of boats containing an average of 500 people. The EU budget will cover all infrastructure and operational costs.

The team would consist of:

From the European Border and Coast Guard Agency:

50 border guards

50 interpreters

20-40 escort officers for returns

5-10 officers facilitating flight arrangements

From Europol:

10-20 persons for secondary security checks

From the European Asylum Support Office:

25-35 experts for asylum screening

25-35 experts for asylum processing

10-25 experts for voluntary relocation

50 interpreters/cultural mediators

From Member States:

Medical professionals

SUPPORT FOR SOLIDARITY EFFORTS

EU support will also be mobilised for any Member States accepting to process a share of those disembarked.

The EU budget will support Member States taking part in solidarity efforts with €6,000 per person relocated and will cover the transfer costs of €500 per person given to the country of disembarkation.

The Commission will also provide a central contact point to coordinate among Member States taking part in solidarity efforts – as an interim measure until a fully-fledged system can be established in the context of the ongoing Common European Asylum system reforms.
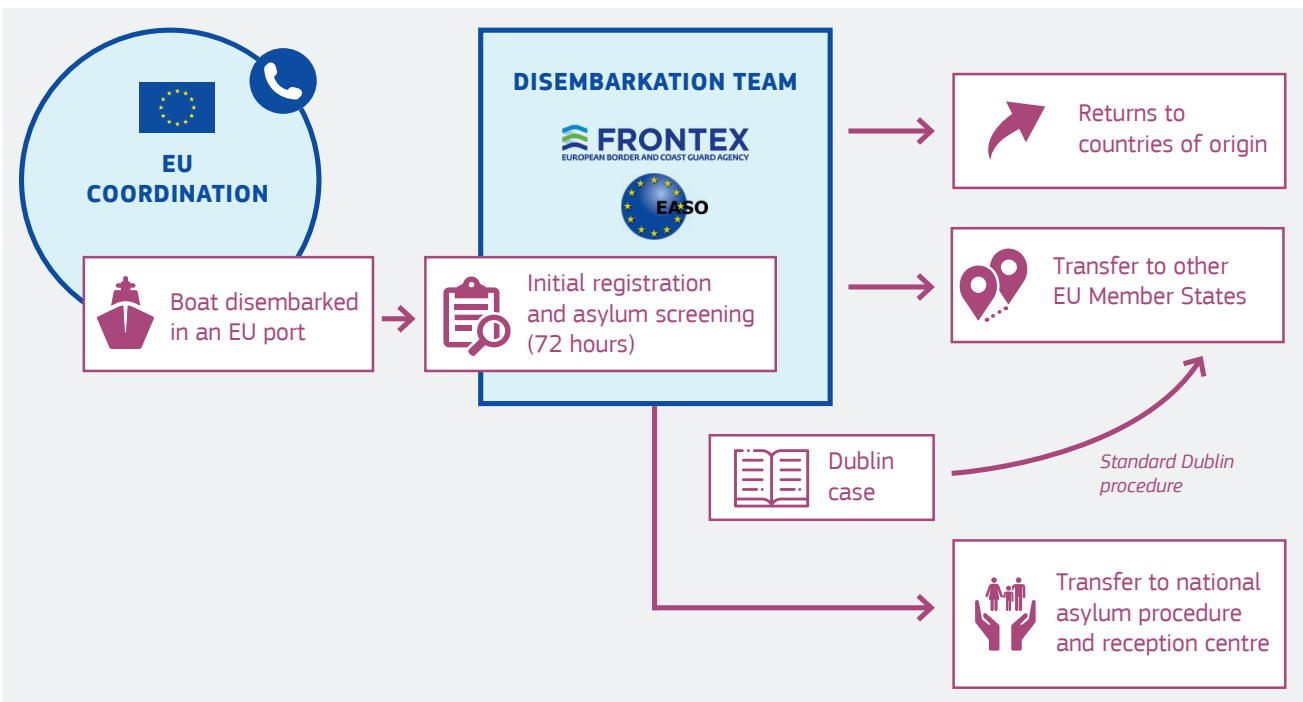
THE LEGAL AND PRACTICAL FEASIBILITY OF DISEMBARKATION OPTIONS

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INFORMAL WORKING MEETING OF 24 JUNE 2018

This note presents a first assessment of the legal and practical feasibility of the three different scenarios on disembarkation presented at the Informal Working Meeting of 24 June 2018. Under international maritime law, people rescued at sea must be disembarked at a place of safety. International law sets out elements of what a place of safety can be and how it can be designated, without excluding the possibility of having regional arrangements for disembarkation.

SCENARIO 1:

A regional arrangement for disembarkation (and setting up of disembarkation centres) in EU Member States for migrants rescued in the territorial sea of a Member State or by an EU State's flag vessels in international waters
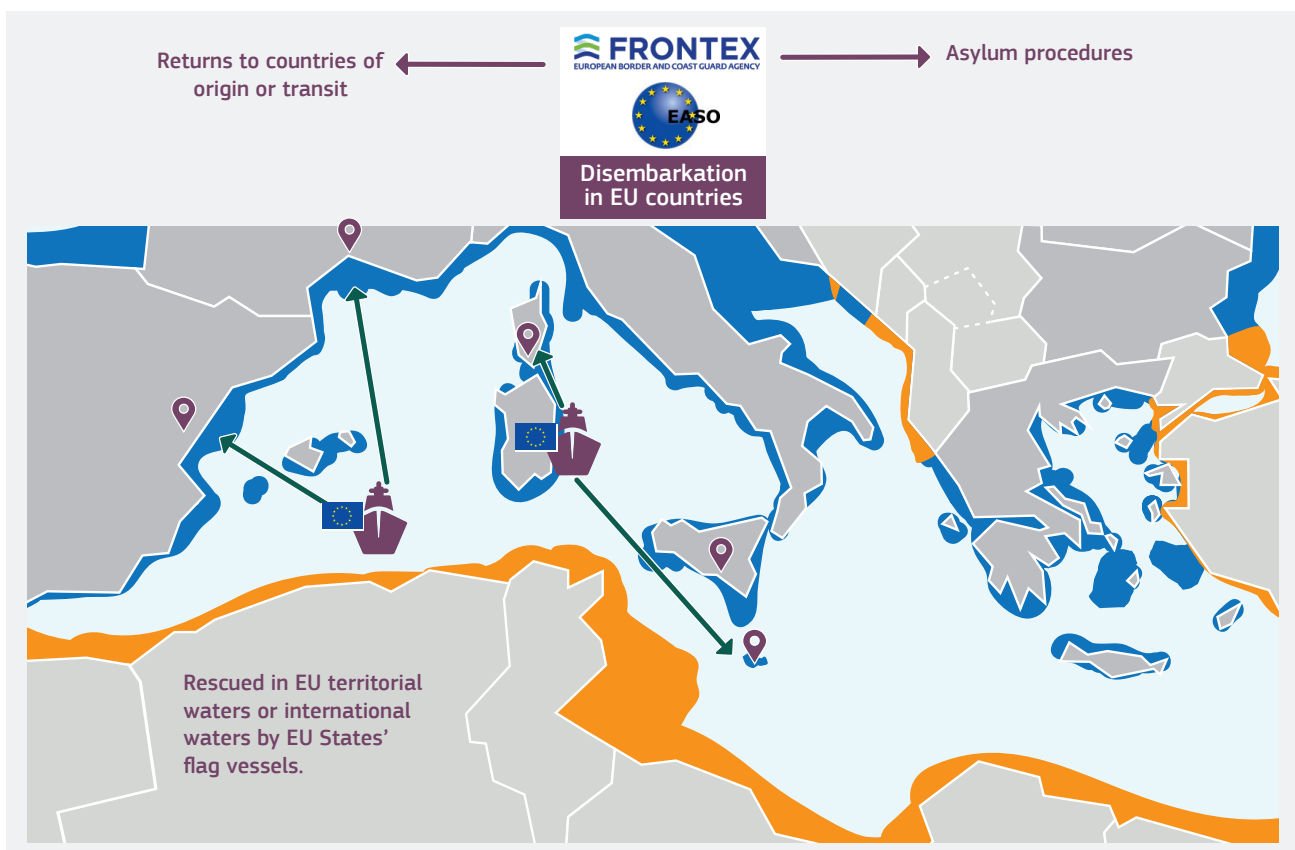
Returns to countries of origin or transit

FRONTEX
EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

EASO

Disembarkation in EU countries

Asylum procedures

Rescued in EU territorial waters or international waters by EU States' flag vessels.

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustrative purposes only and is NOT indicative of either precise territorial water delimitations or potential disembarkation points or countries.

■ territorial waters in the EU   □ international waters   ■ territorial waters in third countries

LEGAL FEASIBILITY:

Search and rescue operations carried out in the territorial sea of a Member State engage the responsibility of EU Member States. In particular, rescued migrants would acquire a right to access the asylum procedure. This applies as well in the case that an EU State's flag vessel is involved in search and rescue in international waters and disembarks rescued migrants in EU territory.

A regional arrangement could function by reinforcing the existing hotspot approach with further coordinated action by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the EU Asylum Agency (particularly if the mandates of both bodies are further strengthened). They would work in cooperation with local authorities to facilitate and accelerate the processing of asylum claims and the carrying out of returns. The border procedure could be used to facilitate processing at the disembarkation points: Union law on asylum provides for simplified procedures enabling a swift handling of asylum applications at the external borders under certain conditions in order to decide on the inadmissibility of an application or the substance in cases likely to be manifestly unfounded, with possibilities of detention where justified.

PRACTICAL FEASIBILITY:

- to further streamline procedures at the border, the border procedure (under the Asylum Procedures Regulation) may need to be made mandatory in certain cases;
- this would require reinforcing the «hotspot» approach, notably by:
  - increasing reception/detention capacity at the external borders;
  - coordinated action by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the EU Asylum Agency in cooperation with local authorities to ensure identification, registration, screening, fingerprinting, to facilitate processing of asylum claims and returns;
- as part of the regional arrangement among Member States, a solution will need to be found for those with well-founded claims/beneficiaries of international protection that will remain in the Union. At the same time, those not in need of protection will have to be swiftly returned to the relevant third countries on the basis of streamlined return procedures.

SCENARIO 2:

A regional arrangement for disembarkation (and setting up of disembarkation centres) in third countries for migrants rescued in the territorial sea of a third country or by vessels in international waters
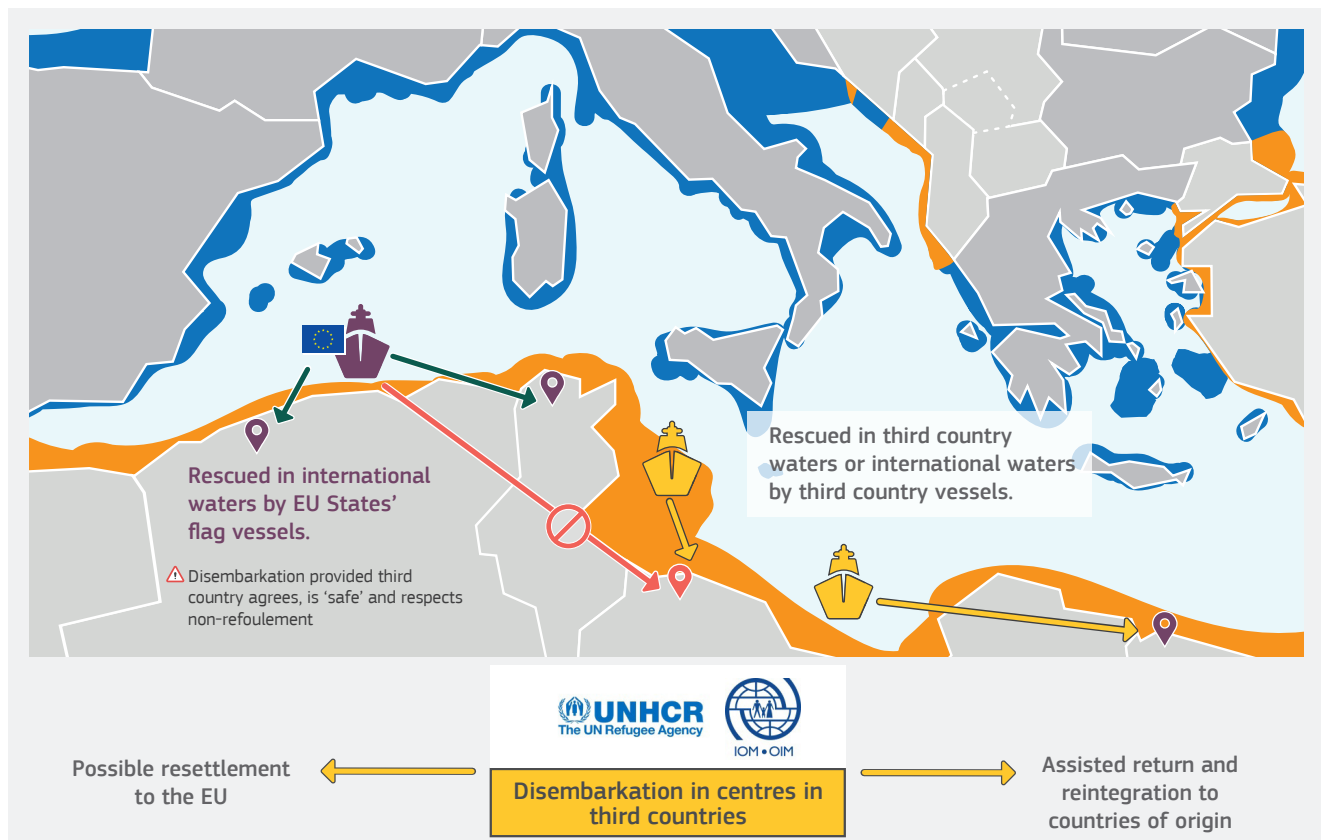
Rescued in international waters by EU States' flag vessels.

⚠ Disembarkation provided third country agrees, is 'safe' and respects non-refoulement

Rescued in third country waters or international waters by third country vessels.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency   **IOM • OIM**

Possible resettlement to the EU

Disembarkation in centres in third countries

Assisted return and reintegration to countries of origin

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustrative purposes only and is NOT indicative of either precise territorial water delimitations or potential disembarkation points or countries.

■ territorial waters in the EU   □ international waters   ■ territorial waters in third countries

LEGAL FEASIBILITY:

Cooperation on disembarkation in a third country is possible if the search and rescue is carried out in the territorial sea of that country by its coast guard or by other third country vessels. If the search and rescue occurs in international waters and involves an EU State's flag vessel (including in the context of European Border and Coast Guard sea operations) disembarkation can still take place in a third country, provided that the principle of *non-refoulement* is respected.

A regional arrangement could function by identifying partner countries and working with the UNHCR and IOM to ensure those disembarked can be channelled to existing EU resettlement schemes if they are in need of protection or into the return and reintegration programmes run by the IOM if they are not.

Under this scenario, individuals rescued would not acquire the right to access the asylum procedure in an EU Member State.

PRACTICAL FEASIBILITY:

- ❯ no need for changes in EU legislation; however swift adoption of the EU Resettlement Framework proposed by the Commission in March 2016 (as one of the 7 asylum reform proposals which will establish the first-ever permanent EU-wide resettlement framework and set 2 year plans targeting commonly agreed priority regions) would be useful as flanking measure. Increased resettlement efforts (building on the current >50,000 pledged places) and targeting them to respond to the needs of the disembarkation centres would in any event be required;

- ❯ need to identify partner third countries; secure the agreement of the third country by offering financial and other possible incentives;

- ❯ need to make sure that disembarkation centres are set up under the auspices of the UNHCR;

- ❯ need to facilitate voluntary return to countries of origin in close cooperation with the IOM;

- ❯ need to invest in further developing the capacity of third-countries' coast guards.

> **To be underlined that scenarios 1 and 2 are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they could be mutually supportive.**

SCENARIO 3:

External processing of asylum applications and/or the return procedure in a third country

External return centres

External processing centres

Pushbacks to external processing centres or returns of all irregular migrants to external return centres.

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustrative purposes only and is NOT indicative of either precise territorial water delimitations or potential disembarkation points or countries.

■ territorial waters in the EU □ international waters ■ territorial waters in third countries

EXTERNAL PROCESSING OF EU ASYLUM APPLICATIONS

Under this scenario, all irregular arrivals (whether they make an application for international protection in EU territory or not) would be sent directly to the territory of a third country without any form of processing in the territory of the EU Member States and instead offered the possibility to apply for asylum from there.

LEGAL AND PRACTICAL FEASIBILITY:

❯ Sending back an asylum seeker to a third country without processing their asylum claim constitutes refoulement and is not permitted under EU and international law.

❯ When in EU territory (or at the EU's external borders) a person fleeing war or persecution has the right to claim asylum. When outside the EU, there is no such right. The only means of getting refugee status from outside the EU is therefore resettlement. To allow individuals to «apply» for asylum outside the EU would require the extra-territorial application of EU law which is currently neither possible nor desirable.

❯ The only way this could function would be by establishing an EU asylum system and EU courts to process claims accompanied by an EU-level appeal structure. There would then still have to be a system for distributing asylum seekers among Member States. In addition to requiring a major institutional transformation, substantial resources would need to be allocated to these new EU-asylum courts and bodies.

EXTERNALLY-LOCATED RETURN CENTRES

Under this scenario, irregular migrants – not necessarily rescued at sea – who could not be returned to their country of origin after their asylum claim was rejected in an EU Member State (because of lack of cooperation of the country of origin concerned), would, instead, be sent to a centre in a third country.

LEGAL AND PRACTICAL FEASIBILITY:

▶ It is not possible under EU law on returns to send someone, against their will, to a country they do not originate from or have not transited through.

▶ An agreement with a third country would be a necessary pre-condition for implementing this scenario, as is a revision of EU rules. The risk of infringing the principle of non-refoulement is high.

> **Scenario three presents significant legal and practical challenges. The risk of infringing the principle of non-refoulement is high. It is questionable whether this scenario is in line with EU values.**

European Commission

MANAGING MIGRATION:
POSSIBLE AREAS FOR ADVANCEMENT AT THE JUNE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

There is now broad consensus that no EU Member State should be left alone to deal with the challenges of migration – be it from primary or secondary movements. When Leaders meet at the European Council this week, there are notably four areas where the EU's collective work over the past 3 years to provide European solutions to managing migration could be advanced.

REFORM EU RULES ON ASYLUM AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

The crisis exposed the weaknesses in the current EU asylum rules that lead to varying treatment of asylum seekers across the EU and encouraged movements from one Member State to another. Many of the reform proposals on the table now could help Europe learn the lessons of the past and bring remedies to these problems.

THE ASYLUM REFORMS:

The vast progress made on the reform of the Common European Asylum system could now be brought to bear. The reforms will ensure more humane conditions for asylum seekers; help counter secondary movements from one EU Member State to another and ensure greater fairness in shouldering the responsibility for primary movements.

ADOPTION POSSIBLE BY END JULY

- Reception Conditions Directive
- Asylum Qualifications Regulation
- European Asylum Agency
- Eurodac Database
- EU Ressettlement Framework

ADOPTION POSSIBLE BY END 2018

- Dublin System
- Asylum Procedures Regulation

THE BORDER REFORMS:

Several other proposals currently being discussed could help EU Member States in dealing with some of the current challenges.

READY TO BE ADOPTED

• The **European Travel and Information System (ETIAS)** will help identify travellers that pose a security or migration risk before they reach the EU's borders.

• A reinforced **Schengen Information System (SIS)** will help enforce return decisions, support border guards in better monitoring who is crossing the EU's borders and support police and law enforcement in capturing criminals.

PENDING AGREEMENT

• New **interoperability rules** will give law enforcement better access to the information they need across all EU migration, border management and security systems.

• New rules on **EU visa policy** will provide the EU with an important leverage to ensure non-EU countries cooperate on readmission, whilst the new **EU visa information system** will facilitate the identification and readmission of undocumented irregular migrants.

• New rules on **temporary internal border controls** will help Member States respond better to evolving and persistent security threats.

INCREASE FUNDING TO STEM IRREGULAR MIGRATION

To support increased engagement with non-EU countries, help refugees where they are and reduce the incentive for irregular migration, the EU put in place innovative funding solutions that have shown their effectiveness. Member States must now ensure they can continue to work.

TRUST FUND FOR AFRICA

EU BUDGET CONTRIBUTION: €2.98 billion
MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTION: €419 million

The Africa Trust Fund is one of the EU's most effective tools for addressing the root causes of migration. But funding gaps – particularly in the North Africa window are hampering the EU's ability to fund the IOM's voluntary return and reintegration programme out of Libya, for example.

To fill the current €1.2 billion funding gap, the EU budget is contributing a further **€645 million**.

Member States are currently making pledges towards the goal of an immediate contribution of **at least €500 million**.

FACILITY FOR REFUGEES IN TURKEY

✓ FIRST TRANCHE:
EU BUDGET CONTRIBUTION: €1 billion
MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTION: €2 billion

✗ SECOND TRANCHE:
EU BUDGET CONTRIBUTION: €2 billion
MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTION: €1 billion

The implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement – which has brought arrivals to Greece down by 97% - requires engagement and sustained efforts from all sides. From the EU side, this includes a swift agreement on the second €3 billion instalment for the Facility for Refugees in Turkey – the fund that has given 500,000 Syrian children access to education, constructed 175 schools and which supports 1.2 million of the most vulnerable families with monthly cash transfers.

EXTERNAL INVESTMENT PLAN

With an input from the EU budget of €4.1 billion the EU's External Investment Plan is expected to mobilise additional public and private investment of €44 billion. If Member States match the EU contribution, its impact could be doubled to up to €88 billion.

€4.1 billion → €44 billion

€8.2 billion → €88 billion

PROTECTING THE EU'S BORDERS

PLUGGING IMMEDIATE GAPS

The European Border and Coast Guard currently relies on case-by-case calls for its operations. Member States should urgently fill the shortfalls for July, to ensure effective work at the EU's external borders throughout the summer.

	LAND BORDER OPERATIONS (GREECE, BULGARIA, FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA)	SEA BORDER OPERATIONS (THEMIS, POSEIDON, INDALO)
Border guards needed	112	32

	VESSELS	AIRCRAFTS	VEHICLES
Assets needed	15	6	35

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN MANAGEMENT OF THE EXTERNAL BORDERS

The long-term viability of the Schengen area of free movement is dependent on the EU's ability to effectively manage its external borders. To this end, the Commission will swiftly present 3 new proposals to move towards a more European management of the external borders.

1 A genuine EU Border Police

The European Border and Coast Guard should be further beefed up with its own means and powers for protecting external borders and enhanced ability to support returns. The new mandate should include:

• A standing corps of 10,000 EU guards;

• Own technical assets (air, sea and land);

• A greater role in non-EU countries;

• A stronger mandate to carry out returns.

INCREASED BORDER GUARDS

To ensure the effective protection of the EU external borders and the management of returns, the Commission stands ready to frontload the increase of the European Border and Coast Guard's standing corps to 10,000 by 2020 (instead of the planned 2027) – if Member States support this .

This would be a combination of Agency staff, border guards seconded from Member States, and a pool of 7,000 national border guards to be drawn on as needs arise. The pool of national guards will gradually be replaced to reach 50% permanent staff by 2027.

Scaling up the EU's border agency

EU Border Guards currently deployed

Commission announcement of June 2018

By 2020 (if Member States support)

10,000

2018
1,300

2014
<300

Reserve pool:
1,500
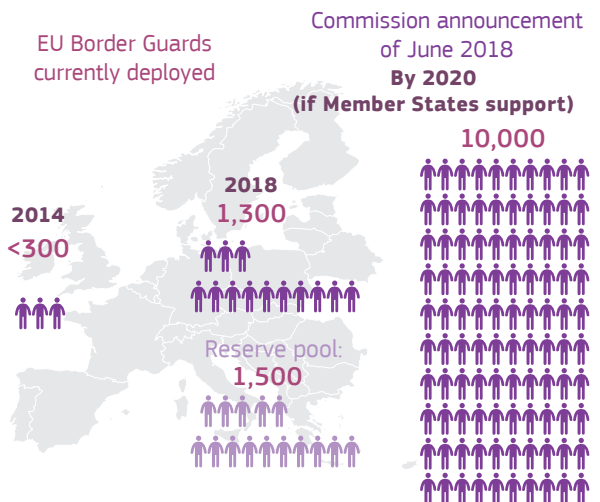
2 A genuine Asylum Authority

A reinforced asylum agency should share tasks with the new EU Border Police and notably work hand in hand with them at the external borders when people arrive. The Agency could identify those in need of protection and those not and channel them either into a national asylum process or directly into returns by the Border Police.

3 An effective European Return Policy

New rules – notably with common conditions and timelines for returns – should help increase the coherence and effectiveness of the EU's return policy. In the meantime, the goal should be to achieve a return rate of at least 70% by 2020 (current EU average 36.6%).

REGIONAL COOPERATION ON DISEMBARKATION

In order to establish a more predictable framework for dealing with rescues at sea, two main regional disembarkation possibilities should be considered – with one not excluding the other. One option can be excluded entirely.

OPTION ONE:
DISEMBARKATION IN EU COUNTRIES

Under EU law, search and rescue operations carried out in the territorial sea of a Member State engage the responsibility of the EU. In particular, rescued migrants would acquire a right to access the asylum procedure in the EU. Such a framework could function by reinforcing the existing hotspot approach with further coordinated action by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the EU Asylum Agency (particularly if the mandates of both bodies are further strengthened). They would work in cooperation with local authorities to facilitate processing of asylum claims and returns at disembarkation centres at the borders.

In a regional arrangement among Member States, a solution, based on the principles of solidarity and responsibility, will need to be found for those in need of protection that will remain in the Union.

OPTION TWO:
DISEMBARKATION IN NON-EU COUNTRIES

Cooperation on disembarkation in a non-EU country is possible if the search and rescue is carried out in the territorial sea of that country by its coast guard or by other non-EU State or other vessel. If the search and rescue occurs in international waters and involves an EU State's flag vessel, disembarkation can still take place in a non-EU country, provided that the principle of non-refoulement is respected.

For this to work, the EU would need to identify partner countries and work with the UNHCR and IOM to ensure those disembarked can be channelled to existing EU resettlement schemes if they are in need of protection or into the return and reintegration programmes run by the IOM if they are not. Individuals rescued would not, however, acquire the right to access the asylum procedure in an EU Member State by default.

PROVIDING SAFE AND LEGAL AVENUES TO THE EU THROUGH RESETTLEMENT

Regional arrangements on disembarkation with coastal States in North Africa should go hand in hand with increase efforts on resettlement to offer a safe and legal pathway to the most vulnerable refugees. Increased resettlement would also help reduce irregular flows and take pressure from Member States at the external border:

• Over **32,000** vulnerable refugees resettled to Member States under EU schemes since 2015.

• Largest collective EU commitment so far: Member States pledged **50,000** additional resettlements under a new scheme proposed by President Juncker in September 2017 – with 4,252 already resettled.

• Agreement almost reached: The first ever EU-wide resettlement framework, proposed by the Commission in March 2016, will set **2 year plans** targeting commonly agreed priority regions and increase the overall EU commitment.

OPTION THREE:
EXTERNAL PROCESSING CENTRES

Options whereby all irregular arrivals (whether or not they apply for asylum on EU territory) would be sent directly to the territory of a non-EU country without any form of processing; or whereby rejected asylum applicants are returned to a country they have not transited through, should be discarded. Extra-territorial application of EU law is not possible, nor is it desirable. Similarly, it is not possible under EU law on returns to send someone to a country they have no link with. Such options are not legally or practically feasible, nor are they in line with EU values.

HOW THE FUTURE ASYLUM REFORM WILL PROVIDE SOLIDARITY AND ADDRESS SECONDARY MOVEMENTS

European Commission

No Member State should be left alone or put under disproportionate pressure be it from primary or secondary movements. The reform of EU asylum rules initiated by the Commission in 2015 is designed to do both: stop secondary movements, and ensure solidarity for Member States of first entry. The reform will ensure humane and dignified treatment of asylum seekers, simplified and shortened asylum procedures alongside stricter rules to combat abuse.

There are 7 legislative proposals that constitute the asylum reform. 5 are ready to be concluded:

	READY TO BE CONCLUDED
RECEPTION CONDITIONS This proposal will harmonise reception conditions throughout the EU.	✅
ASYLUM QUALIFICATION This proposal will harmonise protection standards in the EU and put an end to secondary movements and asylum shopping.	✅
ASYLUM AGENCY This proposal will establish a fully-fledged European Union Agency for Asylum.	✅
EURODAC This proposal will adapt and reinforce the Eurodac fingerprint database to facilitate returns and help tackle irregular migration.	✅
RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK This proposal will align how EU Member States resettle recognised refugees from outside EU territory, such as those in refugee camps.	✅
DUBLIN SYSTEM This proposal aims to create a fairer, more efficient and more sustainable system for allocating asylum applications among Member States.	❌
ASYLUM PROCEDURES This proposal will reduce differences in recognition rates, discourage secondary movements and ensure common effective procedural guarantees for asylum seekers.	❌

Until the completion of the reform, Member States could decide to apply interim measures, foreshadowing some elements of the future system to ensure that there is already now visible, strong and timely solidarity between Member States (including relocation commitments, financial and human resources and other commitments) as well as measures to tackle secondary movements (such as establishing adequate detention and accommodation facilities, processing asylum requests and transfer requests immediately).

PREVENTING SECONDARY MOVEMENTS AS PART OF THE ASYLUM REFORM

The reform of the Common European Asylum System will discourage secondary movements and abuse of the rules. Harmonised procedures across the EU will take away the incentive to travel onwards from the country of first entry. Accelerated procedures for manifestly unfounded claims will also discourage primary movements.

A REFORMED RECEPTION CONDITIONS DIRECTIVE WILL:

- Ensure that the full right to reception conditions is **only provided in the country responsible** for the asylum seekers' application, nowhere else. It also introduces the possibility to provide parts of reception conditions in kind only.

- Discourage asylum seekers from absconding by introducing the possibility for Member States to **assign a residence and impose reporting obligations**.

- Provide the possibility to **reduce or completely withdraw** reception conditions or make use of **detention**, in full respect of fundamental rights, in cases where an asylum seeker is not complying with the obligation to reside in a specific place or not respecting reporting obligations.

- Grant access to the **labour market** no later than 6 months after an application for asylum is registered.

A NEW QUALIFICATIONS REGULATION WILL:

- Discourage secondary movements by introducing **sanctions**. For example, the clock will be restarted on the 5-year waiting period needed to apply for EU long-term resident status each time the refugee is found in a Member State where he/she does not have the right to stay or reside.

A REINFORCED EURODAC SYSTEM WILL:

- Facilitate returns and help tackle irregular migration by providing the information needed to **identify persons found irregularly present** in the EU for the purpose of return and readmission.

- Ensure that Member States can **better track secondary movements** of refugees or persons granted international protection within the European Union as well as irregular migrants and asylum applicants by allowing for the relevant data to be stored and the necessary searches to be made.

A NEW EUROPEAN ASYLUM AGENCY WILL:

- Ensure a greater convergence in the assessment of applications for international protection across the EU by developing **common guidance** on the situation in third countries of origin.

- Provide **training on assessments** of asylum applications to encourage harmonised procedures. **A pool of experts** will be available to support Member States with operational and technical assistance.

THE NEW ASYLUM PROCEDURES REGULATION AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION WILL:

- **Simplify, clarify and shorten asylum procedures.**
  - The overall procedure is shortened and streamlined, with decisions normally to be taken within 6 months or less.
  - Shorter time-limits (between 1 and 2 months) are introduced in particular in cases where applications are inadmissible or manifestly unfounded, or in cases where the accelerated procedure applies.
  - Time limits are also introduced for lodging appeals (ranging from 1 week to 1 month) and for decisions at the first appeal stage (ranging from 2 to 6 months).
- **Make accelerated procedures compulsory** in cases where applicants make clearly inconsistent or false representations, mislead the authorities with false information, or come from a safe country of origin.
- **Ensure stricter and compulsory** rules to combat abuse and new obligations to cooperate with the authorities, including strict consequences if these obligations are not met.
- **Sanctions for abuse** of the process, lack of cooperation and secondary movements – which are optional under the current rules – will be made compulsory under the news rules and include the rejection of the application as implicitly withdrawn or manifestly unfounded, or the application of the accelerated procedure.
- Provide for the possibility to decide at the **border or transit zones** of a Member State on the admissibility of an applicant and the substance of certain applications within 4 weeks.

EU LISTS OF SAFE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND SAFE THIRD COUNTRIES WILL:

- Ensure all new arrivals would be checked against the common EU lists to see if their applications could be declared inadmissible and the person sent back to a third country or whether the application could be quickly rejected on the grounds that the person comes from a safe country of origin and is not in need of protection.

THE NEW DUBLIN SYSTEM AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION:

- Will **speed up and facilitate transfers** of asylum seekers between Member States through shorter time limits for the different steps of the determination procedure, transfers and access to the asylum procedure.
- Requests from 1 Member State to **take over responsibility** for an application ('take charge request') have to be sent within 1 month. No reply within 1 month will be tantamount to accepting the request.
- Requests from 1 Member State to another to **take back** an applicant for whom the latter is responsible and who has absconded ('take back requests') will be transformed into simple take back notifications and have to be submitted within 2 weeks. A reply will no longer be required, only a confirmation of receipt.
- All Member States will now be under **a clear obligation** to take back applicants they are responsible for.
- Appeals against transfer decisions will be dealt with within 15 days.

SHOWING SOLIDARITY

The asylum reforms are also designed to correct the current imbalance whereby the burden of dealing with the vast majority of asylum claims is placed on a small number of Member States. The solidarity support measures to Member States receiving primary movements (arrivals) complement and balance out the measures to limit secondary movements.

The reforms currently being discussed could provide for:

RELOCATION

Fair measurement of the asylum burden of every Member State and a well-functioning, effective and easy-to-trigger solidarity mechanism for when that burden becomes disproportionate.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Automatic significant financial support to be provided to the Member States under pressure as well as to those taking part in solidarity efforts, with dedicated lump sums for integration or returns.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Automatic expert, technical and operational support in the areas of asylum and return.

EU AGENCIES

Increased support by the future EU Asylum Agency as well the European Border and Coast Guard Agency will be provided to Member States under pressure.

EXTERNAL DIMENSION

Increased cooperation and partnership with non-EU countries is an important component to better manage and decrease migratory flows and further reduce the pressure on EU Member States.

European Commission

Managing Migration in all its aspects

Commission Note ahead of the June European Council 2018

> *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.*

Jean-Claude Juncker, 1 May 2014, then-Candidate for European Commission President

Building on the work initiated by the Commission in 2015, European leaders agreed on the need to work towards an agreement on reforming the Common European Asylum System by the end of June 2018.

Six months have passed since then. Significant progress has been made and almost all elements of the asylum reform — 5 out of 7 legislative proposals are advancing very well in trilogue discussions with the European Parliament and Council. The outstanding points invariably hinge on different conceptions of how best to balance responsibility and solidarity.

The Commission believes there is now scope for a compromise solution going forward, so that we can incorporate the lessons learnt over the last years. The European Council on 28-29 June 2018 is an important opportunity for advancing this necessary debate.

A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

The European Union is not starting from scratch when it comes to migration and border management. Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place common asylum standards in line with international law. And over the past 3 years the European Agenda on Migration proposed by the Juncker Commission in May 2015 has guided the advances in European migration policy that were needed to respond to the substantial challenges faced.

PROTECTING OUR BORDERS

The EU has started to demonstrate the step-change needed to achieve a truly integrated management of our external borders, with the roll-out of the European Border and Coast Guard, the introduction of systematic checks on everyone crossing our borders, and improved, interoperable IT systems to exchange information between Member States in real time.

- Around **1,300 EU border guards** are now helping Member States patrol the external borders in places like Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Spain.

- An additional rapid reaction pool of **1,500 border guards** is on standby to intervene quickly whenever a Member State requests support.

Scaling up the EU's border agency

EU Border Guards currently deployed

2014
<300

2018
1,300
Reserve pool: 1,500

Commission proposal of May 2018

2027
10,000
Reserve pool: 1,500

Investing in border management

2006-2013
2.3 BILLION

2014-2020
4.3 BILLION

2021-2027
18.3 BILLION
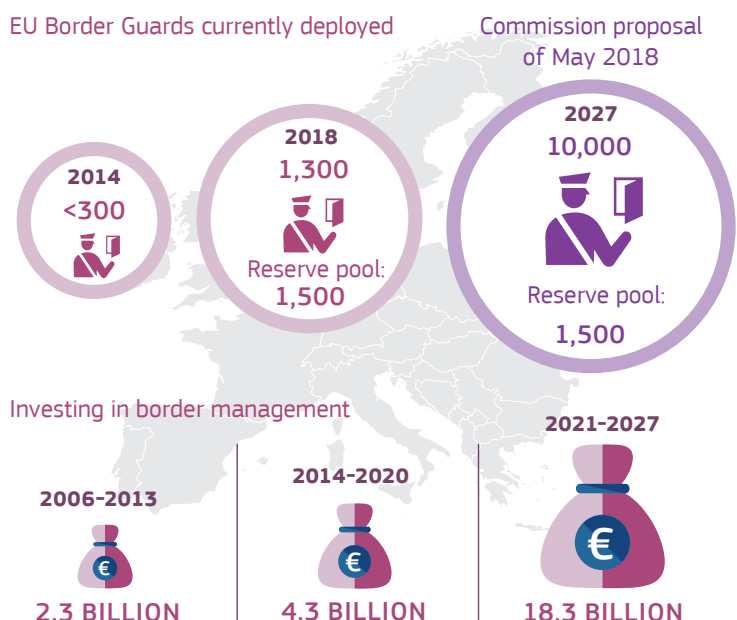
STOPPING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

There are those that claim a reduction in the arrival numbers is a pre-requisite for progressing on other aspects of a common European migration policy but the reality is that this has largely been achieved. The numbers are in fact back – and even below – pre-crisis years.

- **Eastern Mediterranean route:** arrivals dropped by 97% — from 10,000 per day in October 2015, to an average of 81 following the EU-Turkey Statement.

- **Central Mediterranean route**: following our joint work with Italy, with Libya, Niger and other sub-Saharan countries, arrivals are down by 77% in 2018, compared to the same period last year.

- **Western Mediterranean route**, while arrivals are increasing, they do so from a low basis and action is being taken to maintain control over these developments.

EU CRISIS MANAGEMENT

In the face of crisis, the EU activated and set up new crisis management mechanisms to avert a humanitarian crisis and ensure coordination across the Union.

- Weekly and bi-weekly video-conferences organised by the Commission with all countries along the Western Balkan Route ensure a regular information exchange and pragmatic solutions to tackle and prevent crises.

- The Council's integrated political crisis response arrangements provide for political coordination at the highest level.

- The bolstered European Border and Coast Guard Agency now carries out regular and systematic vulnerability assessments of Member States preparedness to face challenges at the external borders.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Jan-June 2018
Western Mediterranean	7,519	7,878	10,661	23,564	13,442
Central Mediterranean	170,664	153,946	181,376	118,96	15,570
Eastern Mediterranean	50,834	885,386	182,277	42,319	21,418

Eastern Mediterranean
-97%
Compared to before EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016

Central Mediterranean
-77%
Compared to Jan-June 2017

Western Mediterranean
Increase of **5,222** compared to Jan-June 2017

SAVING LIVES AT SEA

EU operations at sea help save lives. When tragedy struck in the Mediterranean, the EU reacted swiftly, launching two new operations and tripling the number of boats at sea.

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 EU operations contributed to:

- Over 634,751 lives saved

- 148 traffickers and smugglers apprehended by Operation Sophia

- 550 vessels removed

Operation Sophia: 1,154 staff, 6 ships, 4 planes, 2 helicopters

Operation Themis: 260 staff, 10 ships, 2 planes, 2 helicopters,14 mobile offices

Operation Poseidon: 519 staff, 14 ships, 1 plane, 2 helicopters, 3 mobile offices

SHOWING SOLIDARITY

Responding to the challenge of the 2015 refugee crisis, the EU mobilised unprecedented financial and operational means to support all Member States facing heavy migratory pressure.

- The EU institutions used all flexibility in the EU budget to **mobilise additional funds**. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund was more than doubled (+123%), funding for decentralised agencies increased by 86%, and Emergency Assistance increased by almost 500%.

- **Hotspots** have been set up to ensure that all people arriving are properly registered and fingerprinted; and EU agencies were strengthened with additional resources.

- Over 800,000 items such as blankets, mattresses, beds and tents as well as teams and equipment, shelter and medical supplies have been channelled through the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** to the most affected countries.

- An **emergency mechanism** has shown that if Member States are willing, relocation can work, with 34,695 — more than 96% of all eligible candidates — relocated from Italy and Greece to other EU Member States.

- To help refugees where they are and reduce the incentive for irregular migration, the EU put in place **innovative funding solutions** such as Trust Funds to leverage funding beyond the limits of the budget:

Investing in migration

2006-2013

2.2 BILLION

2014-2020

6.8 BILLION

2021-2027

10.4 BILLION

Trust Fund for Africa	**External Investment Plan for Africa**	**Facility for Refugees in Turkey**	**Trust Fund for Syria**
€2.98 BILLION	€4.1 BILLION	€1 BILLION	€1.25 BILLION
€419 MILLION		€2 BILLION	€150 MILLION
€1.2 BILLION		€3 BILLION	

Jordan	**Lebanon**	**Serbia**	**former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
€1.9 BILLION	€1 BILLION	€137.6 MILLION	€58.1 MILLION

EU Budget | Member States | (!) Funding Gap

- **Resettlement** has eased some of the pressure on EU Member States at the external border and offered a safe and legal pathway to those in need of international protection.

  - Since 2015, two successful EU resettlement programmes have helped over 32,000 of the most vulnerable find shelter in the EU.

  - Member States made the largest collective commitment on resettlement the EU has ever seen with the new EU 50,000 resettlement scheme proposed by President Juncker in September 2017 – with 4,252 already resettled.

  - The first ever EU-wide resettlement framework agreed last week will set 2 year plans targeting commonly agreed priority regions.

RETURN AND READMISSION

The EU has worked with countries of origin and transit, using an effective range of measures: the EU-Turkey Statement, the Partnership Framework, increased EU funding, and our work with the Western Balkans countries are all significant steps forward in addressing the root causes of irregular migration.

- We have seen significant progress in securing third countries' cooperation on readmission of their own nationals:

  - **17 Readmission agreements** with countries across the world (Hong Kong, Macao, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russia, Ukraine, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Moldova, Pakistan, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Cape Verde)

  - **Plus 6 new arrangements** agreed in the last two years alone (Afghanistan, Guinea, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ivory Coast)

- In Libya, the successful co-operation under the African Union — European Union — United Nations Taskforce continues to deliver results:
    - 1,409 evacuated under the Emergency Transit Mechanism with the UNHCR to Niger
    - 20,000 voluntary returns from Libya since November 2017
    - An additional €70 million will be used to accelerate resettlements under the Emergency Transit Mechanism and ensure that voluntary return and reintegration assistance can be continuously provided by the IOM

WHERE WE ARE NOW

After agreeing on a European Border and Coast Guard Agency in the record time of just 9 months, the European Union is now better equipped than ever before to confront the challenges posed by variable migration pressures. It does not, however, mean our work in this area is over – far from it. The crisis exposed the weaknesses in the current EU asylum rules that lead to varying treatment of asylum seekers across the EU and encouraged movements from one Member State to another. Arrivals are now back at pre-crisis levels but underlying structural migration pressures remain strong – meaning we have a window of opportunity to fix the weaknesses, before the next crisis slams it shut.

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD

⌃ FRONTEX

✓ Agreed in record time of 9 months

There are 7 legislative proposals initiated by the Commission in 2015 on asylum reform that can help Europe learn the lessons of the past and equip the Union with a future-proof means of managing migration.

5 out of the 7 have already been or are ready to be wrapped up:

EU LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS READY TO BE CONCLUDED BY BOTH PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL

Proposal	Progress	Outstanding Issues
Receptions Conditions This proposal will harmonise reception conditions throughout the EU.	Compromises have been found on virtually all issues, including geographic restrictions, limitations on the provision of reception conditions when applicants abuse the system, unaccompanied minors and on earlier access to the labour market.	Trilogue between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission significantly advanced.
Asylum Qualification This proposal will harmonise protection standards in the EU and put an end to secondary movements and asylum shopping.	Compromises have been found on virtually all issues, including a full harmonisation of asylum criteria, new obligations for asylum seekers, measures to discourage secondary movements and status reviews.	Trilogue between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission significantly advanced.
Asylum Agency This proposal will establish a fully-fledged European Union Agency for Asylum.	Compromises have been found on virtually all issues, the new Agency will provide increased operational and technical assistance to Member States, particularly those subject to disproportionate pressure, including through the establishment of an Asylum Reserve Pool of 500 experts to allow for rapid deployment.	Trilogue between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission significantly advanced.
Eurodac This proposal will adapt and reinforce the Eurodac fingerprint database to facilitate returns and help tackle irregular migration.	Compromises have been found on many issues, such as access by law enforcement to the database, the registration of minors and the addition of other biometric data.	The outstanding issue concerns the storage period for data.
Resettlement Framework This proposal will align how EU Member States resettle recognised refugees from outside EU territory, such as those in refugee camps.	Compromises have been found on virtually all issues, including two year resettlement plans, and harmonised procedures for helping the most vulnerable while ensuring stringent security checks.	Trilogue between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission significantly advanced.

EU LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WHERE THE COUNCIL HAS NOT YET REACHED AN AGREEMENT

For the two remaining proposals, despite the different positions and often controversial discussions, much progress has been made even if further work is still needed to settle the outstanding points.

Proposal	Progress	Outstanding Issues
Dublin System This proposal aims to create a fairer, more efficient and more sustainable system for allocating asylum applications among Member States.	Good progress has been made during the Bulgarian Presidency on the need to address the current serious efficiency gaps, leading to secondary movements as well as on the need to have mechanisms preventing a crisis from unfolding and ensuring Member States will benefit from support to face unforeseen events or disproportionate pressure.	The primary outstanding issue concerns different components of solidarity that should apply to all and the length of the principle that responsibility needs to be as stable as possible in contrast to the current system of shifts of responsibility which has led to secondary movements.
Asylum Procedures This proposal will reduce differences in recognition rates, discourage secondary movements and ensure common effective procedural guarantees for asylum seekers.	Good progress has been made on a number of issues, with broad consensus on the need for a quicker and more efficient start of the asylum procedure, clear and stricter rules to prevent abuse, and the establishment of a common EU list of safe third countries that all new asylum applications would be checked against.	Progress on the Asylum Procedures reform remains contingent on progress on the Dublin reform. Other key issues include time limits for the admissibility procedure and for appeal decisions.

THE WAY FORWARD

The Commission believes there are several areas where the EU and its Member States can make significant progress – areas in which we are far more united than we are divided, and where coordinated European action can make a world of difference.

At the June European Council, EU Leaders should refocus priorities on areas where advancement is possible.

STABLE ASYLUM CONDITIONS

- The enormous amount of work undertaken on the EU's asylum system reform should now be advanced swiftly. Years of preparatory work have laid all the ground work needed for reaching a compromise.

- The 5 EU legislative proposals on strengthening the Common European Asylum system which are at a significantly advanced level of negotiations should now be rapidly concluded.

- On the remaining two, there is already broad consensus in the Council on the broad contours of a preventive solidarity mechanism including financial support to Member States under pressure and those taking part in solidarity efforts, as well as priority access to the support from the concerned EU agencies. There is also growing support for agreeing on an EU list of safe third countries and safe countries of origin that all new asylum applications would be checked against to see if transferring responsibility for the asylum claim is possible.

- The Commission calls for an agreement on all components of a strengthened Common European Asylum System before the end of the year.

PROGRESS TOWARDS BETTER EU BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE

Stepping up Returns and Readmission:

The challenge now is for Member States to use newly agreed return agreements and arrangements to effectively return people who have no right to remain in the Union, notably by making use of the European Border and Coast Guard's support as well as increasing pre-removal detention capacity.

Slow progress on improving the EU's effective return rate

2014	2015	2016	2017
36.3%	**36.8%**	**45.8%**	**36.6%**

Stepping up our engagement with North African countries:

More can and should be done with North African countries such as Morocco and Tunisia to help **stem irregular migration** at the source, including topping-up the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa – where there is €1.2 billion funding gap – and in particular the North Africa window, which the EU will mobilise a further €145 million for, leaving a remaining €80 million gap. An additional effort of around €500 million from Member States until the end of 2019 would mean the vast majority of the needs would be covered.

Stablising the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement:

The implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement – which has brought arrivals to Greece down by 97% - requires engagement and sustained efforts from all sides. From the EU side, this includes a swift agreement on the second €3 billion instalment for the Facility for Syrian Refugees in Turkey – the fund that has given 500,000 Syrian children access to education, constructed 175 schools and which suppports 1.2 million of the most vulnerable families with monthly cash transfers. Member States should also activate the **Voluntary Humanitarian Admission Scheme** to ensure continued resettlements from Turkey can be carried out on simpler and more beneficial terms for the EU.

Helping protect the external borders:

The long-term viability of the Schengen area of free movement is dependent on the EU's ability to effectively manage its external borders. Member States swiftly need to fill the gaps in staffing and equipment for the **European Border and Coast Guard** – which can currently only cover 74% of the human resource and 71% of technical equipment needs. They should also agree to continue scaling up the European Border and Coast Guard, notably with additional resources under the next long-term budget.

	LAND BORDER OPERATIONS (GREECE/FYROM; BULGARIA)	SEA BORDER OPERATIONS (THEMIS, POSEIDON, INALDO)
Border guards needed	46	28

	VESSELS	AIRCRAFTS	VEHICLES
Assets needed	13	3	20

To this end, the Commission will swiftly propose new legislation to transform the European Border and Coast Guard into a genuine EU Border Police and to transform the European Asylum Support Office into a genuine EU Asylum Authority.

When it comes to **search and rescue**, the EU should explore further engaging North African countries and partners such as the UNHCR and IOM in discussions on a regional disembarkation scheme. This would have to be combined with voluntary return packages, enhanced resettlement efforts and further financial support. EU Member States might also wish to look into, in the framework of international law, regional arrangements on disembarkation and search and rescue in the Mediterranean.

European Commission

EU BUDGET
FOR THE FUTURE

#EUBudget #MigrationEU #EURoad2Sibiu
#FutureofEurope

12 June 2018

MIGRATION: SUPPORTING A ROBUST, REALISTIC AND FAIR EU POLICY

During the refugee crisis of 2015 and 2016, financial support provided by the EU budget to Member States under pressure proved essential to ensure an effective EU response, for example to develop search and rescue capacities, increase reception capacity, and step up returns.

Learning the lessons of the past, and in the knowledge that migration and border management will remain a challenge in the future, the Commission proposes to significantly reinforce funding for migration under the next EU budget from 2021 to 2027.

A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FUNDING

The EU budget for the management of migration and asylum will reach **€11.3 billion,** compared to €7.3 billion for the period 2014-2020.

EU BUDGET FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

€11.3

€0.9 Decentralised agencies

€10.4 Asylum and Migration Fund

€7.3

€0.45 Decentralised agencies

€6.9 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

EU BUDGET 2014-2020

EU BUDGET 2021-2027

in billion
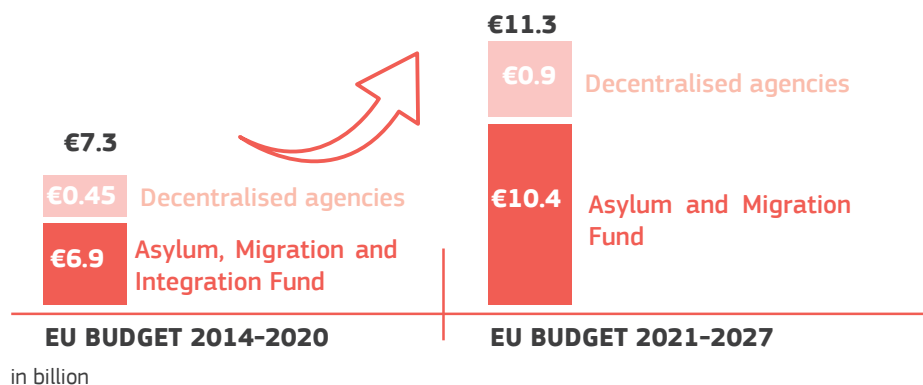
PRIORITIES UNDER THE ASYLUM AND MIGRATION FUND

> **A stronger and more efficient Common European Asylum System**

> **Greater support for integration**

> **Faster and more frequent returns**

SUPPORTING MEMBER STATES WHERE THEY NEED IT, WHEN THEY NEED IT

> **Supporting Member States:** €6.3 billion in long-term funding to support Member States in managing migration, reflecting their needs. Each Member State will receive a fixed sum of €5 million with the remainder distributed based on an assessment of the pressures faced and taking into account proportions in the area of asylum (30%), legal migration and integration (30%) and return (40%).

asylum (30%)   integration (30%)   return (40%)
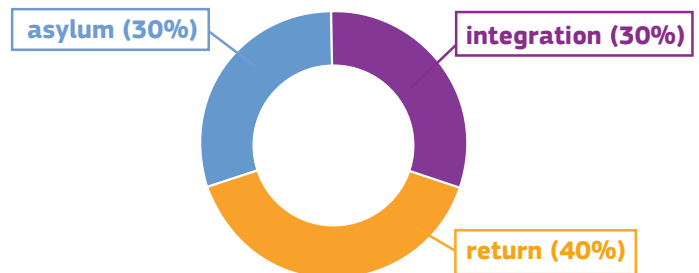
Source: European Commission

> **A flexible and fast response:** €4.2 billion will be reserved for projects with a real European added value such as resettlement or for responding to urgent needs and channelling emergency funding to Member States when and where they need it.

BUILT-IN FLEXIBILITY FOR BETTER RESPONSE TO REAL-TIME NEEDS

The new Asylum and Migration Fund will be more flexible:

Asylum and Migration Fund

€4.2 billion (40%) New thematic facility: Under the thematic facility, funding will be provided periodically to Member States to provide targeted support, assist in EU-level action and respond to urgent needs.

€1 billion (10%) Mid-term allocation to national programmes: Instead of allocating all funding at the beginning of the financial period in 2021, 10% of the total fund will be made available to Member States in 2024, taking into account of new or additional pressures.
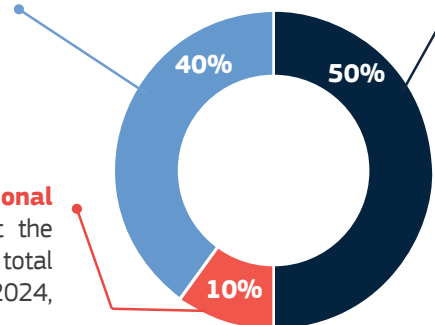
€5.2 billion (50%) Initial allocation to national programmes

40% 50% 10%

Source: European Commission

> This will allow for **quick responses to unforeseen challenges and crisis situations**.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INTEGRATION AND EXTERNAL ACTION ON MIGRATION

> While the Asylum and Migration Fund will support the early integration of migrants and asylum applicants, integration is a long-term process. Medium to long-term integration needs of non-EU nationals and people that benefit from international protection will be supported through the **European Social Fund+** and the **European Regional Development Fund**. This includes for instance vocational training, education and housing.

> Partnership and cooperation with third countries is an essential component of the European Union's migration and asylum policy. Actions financed under the **external policy** instruments will play a complementary role in addressing the root causes of migration in non-EU countries.

EU BUDGET
FOR THE FUTURE

#EUBudget #MigrationEU #SecurityUnion
#EURoad2Sibiu #FutureofEurope

12 June 2018

SECURING THE EU'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

The effective protection of the EU's external borders is crucial to manage migration and ensure internal security. It is also a prerequisite to maintain a Schengen area without controls at internal borders. In response to heavily increased migratory and security challenges the Commission is proposing to significantly strengthen funding to secure the EU's external borders.

A MAJOR INCREASE IN FUNDING

The EU budget for the management of external borders will be **increased significantly**, reaching more than **€21.3 billion**, compared to **€5.6 billion** for the period 2014-2020.

The Commission proposes to **create a new Integrated Border Management Fund worth €9.3 billion** and to allocate more than **€12 billion for the decentralised agencies** supporting Member States protecting the borders: the European Border and Coast Guard and EU-LISA.

EU BUDGET FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EXTERNAL BORDERS

€21.3

€12 — Decentralised agencies

€9.3 — Integrated Border Management Fund

€5.6

€2.9 — Decentralised agencies
€2.7 — Internal Security Fund (Borders and Visa)

EU BUDGET 2014-2020

in billion

EU BUDGET 2021-2027
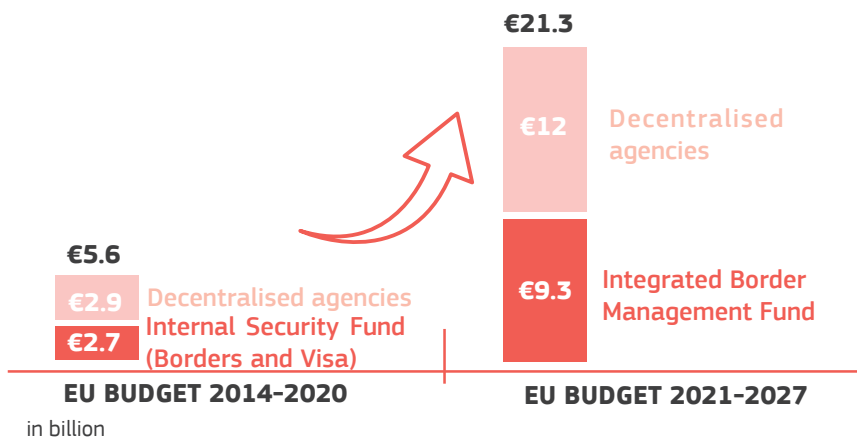
PRIORITIES UNDER THE NEW BORDER FUND

> **Continued and strengthened focus on stronger borders**: Priority areas include: help Member States to buy equipment, including for deployment to the EBCGA, support for new IT systems, actions against migrant smugglers and traffickers, support for search and rescue missions, capacity building for swift operational support when needed

> **Supporting Member States:** €4.8 billion in long-term funding to support Member States border and visa policy. Each Member State will receive a fixed sum of €5 million with the remainder distributed based on the workload, pressure and threat level at external land borders (30%), external sea borders (35%), airports (20%) and consular offices (15%);

consular offices (15%)

airports (20%)

external land borders (30%)

external sea borders (35%)
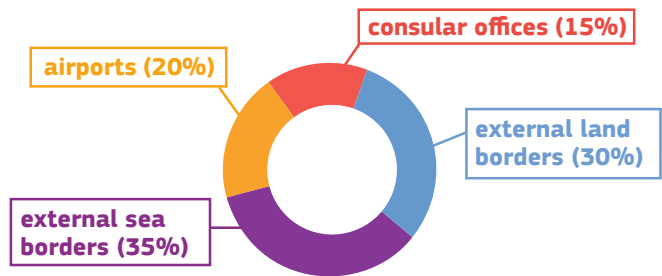
Source: European Commission

> **A flexible and fast response:** €3.2 billion reserved for EU-level projects and swift and flexible support in urgent cases

> **Strengthening the EU's visa policy:** support the modernisation of the EU's visa policy, including with new IT systems
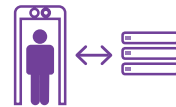
> **Better customs controls equipment:** €1.3 billion for new state-of-the-art equipment, for example: scanners, automated number plate detection systems

BUILT-IN FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO REAL-TIME NEEDS

Flexibility in built in the design of the Instrument for Border Management and Visa:

€3.2 billion – New thematic facility:
Under the thematic facility, funding will be provided periodically to Member States to support EU-level action andto respond to urgent needs.

€0.8 billion – Mid-term allocation to national programmes: Instead of allocating all funding at the beginning in 2021, 10% of the total fund will be made available to Member States in 2024, based on updated statistical Eurostat data.

€4 billion – Initial allocation to national programmes

50%

40%

10%
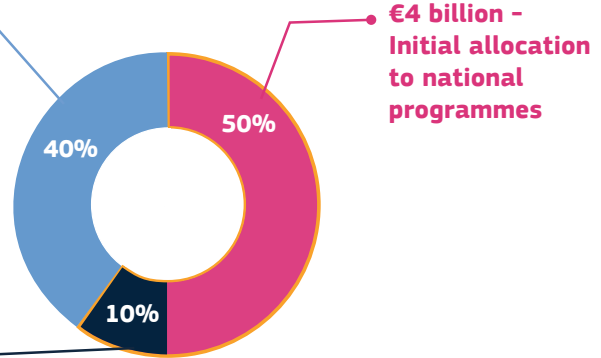
Source: European Commission

> This allows for **quick responses to unforeseen challenges and crisis situations.**

A STRONG EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY TO PROTECT OUR EXTERNAL BORDERS

> In addition to the funding presented today, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency will benefit from a significant share of the €12 billion allocated to the agencies supporting Member States in the management and protection of the external border.

> This will allow for the creation of a standing corps of around 10,000 border guards.

European Border and Coast Guard Agency officers

Current situation
pool of 1,500 national border guards
activated for rapid border interventions

Commission proposal for new standing corps of around
10,000 border guards

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT
EU CRISIS MANAGEMENT TOOLS

MAY 2018

The scale and urgency of 2015-16 refugee crisis took Europe by surprise. To avert a humanitarian crisis and enable a joint response to this unprecedented challenge, our coordination and crisis management systems had to be activated. From day one, the Commission took the lead in ensuring timely information exchange with all actors at EU level. Three years later, these tools have proven their efficiency and their worth. While the overall migration pressure has decreased, the Commission's crisis management system will continue to provide coordination and monitoring. Moreover, the availability of support remains key when responding to any future crisis.

MIGRATION COORDINATION TEAM MEETING

The weekly Coordination Team Meeting was established in January 2016. It is the Commission's central tool to coordinate all actions taking place to address the migration crisis. Meetings are held on a weekly basis.

The meeting brings together high-level representatives of Commission and EEAS services working on the different migratory routes. It notably follows the actions taken under the EU-Turkey Statement and the EU Partnership Framework.

Commission services taking part in the Coordination Team Meeting: DG HOME, DG DEVCO, DG NEAR, DG ECHO, European External Action Service (EEAS), Secretariat-General.

Through video-conference: EU Delegation in Turkey, Team of the EU Coordinator for the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement in Athens, Migration management team in Rome.

WESTERN BALKANS VIDEO-CONFERENCES WITH ALL COUNTRIES ALONG THE ROUTE

On 25 October 2015, at the height of the refugee crisis, President Juncker convened a Leaders' Meeting on refugee flows along the Western Balkans route to address the unfolding emergency situation and prevent a humanitarian crisis.

Leaders decided to improve co-operation, step-up consultation between the countries concerned and take pragmatic and operational steps to tackle the crisis.

Ever since, the Commission has chaired weekly and bi-weekly video-conferences with Leaders' Sherpas. It has thereby ensured regular information exchange between the countries along the route, EU agencies, UNHCR and IOM.
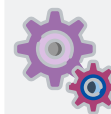
INTEGRATED POLITICAL CRISIS RESPONSE (IPCR) ARRANGEMENTS

The IPCR arrangements are a political coordination tool to take rapid action at EU level in case of major crises.

Established by the Council in 2013, the IPCR arrangements enable a joint response to the migration crisis through timely coordination with Member States at the highest political level.

The Commission and the EEAS produce weekly **Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis (ISAA)** reports based on input from EU agencies, Member States and Schengen-associated countries to inform decision-making within the IPCR.

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD: MONITORING OF FLOWS AND BORDER PROTECTION

In October 2016, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA) was launched following the Commission's proposal the preceding year. The strengthened Agency has at its disposal a rapid reaction pool of 1,500 border guards that can intervene at the EU's external borders whenever a Member State needs help. In its proposal for an EU budget for the future, the Commission recommends setting up a European Border and Coast Guard Agency standing corps of 10,000 border guards.

Key tasks of the European Border and Coast Guard:

▸ **Monitoring of migratory flows:** Constant monitoring of developments and trends at Europe's borders.

▸ **Vulnerability assessments:** Regular assessments of Member States **preparedness to face challenges at the external borders**

▸ **Direct support on the ground:** Around 1,350 border guards are deployed along the EU's external borders as of 14 May 2018.

Current European Border and Coast Guard deployments

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD
≋ FRONTEX

Spain 96

Western Balkans 103

Bulgaria 130

Greece 573

Italy 428
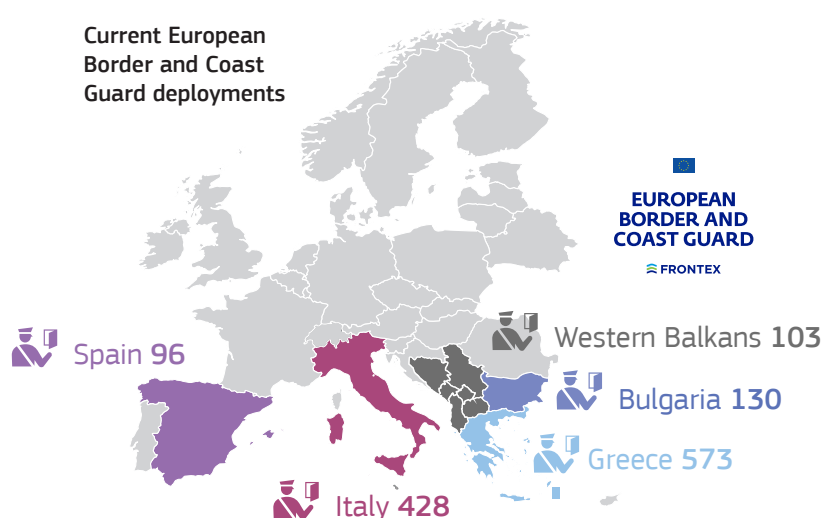
EU EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT:

The Commission supports national efforts to improve migration and border management with dedicated funding. On top of multi-annual national programmes, which are planned well in advance, Member States also have the possibility to apply for **emergency assistance** under these funds.

Some examples of emergency assistance allocated since 2015:

Greece	Italy	Bulgaria
€393 million	€189.4 million	€171.6 million

In particularly urgent cases, the Commission can also make use of the **Emergency Humanitarian Support Instrument** within the European Union. To help Greece cope with the exceptional pressure it faced during the migration crisis, the Commission has made available €650 million for the period from 2016 to 2018. Over 93% of these funds have been contracted, and will go to UN agencies, international organisations and NGO's working on the ground.

CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM — FACILITATING DIRECT HELP BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

In 2015, the Commission triggered the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism that coordinates the delivery of immediate in-kind aid between Member States in cases of disasters and major crises.
During the refugee crisis, over 900,000 items such as blankets, mattresses, beds and tents as well as teams and equipment, shelter and medical supplies have been channelled through the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** to the affected countries.

European Commission

EU-TURKEY STATEMENT
Two years on

April 2018

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. Two years later, irregular arrivals remain 97% lower than the period before the Statement became operational, while the number of lives lost at sea has decreased substantially. The EU has supported Turkey in its efforts to host refugees and had by the end of 2017 fully contracted the first tranche of the €3 billion from its Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

Turkey has followed up on its commitment to step up measures against people smuggling and has been cooperating closely on resettlement and return. The EU-Turkey Statement has consistently delivered tangible results since it was agreed two years ago. While continuous efforts need to be made by all sides and all EU Member States, the EU-Turkey Statement has become an important element of the EU's comprehensive approach on migration.

THE EU-TURKEY STATEMENT IN ACTION

A GAME CHANGER

The effects of the EU-Turkey Statement were immediate. Thanks notably to the cooperation with the Turkish authorities, arrivals decreased significantly – showing clearly that the business model of smugglers exploiting migrants and refugees can be broken. From 10,000 in a single day in October 2015, daily crossings have gone down to an average of around 80 today, while the number of deaths in the Aegean decreased from 1,175 in the 20 months before the Statement to 130. 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
3,222 arrivals

ARRIVALS ON THE ISLANDS SINCE THE EU-TURKEY STATEMENT

Since 21 March 2016:
Daily average
80 arrivals

Drop of
97%

ARRIVALS – SEA BORDER

21 March 2016: Start of implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement

197,166 — October 2015
122,228 — November 2015
99,874 — December 2015
61,440 — January 2016
55,395 — February 2016
25,004 — March 2016
3,078 — April
3,935 — May
1,438 — June
1,507 — July
1,848 — August
3,413 — September
3,046 — October
2,970 — November
1,988 — December
1,662 — January 2017
1,387 — February
1,091 — March
1,544 — April
1,158 — May
2,104 — June
2,012 — July
2,249 — August
3,589 — September
4,592 — October
4,172 — November
3,183 — December
2,358 — January 2018
1,679 — February
1,191

RESETTLEMENT: EU SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIAN REFUGEES

Resettlements under the EU-Turkey Statement are continuing at a steady pace – in total, over 12,476 Syrian refugees have been resettled from Turkey to EU Member States so far.

RESETTLEMENTS

Month	Value
April	121
May	265
June	412
July	51
August	415
September	403
October	477
November	289
December	239
January (2016)	333
February	548
March	758
April	667
May	991
June	926
July	948
August	993
September	1,184
October	873
November	532
December (2017)	223
January (2018)	411
February	332
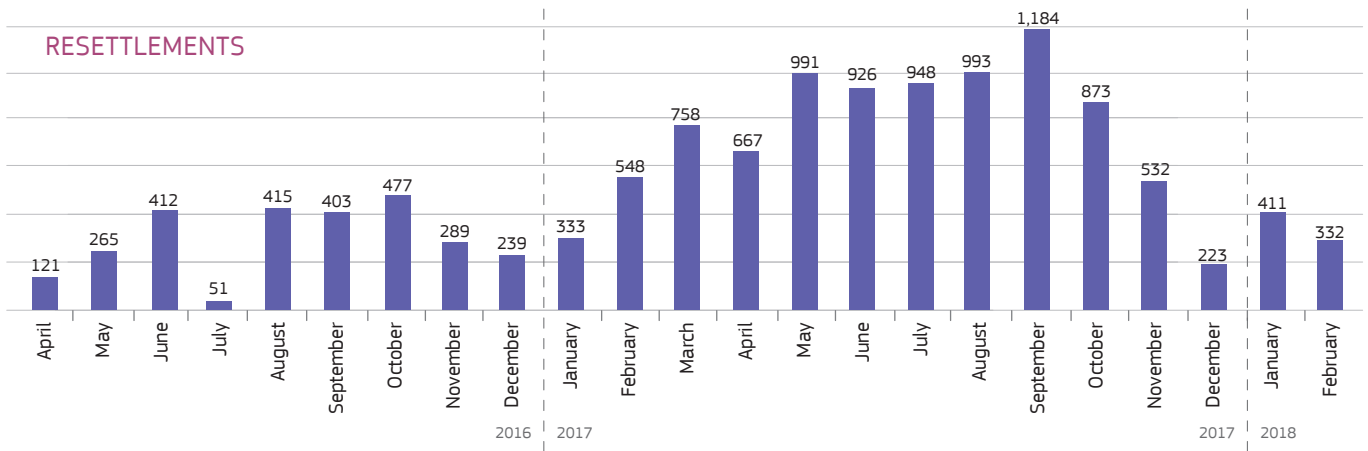
EU SUPPORT TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

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. By the end of 2017, the EU had fully committed and contracted the €3 billion under the Facility - €1.85 billion has already been paid out 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. Following through on its commitment, the Commission is mobilising the second €3 billion tranche of the Facility, with €1 billion from the EU budget. The Commission calls on Member States to follow suit quickly and contribute their share of €2 billion, so that the successful and effective work of the Facility can continue uninterrupted.

€3 billion for 2016 - 2017

500,000 Syrian children have access to education

Almost **45,000** Syrian students have benefited from catch-up classes

175 schools are now under construction

Over **760,000** Syrian patients received healthcare consultations and close to **220,000** refugee infants were vaccinated

1,200,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees receive monthly cash transfers

CONTINUED SUPPORT TO GREECE

The Commission and the EU Member States are providing significant support to the Greek authorities in the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, to improve migration management and reception conditions in Greece. EU actions focus in particular on helping to alleviate the situation on the Greek islands.

	The year before the EU Turkey Statement	Two years after the EU Turkey Statement
Registration rate at hotspots	8% in October 2015	100%
Reception capacity in Greece (on the islands)	2000 in October 2015	49,349 (of which 9,163 in the hotspots and other structures)
Capacity of Greek asylum service staff on the islands	16	Total asylum service staff on the islands: 365 (including 110 EASO experts)
First instance decisions on asylum applications on the islands	0	40,008
Returns of irregular migrants to Turkey	627	2,164
Relocations	569	21,847
Arrivals	988,703	57,450
Loss of lives	1,145	130
EU Agency support for Greece		EASO experts: 135 European Border and Coast Guard officers: 801

Over €1,3 billion in EU funding has been allocated to Greece to support migration management since the start of 2015, including €393 million in emergency assistance and over €440 million for projects under the EU Emergency Support Instrument.

To secure the progress achieved through the EU-Turkey Statement and to ensure full implementation of the EU actions to alleviate the pressure on the Greek islands, the EU Coordinator for the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement Maarten Verwey elaborated a Joint Action Plan with the Greek authorities to further accelerate asylum processes, increase the number of migrants returning from the Greek islands to Turkey, establish appropriate security measures in the hotspots and to accelerate relocation.

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 2,164 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, 2,401 migrants have returned voluntarily from the islands since June 2016, supported by the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR). Since the beginning of 2016 a total of 12,569 migrants have returned voluntarily from both the Greek islands and mainland through the programme.

European Commission

Action Plan on the Integration of Third-Country Nationals

April 2018

Investing in integration policies today will contribute to making Europe a more prosperous, cohesive, and inclusive society in the long run. In June 2016, the European Commission launched an Action Plan presenting a framework for action and concrete initiatives to support Member States in the integration of the 20 million non-EU nationals residing legally in the EU. Whilst the competence for integration policy lies primarily with the Member States, the EU plays an important role in supporting, developing and coordinating Member States' actions and policies on integration. The Action Plan includes actions supporting pre-departure and pre-arrival measures, education, employment and vocational training, access to basic services, active participation and social inclusion.
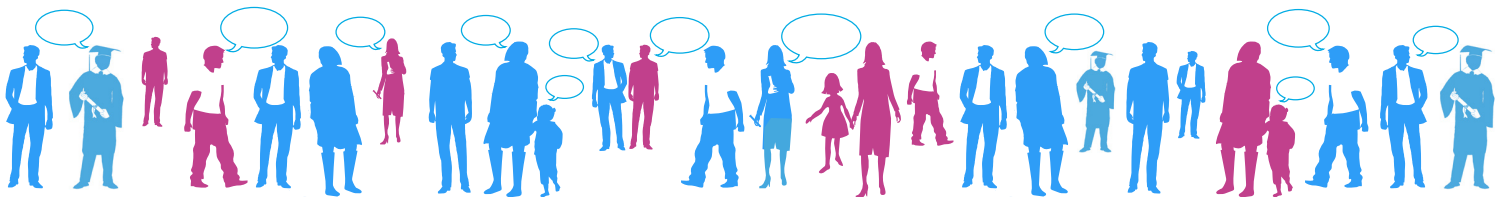
WHY AN ACTION PLAN ON INTEGRATION?

Integration is a precondition for an inclusive, cohesive and prosperous society.
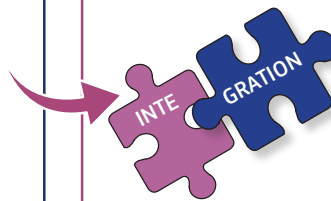
A successful integration of all third-country nationals, whether recently arrived or not, will make migration an opportunity for both third-country nationals and host societies. If well integrated, migrants can boost GDP.

It's a **joint responsibility and a common interest** to invest and work together on integration.
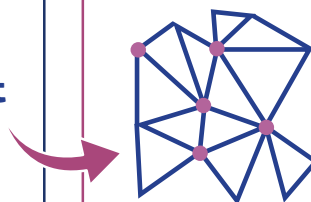
All actors have a responsibility: national, local and regional authorities; the EU; civil society organisations; employers; migrants and all citizens.

It's **time to strengthen our actions** on integration.
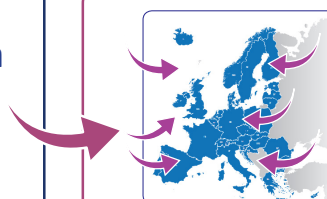
The recent increase in migratory flows has reinforced the need for effective integration policies on integration of third-country nationals.

KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

PRE-DEPARTURE/ PRE-ARRIVAL MEASURES

Providing support to integration of third country nationals legally residing in the EU at the earliest stage in the migration process has proven to be **a key element of successful integration**. Such measures are particularly important to prepare the resettlement of refugees.

Examples of actions: launch of projects supporting pre-departure and pre-arrival measures for local communities; engagement with Member States to strengthen cooperation with selected third-countries on pre-departure measures.

EDUCATION

Education and training are among the most powerful tools for integration and access to them should be ensured as soon as possible.

Examples of actions: online language assessment and learning for newly arrived migrants; promoting inclusive education; promoting the upgrading of skills of third country nationals; promoting the removal of barriers for the participation of migrant children in early childhood education.

LABOUR MARKET & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Employment and early integration into vocational training are core parts of the integration process. Finding a job is fundamental to becoming part of the host country's economic and social life.

Examples of actions: Promoting good practices and support projects for labour market integration through "fast-track" insertion and vocational training; pilot projects for migrant entrepreneurship.

The "New Skills Agenda for Europe" has also developed actions to support validation of skills and recognition of qualifications such as a "Skills Profile Toolkit" for newly arrived third-country nationals.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

Access to basic services such as adequate and affordable housing and health services is a basic condition for third-country nationals to start a life in the society of the receiving country.

Examples of actions: support Member States in facing the immediate accommodation challenges related to the refugee crisis; facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices on the urban dimension of diversity and immigration.
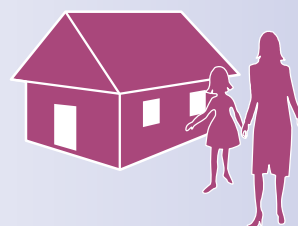
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION & SOCIAL INCLUSION
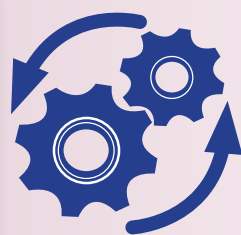
The full participation of third-country nationals in all aspects of community and societal life **is essential to achieve integration.**

Examples of actions: launch of projects to promote Intercultural dialogue, European values, social inclusion; promote migrants' participation in cultural life and sport; develop handbooks and toolboxes for practitioners on cultural awareness.

KEY FIGURES ON INTEGRATION

RESIDENCE

2017

2016-17

1,115,800 positive decisions* for asylum issued by EU Member State = **0.2% of the EU population**
*first instance

EU population: 512 million

Around 22 million third-country nationals resided (legally) in the EU **= 4.2% of total EU population.**

Most of them came to **work**, **join their partner**/**family** or **study**.

EMPLOYMENT

Third-country nationals
57%

Host-country nationals
73%

Female third-country nationals
47%
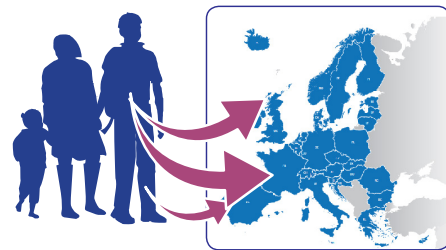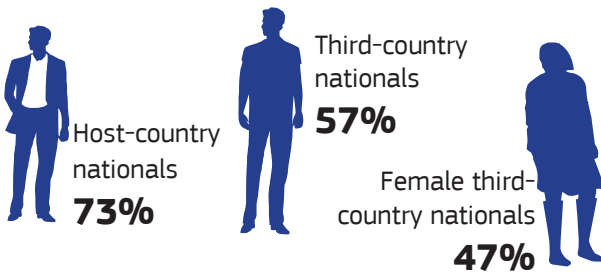
However, **the gaps in employment tend to decline** over time: the longer a third-country national stays in a country, the higher his/her employment rate.

Early measures for skills and labour market integration can support better and quicker employment outcomes for recently arrived third-country nationals.

Percentage of the host-country nationals and third-country nationals employed in the EU in 2017 (working age 20 to 64).

EDUCATION

Helps migrants to participate in the labour market and society.

Many migrants are overqualified or overskilled for their jobs.

In 2017
Third-country nationals in the EU have lower educational achievements than host-country nationals

Third-country nationals:
44%
of adults (25-64)

Host-country nationals:
21%
of adults (25-64)

had not achieved upper secondary school level

However **the situation is improving** regarding the share of young (18-24) third-country nationals having left education without upper secondary school level **which has dropped**:

34% 23%
2009 2017
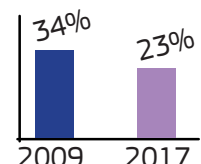
Check out the progress on the implementation of the Action Plan on the European Website on Integration www.ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/

European Commission

A STRONGER, MORE EFFICIENT AND SECURE EU VISA POLICY

March 2018

The Member States of the European Union are among the world's leading tourist destinations – in 2016 alone, 14 million Schengen visas were issued to travellers visiting the EU. The common EU visa policy makes travelling to the European Union for tourism or business purposes easier. This has a positive impact on the EU's economy and growth, people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges.

However, lengthy and cumbersome procedures can deter tourists from travelling to Europe, affecting the EU's economy negatively. In addition, increased security concerns, challenges linked to migration and new opportunities deriving from technological developments call for an update of the visa policy to make it fit for purpose and up-to-date - the current visa rules have remained unchanged since the EU Visa Code entered into force in 2010.

The Commission is therefore proposing to revise the common visa rules to better respond to new and emerging challenges that the EU is facing, while at the same time make it easier for legitimate travellers to visit the EU

WHO NEEDS A VISA TO TRAVEL TO THE EU?

Currently, citizens from 105 non-EU countries or entities are required to hold a visa when travelling to the Schengen area for short stay visits.

Number of applications received for Schengen visas

Year	
2009	
2010	
2011	
2012	
2013	
2014	
2015	
2016	

5   10   15   20
in millions

Schengen Area
EU States and territories of EU States not part of Schengen
Visa required
No visa required
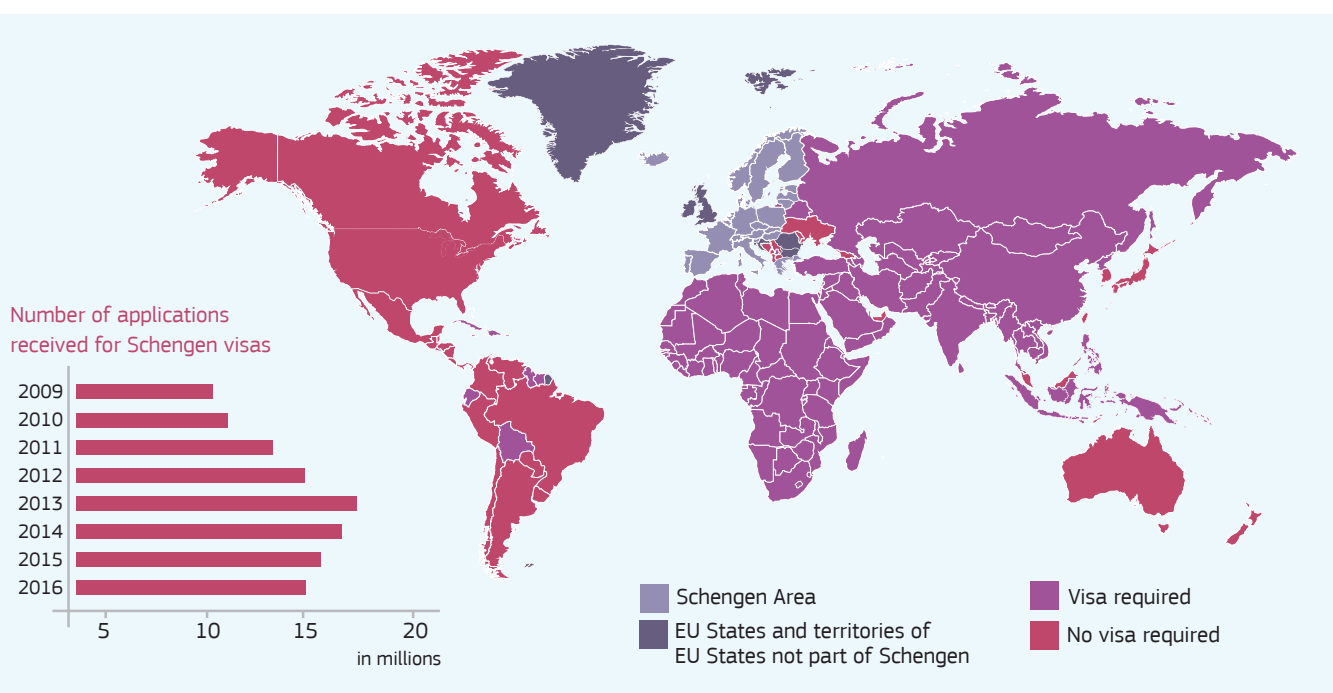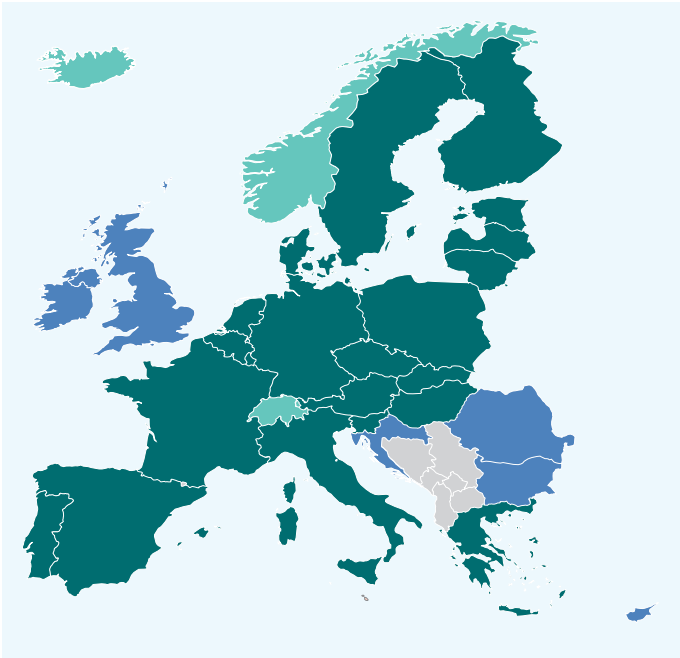
A Schengen visa allows travellers to visit:

▶ the 26 countries of the Schengen area for tourism or business purposes;

▶ for a maximum duration of 90 days in any 180-day period.

The Schengen area consists of:

▮ EU Schengen States

▮ Non-EU Schengen States

Some EU States are not part of the Schengen area:

▮ EU States not part of Schengen

HOW WILL THE NEW RULES MAKE THE EU VISA POLICY MORE EFFICIENT AND SECURE?

SIMPLIFIED VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Travellers will benefit from easier, more flexible, and faster procedures through:

● **Better advance planning**: Travellers will be able to submit their visa applications up to six months ahead of the planned trip, instead of the current three months.

● **Electronic application forms**: Applicants will have the possibility to fill in and sign the application form electronically.

● **Quicker decisions**: The deadline for taking decisions on visa applications will be reduced from 15 to 10 days.

FACILITATING SHORT-TERM TOURISM

The new rules will provide for the possibility to introduce temporary schemes for the issuance of single-entry visas directly at the external land or sea borders – valid for a maximum of 7 days for visits to the issuing Member State only.

Introduced under strict conditions so as to minimise any potential irregular migration or security risks, such schemes would contribute to promoting short-term tourism and benefit the EU's economy.

EASIER TRAVELLING FOR FREQUENT VISITORS

Regular travellers with positive visa histories will no longer have to apply for a new visa every time they travel to the EU. The new rules will ensure that travellers with a positive visa history applying for subsequent visas can benefit from:

● Multiple-entry visas allowing for repeated visits to the EU.

● Clearer rules regarding the period of validity of multiple-entry visas, starting from 1 year up to a maximum of 5 years.

Issuing more multiple-entry visas will lead to time and cost savings for both travellers and consulates, and will increase the competitiveness of the EU travel and tourism industry by facilitating spontaneous travel to the EU. Travellers' fulfilment of entry conditions will be thoroughly and repeatedly verified in all cases.

REINFORCING THE SECURITY OF THE VISA PROCEDURE

The cost of applying for a Schengen visa – currently €60 has remained unchanged since 2006. A moderate increase of the fee to €80 is proposed to ensure that Member States have sufficient financial resources to:

- Maintain a wide consular coverage worldwide;

- Upgrade IT equipment and software and provide faster and user friendly procedures for visa applicants;

- Improve the capacity to detect potential security and irregular migration risks during the visa application procedures, including by reinforcing consular staff to speed up the application process.

This will also bring the fee in line with the level it would have reached based on the general EU-wide inflation rate since 2006. By international standards, the fee will remain comparatively low, with equivalent visa applications costing for example €125 for China, €133 for the United States, €100 for New Zealand and €90 for India.

IMPROVING COOPERATION ON RETURN AND READMISSION

Whilst the visa reform aims to facilitate travel for legitimate travellers, the new rules will also better address challenges linked to irregular migration. The European Union has engaged with countries of origin to improve cooperation on return and readmission, but EU Member States are still experiencing difficulties in returning irregular migrants.

Once the new visa rules are in place, stricter conditions (for example on processing time, visa fees, the issuance of multiple-entry visas or the supporting documents required) may be established for processing visa applications for certain categories of nationals from countries who do not cooperate satisfactorily on return and readmission. A more restrictive application of the visa rules would not call into question the right to submit an application for a visa or to be granted a visa.

EUROPEAN AGENDA ON SECURITY

CYBERSECURITY

TACKLING NON-CASH PAYMENT FRAUD

December 2018

"We need to better protect Europeans in the digital age. In the past three years, we have made progress in keeping Europeans safe online. New rules, put forward by the Commission, will protect our intellectual property, our cultural diversity and our personal data. Today, the Commission is proposing new tools."

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017

The fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment pose a serious threat to the EU's security – they provide income for organised crime and enable other criminal activities such as terrorism, drug trafficking and trafficking in human beings. In addition, non-cash payment fraud affects the trust of consumers in the security of the digital single market, reduces economic online activity and causes important economic losses. To boost Member States' capacity to prosecute and sanction cyber criminals committing non-cash payment fraud, the Commission is proposing a new Directive to combat the fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment.

WANTED

WHO?

Well-structured and globally active organised crime groups dominate the rising market of payment card fraud in the EU.

FIGURES

€1.8 BILLION gained by criminals per year

€1 BILLION fraud in online shopping

$1 BILLION lost by airlines per year

36 BILLION phishing messages sent every year

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

Non-cash payment fraud can take different forms. Criminals can trigger the execution of payments by using payer information obtained through, for example, phishing, skimming or obtaining information on dedicated websites selling stolen credit card credentials on the darknet.

Payments can also be fraudulently executed through counterfeit or stolen cards used to pay in stores or withdraw cash in ATMs or through the hacking of information systems to process payments. Existing data for card fraud shows that 77% is committed without the presence of the card, by using stolen card credentials.

THE TOTAL INCREASE IN CARD FRAUD

in millions €

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ATM (card present)	17%	14%	12%	9%	8%
CNP (card not present)	60%	67%	69%	70%	73%
POS (Point of sale)	23%	19%	19%	20%	19%

- POS (Point of sale)
- CNP (card not present)
- ATM (card present)
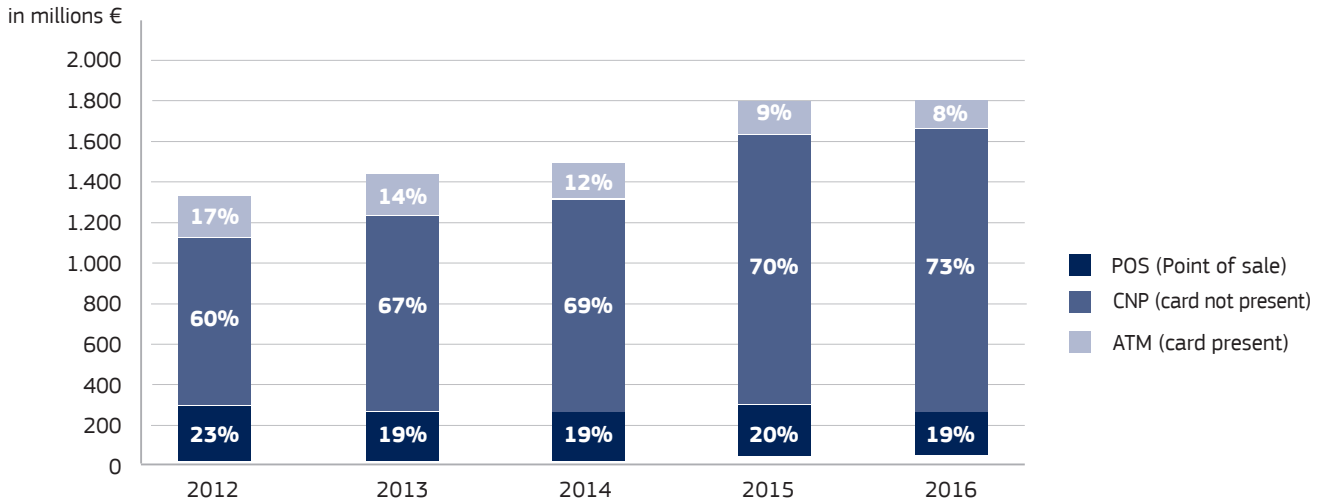
Current Rules

The current rules on criminalisation of non-cash payment fraud are set out in the Council Framework Decision dating back to 2001. It has become clear that those rules no longer reflect today's realities and do not sufficiently address new challenges and technological developments such as virtual currencies and mobile payments.

WHY A NEW LEGISLATION?

The new Directive to combat fraud and the counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment replaces the current Council Framework Decision and provides an effective EU cyber deterrence and criminal law response by:

Updating the legal framework

Removing operational obstacles

Enhancing prevention

WHAT IS NEW?

The new Directive on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment boosts Member States ability to effectively deter and prosecute such cyber offences by:

Expanding the scope of the offences, including transactions through virtual currencies

Ensuring the rights of cybercrime victims

Introducing new online crime offences

Improving EU-wide criminal justice cooperation

Introducing minimum level for the highest penalties from 1-5 years depending on the offence

Providing statistical data on fraud

SECURITY UNION
A Europe that protects

December 2018

It is the most basic and universal of rights to feel safe and secure in your own home. Europeans rightly expect their Union to provide that for them. The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one. We have taken decisive action to deny terrorists the means to carry out attacks, share intelligence between Member States, protect Europeans online, and better manage our borders.

> *"Combatting cross-border crime and terrorism is a common European responsibility. We need to crack down on organised crime, such as human trafficking, smuggling and cybercrime. We must tackle corruption; and we must fight terrorism and counter radicalisation – all the while guaranteeing fundamental rights and values, including procedural rights and the protection of personal data."*
>
> Then-Candidate for European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker,
> Political Guidelines for the next European Commission, 15 July 2014

30 legislative initiatives have been presented since the Juncker Commission took office.

12 Of these 30 initiatives, **12 have been adopted** by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

18 There are still **18 Commission legislative initiatives on the table** which the European Parliament and the Council need to adopt.

DENYING TERRORISTS THE MEANS TO ACT

In the past three years, the Commission has taken a series of landmark decisions to tighten security laws across the EU and cut terrorists off from the money, firearms and substances they use to carry out attacks.

A new **law on combatting terrorism** ensures that terrorism-related offences — such as travelling abroad to commit a terrorist offence, returning or travelling within the EU for such activities, training for terrorist purposes and the financing of terrorism — are now **criminalised** and **heavily sanctioned** across Europe. The Commission has also reinforced the control of legally-held **firearms** in the EU. New rules make it harder to legally acquire high capacity weapons and restrict access to **chemical substances** that could be used to make home-made explosives.

Terrorists and criminals are constantly looking for security loopholes – using false identities and setting up multiple bank accounts, they pose a risk to the security of the EU as a whole. Cutting off the sources of **terrorist financing**, countering **money-laundering**, and curbing **document fraud** are among the most effective ways to crack down on terrorist and criminal activities.

6 INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

— Law on combatting terrorism
— Restricted access to firearms
— Revised rules on anti-money laundering
— Law on illicit cash movements
— Criminalisation of money laundering
— Mutual recognition of criminal asset freezing and confiscation orders

6 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING ADOPTION BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS:

Proposal	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Adopted by European Parliament and Council
Status				
EU certification of airport screening equipment	✔ September 2016			✗
Legislation on illicit trade in cultural goods	✔ July 2017	Agreed in October 2018	Agreed in November 2018	✗
Improved security of ID cards	✔ April 2018	Agreed in December 2018	Agreed in November 2018	✗
Access to financial information in criminal investigations	✔ April 2018	Agreed in December 2018	Agreed in November 2018	✗
Revised rules on explosive precursors	✔ April 2018			✗
Improving cross-border access to electronic evidence	✔ April 2018		Agreed in December 2018	✗

SHARING INFORMATION

Effective information sharing is a key element of the fight against terrorism. Thanks to the Commission's efforts to raise awareness and provide practical solutions, information exchange has increased significantly and Member States use databases, such as the Schengen Information System, much more often.

The Commission is working to **close information gaps** and allow **EU information systems to work together** – ensuring that border guards and police officers have the information they need, when they need it. For their part, Member States now have to ensure the full implementation of the existing rules.

2 INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

— Schengen Information System
— The eu-LISA Agency

4 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING ADOPTION BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS:

Proposal	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Adopted by European Parliament and Council
Status				
Amendment to European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)	✔ January 2016	Agreed in May 2016	Agreed in December 2017	✗
Upgrade of European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN system)	✔ June 2017	Agreed in January 2018	Agreed in December 2017	✗
Revision of Eurodac system	✔ May 2016	Agreed in May 2017	Agreed in June 2017	✗
Interoperability between EU information systems for security, border and migration	✔ December 2017	Agreed in October 2018	Agreed in September 2018	✗

The cyber-attacks that recently targeted key infrastructure across the world show that we need to invest more heavily in **cybersecurity**. With the scaled-up EU response to cyber-attacks the EU will be better prepared to face these new challenges.

In the past two years the Commission has driven action to counter radicalisation, both offline and online. The **Radicalisation Awareness Network** brings together practitioners from all Member States to develop best practices, and equips them with the skills they need to address violent extremism. EU initiatives to counter terrorist propaganda and radicalisation online are also showing results. In 2015, the Commission launched the **EU Internet Forum,** which brings together governments, Europol and the biggest technology and social media companies to ensure that illegal content, including terrorist propaganda, is taken down as quickly as possible. In March, the Commission adopted a Recommendation tackling illegal content online, and in September followed up with proposed legislation to ensure **terrorist content is removed within one hour.**

0 INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

6 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING ADOPTION BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS

Proposal	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Adopted by European Parliament and Council
	Status			
Updated privacy rules for electronic communications (ePrivacy)	✔ January 2017	Agreed in October 2017		✘
Combatting fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment	✔ September 2017	Agreed in October 2018	Agreed in March 2018	✘
EU Cybersecurity Agency (ENISA) and EU certification scheme for digital products	✔ September 2017	Agreed in July 2018	Agreed in June 2018	Agreed in December 2018
Removing terrorist content online	✔ September 2018		Agreed in December 2018	✘
Network of national coordination centres in cybersecurity	✔ September 2018			✘
Revised rules on party funding	✔ September 2018			✘

In an area of free movement without internal borders, managing Europe's external borders must be a shared responsibility. We need to know who is crossing our borders and be able to effectively secure them. Since October 2016, the new **European Border and Coast Guard Agency** is assisting Member States, including a pool of 1,500 personnel who can intervene without delay whenever support is needed at one of our external borders. In September the Commission proposed to further reinforce the Agency with a standing corps of 10,000 operational staff and their own equipment. Moreover, no traveller will pass EU borders unnoticed as all nationals – both EU and non-EU – are now **systematically checked against all relevant security databases.**

4 INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

— European Border and Coast Guard Agency
— Systematic checks against relevant databases
— Entry/Exit System
— ETIAS

2 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING ADOPTION BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS

Proposal	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Adopted by European Parliament and Council
	Status			
Revision of the rules for temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders	✔ September 2017	Agreed in November 2018	Agreed in June 2018	✘
Reinforced European Border and Coast Guard	✔ September 2018			✘

TOWARDS A SECURITY UNION

Security is identified as a key priority in the Joint Declaration on the EU's legislative priorities for 2018-19. The Commission will continue to drive progress and follow up on the October European Council meeting, paving the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union.

2018

12 December Report of the European Parliament Special Committee on Terrorism

13-14 December European Council discussion on disinformation

2019

7-8 March Justice and Home Affairs Council

May European Parliament elections
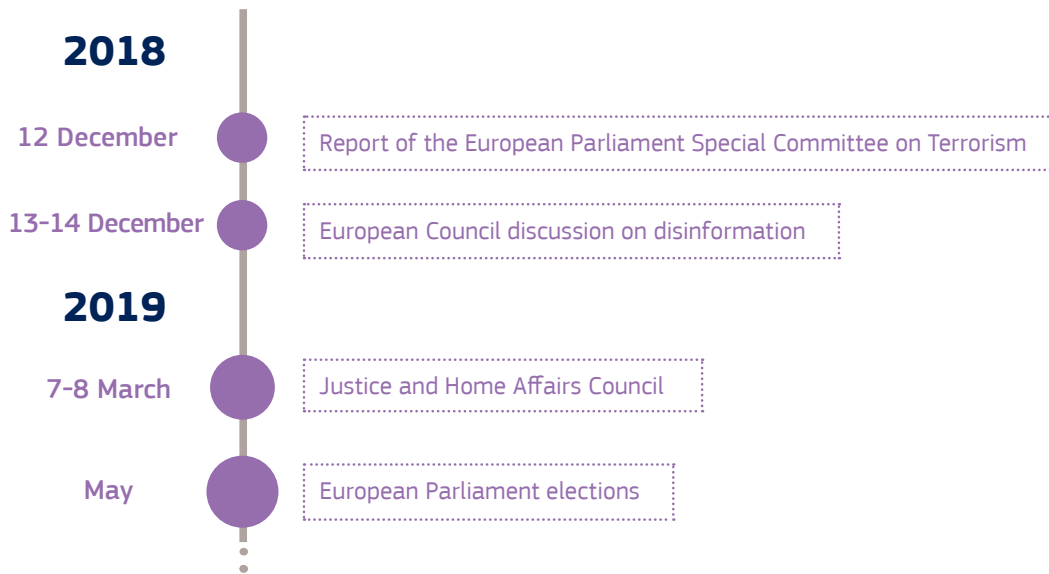
European Commission

Stepping up action towards the eradication of TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

December 2018

Trafficking in human beings is an atrocious crime which goes against our core European values and principles: the right to equality, to dignity, to living without fear. It remains a highly profitable form of serious and organised crime, explicitly prohibited in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It results in irreversible harm to its victims, our societies and economies. The EU has put in place a robust legal and policy framework to eradicate trafficking in human beings and counter impunity for its perpetrators.

The Commission's second progress report examines progress made and highlights key challenges that the EU and its Member States need to address as a priority.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

There were **20,532 registered victims** of trafficking in the EU in 2015 and 2016.

The actual number of victims is likely to be substantially higher as many of them remain undetected.

Women and girls continue to represent the majority of registered victims, while **children** make up almost a quarter of the registered victims.

68% of victims are women

32% of victims are men

77% victims are adults

23% of victims are children

Nearly half of registered victims are EU citizens.

44% of victims are EU citizens, mostly from Romania, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Bulgaria

56% of victims are non-EU citizens, mostly from Nigeria, Albania, Vietnam, China and Eritrea.

Migration and Home Affairs

FORMS OF TRAFFICKING (2015-2016)

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation remains by far the most widespread form of trafficking in the EU.

Other forms
18%

Sexual exploitation
56%

Labour exploitation
26%
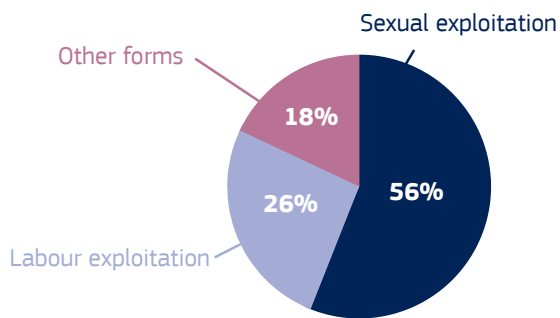
Trafficking for sexual exploitation disporportionately affects **female victims** (95%). Sectors: sex and entertainment industry, including street prostitution, prostitution in private flats and through escort agencies and internet platforms.

Trafficking for labour exploitation mostly affects mostly **male victims** (80%). Sectors: construction, agriculture and forestry, manufacturing, the catering industry, care services, cleaning services and domestic work, entertainment, fishing, hospitality, retail and transportation.

Other forms of trafficking include **forced marriage, forced begging and forced criminality**.

UK data significantly influences the total share of trafficking for labour exploitation at EU level as 61% of labour exploitation victims are found in the UK. If the UK data is not included, the relative shares change to 65% for sexual exploitation, 20% for other forms, 15% for labour exploitation.

WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

Individuals prosecuted for trafficking in the EU (2015-2016)

25% are women

75% are men

13% are non-EU citizens

87% are EU citizens
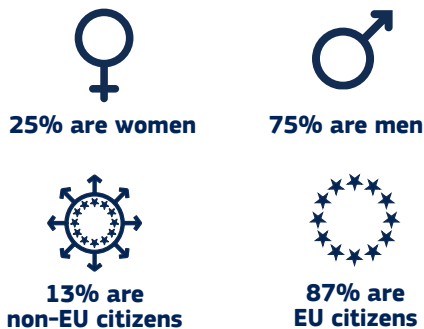
Are the traffickers brought to justice?

While progress is noted, the level of prosecutions and convictions remains low, showing that trafficking in human beings remains characterised by **impunity** for the perpetrators and for those who exploit the victims.

7.503	5.979	2.927
suspects	**prosecutions**	**convictions**

A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING FORM OF CRIME

Traffickers keep adapting their modus operandi; and the profile of victims and the context in which they are trafficked are changing. Emerging trends include:

Trafficking and migration:

Criminal networks take advantage of migration challenges, disproportionately targeting women and girls trafficked through the Central Mediterranean route for sexual exploitation. Traffickers are reported to abuse asylum systems.

Role of the Internet:

Trafficking for sexual exploitation is increasingly characterised by the use of live web cameras and live distant child sexual abuse. Traffickers use the Internet and social media to recruit and exploit victims.

Internal trafficking:

Trafficking within the territory of a Member State is also reported to be on the rise, with 22% of victims being EU citizens registered as victims in their own country.

Trafficking of children:

Younger victims are increasingly targeted.

Exploitation of persons with disabilities:

Traffickers increasingly target people with developmental and physical disabilities, often trafficked for forced begging or sexual exploitation.

TOWARDS THE ERADICATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The **EU's resolute action** against trafficking in human beings has already brought **good results**, notably with improvements in:

cross-border cooperation

cooperation with civil society

use of financial investigations

setting up joint investigation teams

developing national and transnational referral mechanisms

STEPPING UP ACTION

Member States should:

- ▸ **Criminalise those who knowingly use services provided by victims of trafficking**, in order to counter impunity by ensuring that those who exploit and abuse victims are brought to justice.
- ▸ Take measures that tackle **all aspects of the trafficking chain.**
- ▸ Address **all forms of exploitation** and ensure that all categories of victims are placed at the forefront of action and receive equal attention.
- ▸ Ensure that **awareness-raising** and **training measures** are targeted and achieve concrete results, especially on prevention.
- ▸ Enhance **transnational law enforcement and judicial cooperation**, within the EU and beyond.

- ▸ Boost capacity for **identification of victims.**
- ▸ Provide victims with **gender and age specific assistance** and protection.
- ▸ Ensure tools are in place for victims to access **compensation.**
- ▸ Address trafficking in human beings in the context of migration, including by addressing **special needs of women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation** in the EU.
- ▸ Allocate **sufficient resources**, using to the maximum extent the funding available at EU level.
- ▸ Improve **data collection** for better monitoring and policy-making.

The Commission will continue to:

- ✓ Monitor the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Directive and the Employers' Sanction Directive.
- ✓ Support Member States in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions, allowing them to follow the money and the profits from trafficking, and encourage them to criminalise those who use the services of victims.
- ✓ Support Member States in improving the quality and comparability of statistical data on trafficking.
- ✓ Provide financial support to ensure the development of policy and operational measures to eradicate trafficking in human beings in line with EU priorities.
- ✓ Coordinate and ensure coherence in the EU's response, both within and outside the EU.

EU INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Security and Borders

December 2018

Over the past years, the EU has been developing large-scale centralised IT information systems for collecting, processing and sharing information relevant to security, migration and external border management. These systems are vital for security cooperation, as well as for the management of external borders and migration in the EU. In December 2017, the Commission proposed to make these information systems at EU level interoperable — that is, able to exchange data and share information so that authorities and officials responsible have the information they need, when and where they need it, and to ensure that this information is complete, accurate and reliable.

EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Schengen Information System (SIS)

EU-wide database for controls at external Schengen borders, and law enforcement and judicial cooperation

SIS is an EU-wide, large-scale information system that stores alerts and provides information on certain categories of wanted or missing persons or objects. The system also includes instructions to police officers or border guards on the specific action to be taken when a person or object is located, for example to arrest them, protect a vulnerable missing person or to seize an object, such as an invalid passport or stolen car. Checked over 5.2 billion times in 2017, SIS is the most widely used information-sharing system for border management and security in Europe.

Participating countries	To whom does it apply?	Recent improvements
26 EU Member States 4 Schengen Associated Countries Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein	EU and non-EU nationals	A revision of SIS was proposed in December 2016, and agreed in November 2018. It will bring about important technical and operational improvements including new alert categories and ensure even more efficient information exchange between Member States and with EU Agencies such as Europol, Eurojust and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

Visa Information System (VIS)

Exchange of information on EU visas between Schengen Members

VIS connects consulates in non-EU countries and all external border-crossing points of Schengen States. It collects data and decisions on applications for short-stay visas to visit or transit through the Schengen Area. VIS is one of the most advanced systems of its kind, with over 60 million visa applications and 40 million fingerprint datasets registered as of August 2018.

Participating countries	To whom does it apply?	Upcoming improvements
22 EU Member States 4 Schengen Associated Countries Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein	Non-EU nationals requiring an EU visa EU visa required	A revision of VIS was proposed in May 2018 to include records on long-stay documents and ensure its interoperability with other Union large-scale information systems.

Eurodac
EU asylum fingerprint database

Eurodac is a database with fingerprint data of asylum applicants and third-country nationals who have crossed the external borders irregularly or who are staying irregularly in a Member State.

Participating countries	To whom does it apply?	Proposed improvements
28 EU Member States 4 Schengen Associated Countries Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein	**Non-EU** nationals applying for asylum in the EU Aylum Application	A revision of Eurodac was proposed in May 2016 to expand the scope of the database to include irregular crossings and identification of illegally-staying non-EU na- tionals.

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)
Exchange of information on criminal convictions

ECRIS is a decentralised electronic system to exchange information on criminal records between EU Member States. The system provides judges, prosecutors and other relevant authorities with easy access to comprehensive information on an individual's criminal history, no matter in which Member State that person has been convicted in the past. Member States sent around 585,756 requests through ECRIS in 2017.

Participating countries	To whom does it apply?	Proposed improvements
28 EU Member States	**All persons convicted** in the EU and whose conviction appears in national criminal records registers.	Two new instruments were proposed in 2016 and 2017 to create the ECRIS-Third Country National system, which will make ECRIS more efficient when it comes to the exchange of criminal records information about non-EU nationals.

FUTURE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Entry/Exit System (EES)
Recording crossing of the EU's external borders

The Entry/Exit System will collect the data of non-EU nationals (identity and travel documents) and register their border crossing at entry and exit (date and place) to facilitate border crossing of *bona fide* travellers and to identify over-stayers. It will replace the current process of manually stamping passports.

Participating countries	To whom does it apply?	Next Steps
24 EU Member States 4 Schengen Associated Countries Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein	All **non-EU** nationals EU visa-exempt EU visa required (for short stay visits only)	• Presented by the Commission: 6 April 2016 • Adoption: November 2017 • Scheduled operation: 2020/2021

ECRIS–TCN system
Criminal records information about non-EU nationals

The ECRIS-Third Country National system will be a centralised hit/no-hit system to supplement the existing EU criminal records database in relation to non-EU nationals convicted in the European Union. It will allow Member States to quickly find out in which other Member State(s) information on previous convictions of a non-EU national is stored and exchange that information with each other.

Participating countries	To whom does it apply?	Next Steps

26 EU Member States
 	
Ireland to decide
	All non-EU nationals and **stateless persons** convicted in the EU and whose convictions are stored in the national registers of criminal records.	• Proposals by the Commission:
		  Directive – 19 January 2016
		  Regulation – 29 June 2017
		• Adoption: December 2018
		• Scheduled operation: 2020/2021

European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)
Pre-travel security and irregular migration screening of visa-exempt non-EU nationals

ETIAS will gather information on all non-EU nationals travelling visa-free to Europe for a short stay and ensure that possible security and irregular migration concerns are identified prior to their travel to the Schengen area. This will contribute to a more efficient management of the EU's external borders and strengthen internal security.

Participating countries	To whom does it apply?	Next Steps
25 EU Member States — Denmark to decide 4 Schengen Associated Countries Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein	EU visa exempt EU visa-exempt **non-EU** nationals	• Presented by the Commission: 16 November 2016 • Adoption: September 2018 • Scheduled to be operational: 2021

WHO CAN ACCESS WHICH DATABASE?

	SIS	VIS	Eurodac	EES	ETIAS
Exclusively accessible to authorised users within the competent national authorities and under certain conditions/limitations:					
Visa authorities (consular posts) and immigration authorities	●	●		●	
Border controls authorities (border guards)	●	●	●	●	●
Asylum authorities	●	●	●		
Police authorities	●	●	●		
Customs authorities	●				
Judicial authorities	●				
Vehicle, boat and aircraft registration authorities	●				
Carriers*		●		●(1)	●(2)
Under certain conditions:					
Other national authorities		●		●	●
Europol	●	●	●	●	●
Eurojust	●				
European Border and Coast Guard Agency	●	●	●		●
European Asylum Support Office			●		

* Carriers will only have access to a limited web service in order to confirm that the traveller holds a valid visa(1) or ETIAS(2) authorisation

SECURITY UNION
Closing information gaps

The current EU information systems for security, border and migration management do not work together – they are fragmented, complex and difficult to operate. This risks information slipping through the net, endangering the EU's internal security and the safety of European citizens.

In recent years, the EU has been working to make the various information systems at EU level interoperable — that is, able to exchange data and share information so that authorities and responsible officials have the information they need, when and where they need it. In December 2017, the Commission proposed new tools to make EU information systems work better together in a smarter and more targeted way. The tools will make it easier for border guards and police officers to have complete, reliable and accurate information needed for their duties, and to detect people who are hiding criminal or terrorist activities behind false identities.

WHAT IS INTEROPERABILITY?

Interoperability means the ability of information systems to talk to each other. It is about a targeted and intelligent way of using existing data to best effect, without creating new databases or changing the access rights to existing information systems.

HOW WILL INTEROPERABILITY WORK?

The interoperability tools include four new elements which will allow border guards, police officers, visa and immigration officials to have faster, more reliable and complete information on people in front of them:

▸ **European search portal** – a one-stop shop carrying out a simultaneous search of multiple EU information systems, in line with the users' access rights.

▸ **Shared biometric matching service** – a tool cross-checking biometric data (fingerprints and facial images) and detecting links between information on the same person in different EU information systems.

▸ **Common identity repository** – a shared container of biographical and biometric information, such as name and date of birth, stored in relevant systems about non-EU citizens.

▸ **Multiple-identity detector** - automatic alert system detecting multiple or fraudulent identities.

Effective identity checks – clear rules for police officers to query the identity data of third- country nationals in the common identity repository to identify a person during a police check.

Access for law enforcement – streamlined rules for police officers to access information on third-country nationals in non-law-enforcement databases (such as the Entry-Exit System, Eurodac and the future ETIAS) where necessary to prevent, investigate, detect or prosecute terrorism and other serious criminal offences, in full respect of fundamental rights and data protection and without broadening the scope of access beyond current rules.

The EU Agency responsible for the management of information systems, eu-LISA, is set to play a crucial role in the technical implementation and the development of interoperability of EU information systems. In order to enable eu-LISA to bring this work forward, the Agency's mandate has been significantly strengthened.

WHAT SYSTEMS ARE INVOLVED?

The EU information systems that will become interoperable and able to work together, include three already existing systems and three future systems, to be developed in the coming years.

Existing systems:	**New systems proposed by the Commission but not yet developed:**
Schengen Information System (SIS) a broad range of alerts on people and ob- jects related to criminal activity, terrorism and missing persons.	**Entry/Exit System (EES)** - electronic register of entry and exit information of third-country nationals crossing EU borders.
Eurodac - fingerprint database of asylum appli- cants and third-country nationals irregularly cros- sing EU borders or irregularly staying in the EU.	**European Travel Information and Autho- risation System (ETIAS)** - pre-travel security and irregular migration screening of visa-exempt non-EU nationals.
Visa Information System (VIS) information on short-stay visas. In May 2018, the Com- mission proposed to extend the scope of the system to include long-stay documents.	**European Criminal Record Information System (ECRIS-TCN system)** system for exchanging information on non-EU nationals convicted in the European Union.

STRONG DATA PROTECTION SAFEGUARDS

Privacy and security are two sides of the same coin. The proposed measures will **not** lead to the interconnectivity of the individual systems. Each system will keep its specific purpose limitation, access and data retention rules. The proposed measures will also **not** lead to an increase in the collection of new data. They provide a targeted and intelligent way of using existing information held in EU systems to best effect.

The Schengen Information System

November 2018

The Schengen Information System (SIS) is an EU information system to share information for law enforcement, border and migration management. It contains alerts on wanted or missing persons and objects such as vehicles, firearms, and identification documents that have been lost or stolen or may have been used to carry out a crime. Today, SIS is the most widely used security database in Europe, with over 5 billion consultations in 2017. It is an incredibly useful tool for police, border guards and customs officers. The system lies at the very heart of Schengen, and underpins the free movement of people within the area without internal border controls.

In December 2016, the Commission proposed to extend and improve the use of this database with new alert categories and functionalities. The proposal, now adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, will ensure an even more efficient exchange of information between Member States, and with EU Agencies such as Europol, Eurojust and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. At the same time, the security of personal data as it travels through the SIS network, as well as overall data protection safeguards, will be strengthened.

WHAT IS SIS USED FOR?

The main purpose of SIS is to strengthen internal security and improve border and migration management in the Schengen Area. This is done thanks to real-time information sharing on, for example, wanted persons, persons subject to entry bans, or stolen objects.

Three areas of competence:

Border and migration management:

SIS enables border guards and migration authorities to enter and consult alerts on third-country nationals for the purpose of verifying their right to enter and stay in the Schengen Area.

Vehicle control:

Vehicle registration authorities have access to SIS. They can access alerts on stolen vehicles, number plates and vehicle registration documents, in order to check the legal status of vehicles presented to them for registration.

Security cooperation:

SIS supports police and judicial cooperation between Member States' authorities, by allowing them to create and consult alerts on missing persons, and on persons or objects related to criminal offences.

Migration and Home Affairs

WHAT TYPE OF ALERTS CAN BE ISSUED?

Existing Alerts

- Refusal of entry or stay of third-country nationals
- Persons wanted for arrest
- Missing persons
- Persons in order to assist with a judicial procedure
- Persons and objects for discreet or specific checks
- Falsified documents
- Objects for seizure or use as evidence in criminal procedures

New Alerts

- Persons or objects linked to terrorism
- Return decisions
- Wanted Unknown Person alerts on the basis of fingerprints left at crime scenes
- Persons and objects for inquiry checks
- Preventive alerts to signal children at risk of parental abduction (under strict conditions)

WHAT KIND OF DATA IS ENTERED INTO SIS?

- **Data for identifying the person or object** that is the subject of the alert
- When available, **photographs and fingerprints**
- **Links between alerts** (e.g. between an alert on a person and a vehicle)
- (NEW) **Use of facial images** for biometric identification
- (NEW) **DNA profiles** for missing persons who need to be placed under protection, and especially for missing children

> Information on why the person or object is sought
>
> Instructions on the action to be taken when the person or object has been found

WHICH AUTHORITIES CAN ENTER AND SEARCH ALERTS IN SIS?

Member States

- National border control authorities
- Police authorities
- Customs authorities
- Judicial authorities
- Visa and immigration authorities
- Vehicle, (NEW) **boat, aircraft and firearms** registration authorities

Exclusively accessible to the authorised users within competent national authorities

EU Agencies

Eurojust: can continue to access the system to carry out queries on the alert categories it needs to access for its work.

––––––––––––– **NEW** –––––––––––––

Europol: will receive access to all alert categories in SIS, including on missing persons, return alerts, and third-country nationals whose entry and stay is refused in the Schengen area and will be included in the exchange of supplementary information in relation to SIS alerts that have been issued within the context of serious organised crime and terrorism.

European Border and Coast Guard Agency: The Agency's operational teams will have access to all alert categories in SIS, which will allow them to do their jobs more effectively, when carrying out border checks or other operational activities.

IN WHICH COUNTRIES IS SIS IN OPERATION?

26 EU Member States that are part of the Schengen Area

4 Associated Countries that are part of the Schengen Area (Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland)

Special conditions exist for EU Member States that are not part of the Schengen Area (Bulgaria, Romania, and the United Kingdom). SIS is not yet operational in Cyprus and Ireland.

HOW IS DATA PROTECTION ENSURED?

SIS has **strict requirements on data quality and data protection**. The basic principle is that the country entering an alert is responsible for its content, and that alerts are only kept for the time required to fulfil the purpose for which they were issued (e.g. an arrest).

National Data Protection Authorities
supervise the application of the data protection rules

European Data Protection Supervisor
monitors the application of the data protection rules for the central system

Both levels cooperate to ensure coordinated end-to-end supervision

If data about a person are stored, that person has the **right to request access to this data and make sure that it is accurate and lawfully entered. If this is not the case, the person has the right to request correction or deletion.**

NEW **Additional safeguards** are introduced to ensure that the collection, processing and access to data is limited to what is strictly necessary and operationally required; and in full respect of EU data protection legislation and fundamental rights. **Access is restricted to those officials who have an operational need to process it**.

SECURITY UNION
Building strong cybersecurity in Europe

October 2018

'Cyber-attacks know no borders, but our response capacity differs very much from one country to the other, creating loopholes where vulnerabilities attract even more the attacks. The EU needs more robust and effective structures to ensure strong cyber resilience and respond to cyber-attacks. We do not want to be the weakest links in this global threat.'

Jean-Claude Juncker, Tallinn Digital Summit, 29 September 2017

To equip Europe with the right tools to deal with an ever-changing cyber threat, in 2017 the European Commission and the High Representative proposed a wide-ranging set of measures to build strong cybersecurity in the EU. These efforts have been complemented by a proposal helping the EU to pool resources and expertise in research and innovation, and to become a leader in the next generation of cybersecurity and digital technologies.

TODAY'S CYBER THREATS

+4,000 ransomware attacks per day in 2016

80% of European companies experienced at least one cybersecurity incident last year

Security incidents across all industries **rose by 38%** – the biggest increase in the past 12 years

In some Member States **50% of all crimes committed** are cybercrimes

+150 countries and +230,000 systems across sectors and countries were affected by Wannacry attack in May 2017 with a substantial impact on essential services connected to the internet, including hospitals and ambulance services.

The Commission is already supporting the reinforcement of the EU's deterrence of, and resilience and response to, cyber-attacks, including by:

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST EU CYBERSECURITY LAW (DIRECTIVE ON SECURITY OF NETWORK AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS), WITH:

GREATER CAPABILITIES	COOPERATION	RISKS PREVENTION
Member States have to improve their cybersecurity capabilities	Increased EU-level cooperation	Players in key sectors (such as energy, transport, health) are obliged to put in place measures to prevent risks and handle cyber incidents

WORKING WITH MEMBER STATES ON:

EU CYBERSECURITY AGENCY	EU CERTIFICATION FRAMEWORK	COORDINATED RESPONSE
Strengthening the European Union Agency for cybersecurity to better assist Member States	An EU-wide certification framework to ensure that products and services are cyber-secure	Ensuring fast and coordinated responses to large scale cyber-attacks

The European Union Agency for Network and Information Security assists Member States' cybersecurity authorities in better protecting the EU against cyber-attacks.

POOLING RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE IN CYBERSECURITY TECHNOLOGY

Beyond the already existing EU cybersecurity initiatives, the Commission proposed on 12 September 2018 to complement these efforts with the creation of a Network of Competence Centres and a European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre to develop and roll out the tools and technology needed to keep up with an ever-changing threat.

The European Centre will be in charge of coordinating the funds foreseen for cybersecurity in the next long-term EU budget together with the Member States in the most targeted way. This will help to create new European cyber capabilities.

A wealth of expertise already exists in Europe - there are more than **660 cybersecurity competence centres** spread across the EU. To draw on and use their expertise effectively, the Commission is proposing a mechanism to:

Pool, share and ensure access to existing expertise	Help deploy EU cybersecurity products and solutions	Ensure long-term strategic cooperation between industries, research communities and governments	Co-invest and share costly infrastructure

European Competence Centre:

Will coordinate the use of the funds foreseen for cybersecurity under the next long-term EU budget for years 2021-2027 under the Digital Europe and Horizon Europe programmes. The centre will support the Network and Community to drive the **cybersecurity** research and innovation. It will also organise **joint investments** by the EU, Member States, and industry. For example, under the Digital Europe programme **€2 billion** will be invested in safeguarding the EU's digital economy, society and democracies by boosting the EU's cybersecurity industry and financing state-of-the-art cybersecurity equipment and infrastructure.

Network of National Coordination Centres:

Each Member State will nominate one national coordination centre to lead the network, which will engage in the development of new cybersecurity capabilities and broader competence building. The network will help to identify and support the most relevant cybersecurity projects in the Member States.

Competence Community:

A large, open and diverse group of cybersecurity stakeholders from research and the private and public sectors, including both civilian and defence authorities.

WHAT WILL IMPROVE?

- better coordination of work;
- access to expertise;
- access to testing and experimental facilities;
- assessment of product cybersecurity;
- access to innovative cybersecurity products and solutions;
- support for market deployment of products and services;
- increased visibility towards potential investors and business partners;
- cost-saving by co-investment with other Member States;
- EU capacity to autonomously secure its economy and democracy;
- EU becoming a global leader in cybersecurity.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

CITIZENS

BUSINESSES

E-COMMERCE

E-HEALTH

ENERGY

SMART MOBILITY

INTERNET OF THINGS

FINANCE

PUBLIC SECTOR

CYBERSECURITY INDUSTRY

SCIENTISTS
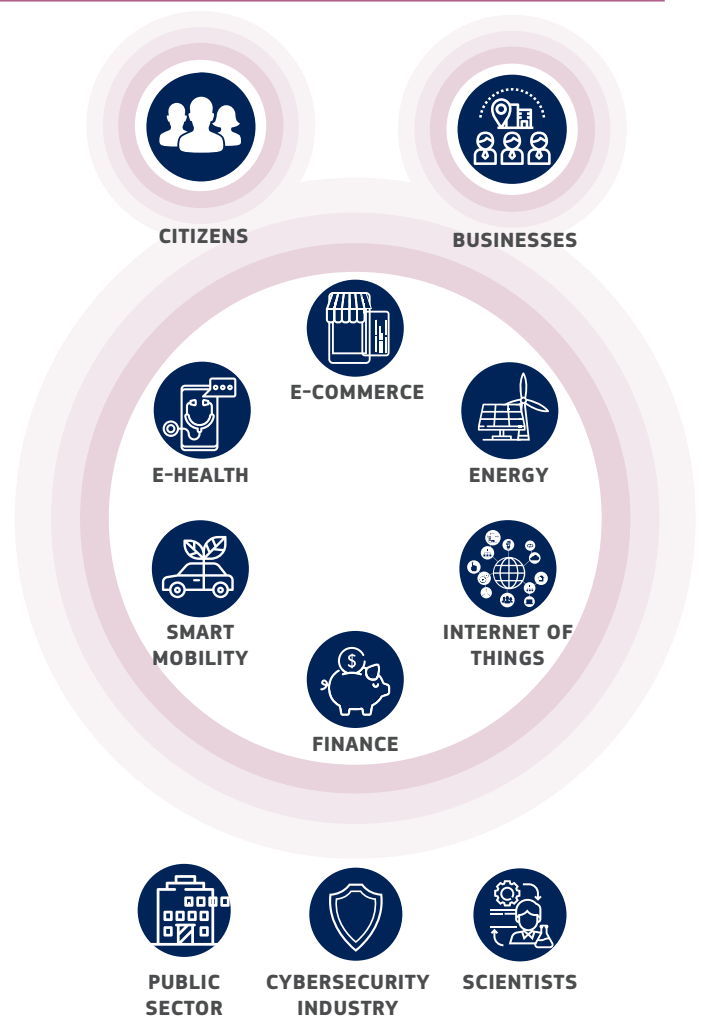
European Commission

A Europe that protects: Countering terrorist content online

#SOTEU

12 September 2018

'My Commission has prioritised security from day one — we criminalised terrorism and foreign fighters across the EU, we cracked down on the use of firearms and on terrorist financing, we worked with internet companies to get terrorist propaganda offline and we fought radicalisation in Europe's schools and prisons. But there is more to be done.'

Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, Strasbourg, 14 September 2016

The continued presence of terrorist content on the web is a grave risk to citizens and to society at large. Its potential for causing harm is made worse by the speed with which it spreads across platforms. Several of the recent terrorist attacks in the EU have shown how terrorists misuse the internet to spread their messages. So far, the approach to cracking down on the proliferation of terrorist content online was based on voluntary cooperation. Whilst significant progress has been made under the EU Internet Forum established in 2015, it is clear that more needs to be done to ensure the engagement of all internet platforms and national authorities to protect Europeans online and deny terrorists the ability to spread their propaganda online.

SPEED OF DISSEMINATION

33% of links to terrorist content spread in one hour

75% of links to terrorist content spread in four hours

Hours
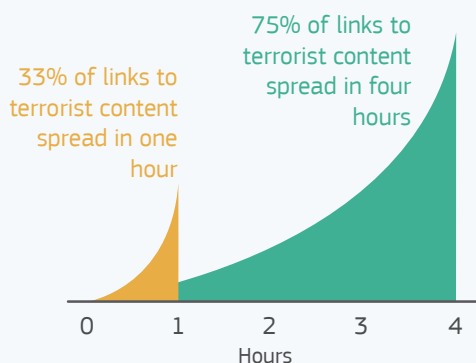
The Commission is proposing a new approach with clear and transparent rules to ensure that when terrorist content is identified:

- it is taken down as early and as quickly as possible;
- online platforms take measures to ensure that their services cannot be misused and that removed content is not re-uploaded elsewhere;
- citizens' fundamental rights to freedom of expression and information are fully protected.

What is the Commission proposing?

ONE-HOUR RULE

Terrorist content is most harmful in the first hours of its presence online because of the speed at which it spreads. The Commission is therefore setting a legally binding one-hour deadline for content to be removed following receipt of a removal order issued by national authorities.

BETTER PROTECTED ONLINE PLATFORMS

Hosting services exposed to terrorist content will be required to better protect their service and their users from terrorist abuse by taking proactive measures, for example to prevent the re-uploading of terrorist content once removed, including through automated means. To avoid an excessive burden on companies, these proactive measures must be proportionate to the risk and level of exposure of internet platforms to terrorist content.

INCREASED COOPERATION

Service providers and Member States will be required to designate points of contact reachable 24/7 to facilitate the follow up to the removal orders and referrals. The new rules set up a framework for strengthened co-operation between hosting service providers, Member States and Europol.

STRONG SAFEGUARDS

To mitigate possibly erroneous removal of legal content, hosting service providers will be required to have effective complaint mechanisms in place and to inform users when their content is taken down – unless there are significant security reasons not to do so. When making use of automated detection tools, human oversight and verification are to be in place to prevent erroneous removals. Member States will need to guarantee effective judicial remedies as well as the right to challenge a removal order.

INCREASED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Hosting service providers will have to publish annual transparency reports and Member States will be required to submit an annual account of their actions to help reduce access to terrorist content online to the Commission, who will establish a programme for monitoring the results and impact of the new rules.

STRONG PENALTIES

Effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties for not complying with orders to remove online terrorist content will be put in place. In the event of systematic failures to remove terrorist content, a service provider could face financial penalties of up to 4% of its global turnover for the last business year.

How does the new procedure for removing terrorist content work?

1. National authority detects and makes assessment
2. If considered terrorist content, removal order issued to host
3. Host must remove content within one hour

- **Right to challenge**: Hosting service or content provider may appeal the removal order. If the appeal is successful, the content is restored; if the appeal is rejected or the deadline lapses, the removal order stands and the content must be permanently removed.

- **Obligation to report**: If issued with a removal order, the host must report on proactive measures taken to address terrorist content online three months after receiving the removal order.

Why step up work now?

Terrorist content continues to circulate online, representing a real risk to European citizens. For instance, almost 700 new pieces of official Da'esh propaganda were disseminated in January 2018 alone. The fact that this type of propaganda can be spread rapidly across platforms demands an equally rapid response. Any propaganda that prepares, incites or glorifies acts of terrorism is illegal and must be taken offline.

The 'Database of Hashes' launched by companies within the EU Internet Forum in 2016 contains over 80,000 hashes of known terrorist videos or images.	Over 60,000 examples of terrorist content online flagged since 2015 by the EU Internet Referral Unit at Europol.	Over 150 companies identified as hosting terrorist content according to Europol.

To whom will the rules apply?

Once adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, the new rules will apply to all internet companies offering services in the EU, wherever their headquarters are based in the world and irrespective of their size.

Who does what?

Hosting service providers should:

- put in place **robust procedures** to be able to deal with removal orders and referrals;
- have a **designated point of contact** reachable 24/7 and responsible for the swift removal of content (within one hour of receiving a removal order) and for communication with national authorities;
- ensure that **safeguards** are in place — including human oversight — to avoid content being erroneously removed when automated tools are used;
- put in place effective **complaints procedures** so users can appeal against content that they consider has been removed in error;
- **cooperate with national authorities** on measures taken to remove terrorist content and prevent it from being hosted, uploaded, and re-uploaded — in the case of content involving a threat to public safety, law enforcement authorities should immediately be informed;
- set out in their **terms and conditions** their policy to prevent the dissemination of terrorist content and publish annual **transparency reports** on action taken to tackle this issue. Those affected by terrorist content should also provide reporting to the relevant Member State on their actions.

Member States should:

- ensure the responsible authorities have the **capacity** to identify terrorist propaganda online and swiftly issue removal orders or referrals where necessary;
- **coordinate** with other Member States and Europol to ensure that evidence of online terrorist content is flagged, and that duplication and interference in national investigations is avoided;
- put in place adequate **appeals procedures** for platforms and content providers to be able to complain if they consider a removal order to be unjustified;
- determine the **financial penalties** for online platforms found in breach of removal orders, taking into account all the relevant factors set out in the Commission's proposal.

Europol should:

- **refer** terrorist content to online platforms;
- **facilitate and coordinate** referrals and removal orders, to ensure that duplication is avoided;
- act as a **point of contact** for platforms who are unsure which Member State they should alert in relation to evidence of terrorist offences;
- provide expert **support and advice** to both Member States and hosting service providers.

EU BUDGET
FOR THE FUTURE

#EuBudget #EURoad2Sibiu #FutureofEurope
#SecurityUnion

BUILDING A EUROPE RESILIENT TO FUTURE SECURITY CHALLENGES

The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one. It is the most basic and universal of rights to feel safe and secure. Over recent years, security threats have intensified and diversified in Europe. They are increasingly cross-border in nature meaning Member States can no longer act alone. While protecting citizens is a national responsibility, the European Union plays a vital role in supporting Member States' efforts. The European budget can support Member States as they work to keep Europeans safe and, together, build a Union that is resilient to future security challenges and is better equipped to respond to emergencies.

FUNDING MORE THAN DOUBLED

The Commission is proposing to **more than double the Internal Security Fund (ISF)**, a key financial instrument that supports Member States' efforts in the area of security, from **€1 billion** to **€2.5 billion**. This comes in addition to **€1.1 billion** for EU Agencies working in the area of security, and almost **€1.2 billion** for safer decommissioning of soviet-era nuclear facilities in three Member States. The total funding for security in the next long-term EU budget for 2021-2027 increases to **€4.8 billion.**

€3.44
€1.18 Internal Security Fund
€1.36 Nuclear decommissioning
€0.9 Decentralised agencies

EU BUDGET 2014–2020

in billion

€4.8
€2.5 Internal Security Fund
€1.17 Nuclear decommissioning
€1.13 Decentralised agencies

EU BUDGET 2021–2027
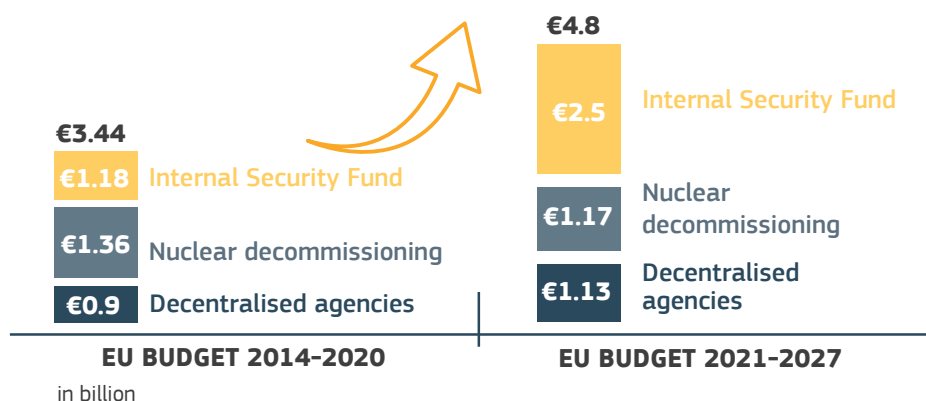
A REINFORCED INTERNAL SECURITY FUND (ISF)

The EU's financial and technical support to Member States addressing security challenges has already demonstrated its worth, and will continue to do so during the next budgetary period. The increased ISF budget will be both more targeted, and better tailored to meet the security needs of our Member States.

TARGETED OBJECTIVES AND MORE EFFICIENCY

A bolstered Internal Security Fund will support Member States in a more flexible and effective way, in order to deliver on priority security areas such as: the fight against terrorism and radicalisation; serious and organised crime, cybercrime; and the protection of victims. This will be ensured by:

KEY OBJECTIVES:

> increasing the exchange of information between EU law enforcement authorities;

> intensifying cross-border joint operations;

> strengthening capabilities to combat and prevent crime.

COHERENCE WITH OTHER EU FUNDS:

Border management:
✓ The Asylum and Migration Fund
✓ The Integrated Border Management Fund

Protection of public spaces:
✓ InvestEU
✓ Cohesion Policy Funds

Cybersecurity and prevention of radicalisation:
✓ European Social Fund+
✓ Digital Europe Programme

Security research:
✓ Horizon Europe

Protection of victims of terrorism:
✓ Justice Programme
✓ Rights and Values Programme

What will happen to the current ISF Police and ISF Borders and Visa instruments?

To ensure better and more integrated management of the EU's external borders, the current Borders and Visa instrument will be moved from the Internal Security Fund to the new Integrated Border Management Fund. The future Internal Security Fund follows from the Police Instrument in the current Internal Security Fund.

BUILT-IN FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO REAL-TIME NEEDS

The new Internal Security Fund will be more flexibile to better respond to Member States' security needs:

€1.25 billion – Initial allocation to national programmes
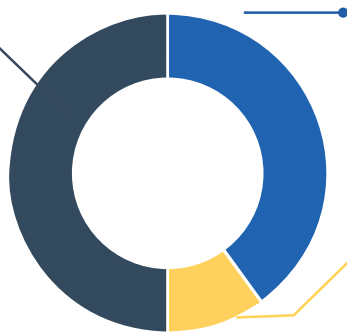
€1 billion – New thematic facility: Allocated periodically, these funds will support targeted actions by Member States and allow for a rapid response to immediate security challenges or emergencies;

€250 million – Mid-term allocation to national programmes: Instead of allocating all funding at the beginning of 2021, 10% of the total fund will be made available to Member States in 2024.

Source: European Commission

Each Member State will receive a one-time fixed amount of €5 million to ensure a critical mass at the start of the programming period, plus an amount varying according to a distribution key weighted on the following criteria:

45% in inverse proportion to gross domestic product

15% in proportion to the size of territory

40% in proportion to the size of population
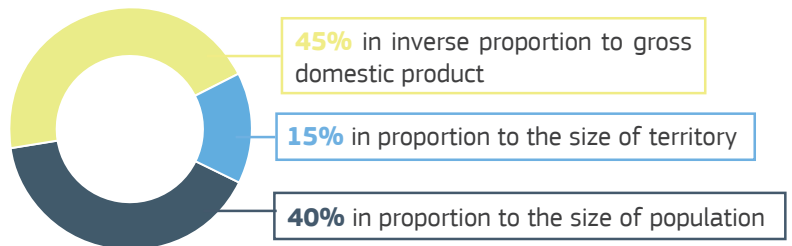
EU AGENCIES IN THE AREA OF SECURITY

€ 1.1 billion

Outside of the Internal Security Fund, over **€1.1 billion** will be dedicated to supporting EU Agencies in the areas of security – the **European Police Office (EUROPOL), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)**. The Agencies played an important role in supporting Member States' efforts to keep Europeans safe, and will continue to do so in the next long-term EU budget.

EUROPOL

emcdda

CEPOL

SECURITY UNION

Closing security information gaps: new EU rules on Passenger Name Record (PNR) data

May 2018

From day one, the Juncker Commission has made security a priority. Feeling safe and secure in your own home is a universal and basic right and Europeans rightly expect their Union to ensure this security. In the past 3 years, the Commission has been closing down the space in which criminals and terrorists operate: denying them the means to act and better exchanging information. The EU Passenger Name Record (PNR) Directive, which should be implemented by Member States by 25 May 2018, will help to track down travelling criminals and terrorists, closing an important information gap.

WHY IS PNR DATA IMPORTANT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND SERIOUS CRIME?

Criminals and terrorists increasingly operate across borders and their activities often involve international travel. Collecting and analysing PNR data from airlines will help to trace suspicious travel patterns, identifying potential criminals and terrorists, including those previously unknown to law-enforcement authorities.

Some Member States already use PNR data but the way this data is collected and shared varies from one Member State to another. The EU-wide PNR system, adopted on 27 April 2016, will harmonise different national laws: removing inconsistencies, plugging information gaps and ensuring a sufficient level of data protection and right to privacy. The new rules strictly limit the use of PNR data to the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of serious crime and terrorism. Under the EU PNR rules, participating Member States are required to set up a legal and technical framework for the transfer, processing and exchange of PNR data provided by airlines.

The deadline for incorporating the new EU PNR rules into national law is 25 May 2018.

WHAT IS PNR DATA?

Passenger name record (PNR) data, stored in airlines' reservation systems, is information that is provided by passengers to airlines when booking flights and checking-in for flights. It includes information such as the **passenger's name, travel dates, travel itineraries, seat number, baggage, contact details and means of payment**.

The EU PNR Directive will not require airlines to collect or retain any further data than that which is already collected for commercial purposes.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

27 Member States*

*Denmark is not participating.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1 When booking their flights, passengers provide airlines or travel agents with basic information such as contact details and means of payment.

2 This PNR data provided by passengers and collected by airlines and travel agents for passengers on international flights entering or departing from the EU will be transferred to dedicated Passenger Information Units (PIUs) in the respective EU Member State.

3 The PIUs will then analyse the PNR data in order to identify high-risk passengers, including previously unknown persons, prior to their arrival or departure, to detect suspicious travel patterns or facilitate the investigation, prosecution, and unravelling of criminal networks.

4 PNR data can be exchanged with Member State authorities or requested by Europol for law-enforcement purposes only.

The new PNR rules also allow Member States to collect PNR data concerning intra-EU flights.

WHAT WILL CHANGE FOR TRAVELLERS?

The new rules do not carry additional burdens for travellers. They will be informed that their data Is being collected but will not have to provide any more information than usual when booking their flights

STRONG PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA

- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and Data Protection Directive for Police and Criminal Justice Authorities (Police Directive) ensure high standards of data protection in the European Union.
- Processing of PNR data must ensure full respect for data protection standards and other fundamental rights.
- The PNR Directive requires specific safeguards for processing of personal PNR data. PNR data may only be used for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime.

- Collection and use of sensitive data, such as those revealing a passenger's race or ethnic origin, religion or state of health, is prohibited.
- PNR data must be anonymised after 6 months, and deleted after 5 years.
- All PIUs in EU Member States are monitored by an independent national supervisory authority that oversees the processing of PNR data.
- All national PIUs are obliged to have a Data Protection Officer.

European Commission

A STRONGER, MORE EFFICIENT AND SECURE EU VISA POLICY
An upgraded Visa Information System

May 2018

The EU's visa policy makes it easier to travel to the European Union for tourism or business. At the same time, EU visa policy mitigates security risks and the risks associated with irregular migration to the EU. In an area without internal borders, strong and efficient checks on persons entering the EU are needed to detect anyone who may pose a security risk. To ensure that such persons do not pass the EU's borders unnoticed, police officers and border guards need to have the right information at the right time in order to do their job of protecting EU citizens.

To ensure that sufficient security information is available about persons travelling to the EU with a visa, the Commission is proposing to upgrade the Visa Information System – the EU database that contains information on all persons applying for Schengen visas. The upgraded system will be fully interoperable with other EU information systems. Today's proposal will also modernise and upgrade the system in light of technological developments and add long-stay visas and residence permits to the system. This upgrade will improve security checks on visa applicants and ensure that the EU is better equipped to respond to current and future security challenges.

WHAT IS THE VISA INFORMATION SYSTEM?

The Visa Information System (VIS) contains information on non–EU nationals applying for short-stay Schengen visas. It connects border guards at the EU's external borders with Member States' consulates around the world. The system is one of the most advanced of its kind, containing over 55 million visa applications and nearly 47 million fingerprint sets as of May 2018. Every year, EU Member States process around 18 million applications for short-stay Schengen visas.

The VIS allows:

✓ Visa issuing authorities to share and rapidly check information on visa applicants.

✓ Border guards to conduct security checks and verify a traveller's identity.

What data does the VIS contain?

- Fingerprints
- Facial images
- Information on the visa application form
- Decisions on the visa application

Which countries participate in the VIS?

The 22 Schengen EU Member States	The 4 Schengen Associated Countries
	Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein

What are the proposed upgrades?

▶ Enhanced interoperability with other EU information systems

▶ Closing information gaps and improving information exchange between Member States

▶ Including more information in the VIS, such as long-stay visas and residence permits

Who can access the VIS?

• **Visa authorities** when examining visa applications

• **Border guards**, to check the identity of the visa holder and the validity of the visa

• **Asylum authorities**, to determine the country responsible for examining an asylum application

• **Migration authorities**, to check the validity of a visa and the identity of the visa holder

• **Law enforcement authorities and Europol**, to prevent, detect and investigate terrorist and serious criminal offences

HOW WILL THIS IMPROVE SECURITY?

Swifter and more effective background checks

Visa officers, border guards and police officers will be able to do a single search in all EU information systems. This will significantly improve the detection of security and migration risks as well as speed up the application process and ensure quick border crossings.

ENHANCED MIGRATION AND SECURITY CHECKS ON VISA APPLICANTS

Visa application

! MANDATORY CHECKS

European Search Portal

- Visa Information System (VIS)
- Schengen Information System (SIS)
- Eurodac
- Entry Exit System (EES)
- European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)
- European Criminal Records Information System — Third Country Nationals (ECRIS-TCN)
- Interpol systems
- Europol data
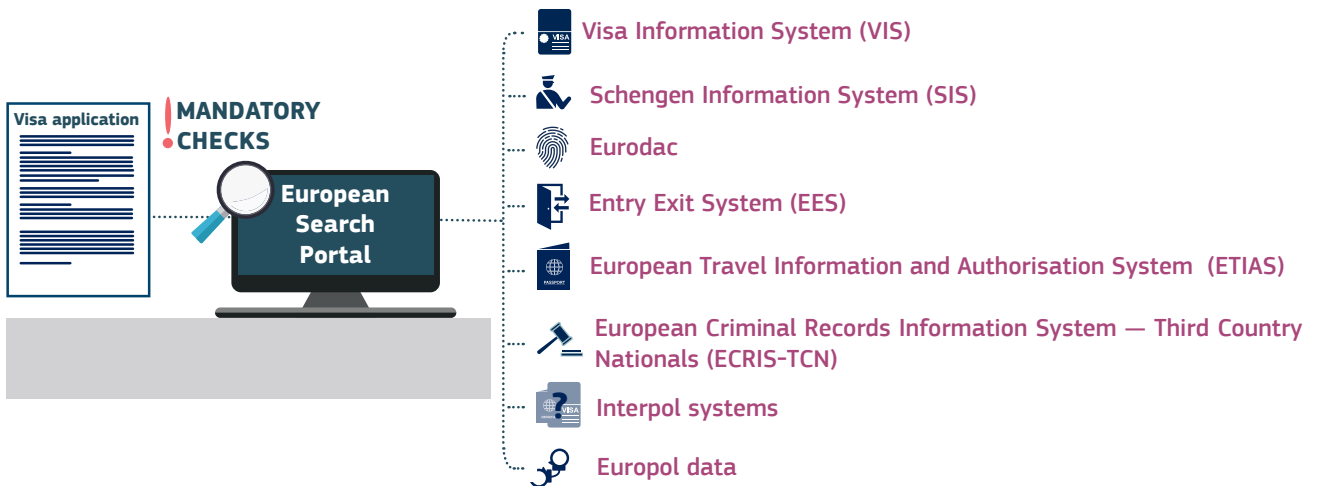
Close security information gaps

Currently no information is held at EU level on long-stay visas and residence permits. The upgraded VIS will include such information. This will allow border guards to quickly determine whether a long-stay visa or residence permit is valid – closing an important security gap.

DATA PROTECTION BY DESIGN
The proposed upgrade of the VIS fully incorporates the data protection by design approach. The upgrades ensure the necessary safeguards and mechanisms to effectively protect the privacy and fundamental rights of travellers, particularly when it comes their private life and personal data.

European Commission

ETIAS – The European Travel Information and Authorisation System

April 2018

> «We need to know who is crossing our borders. By November, we will propose an automated system to determine who will be allowed to travel to Europe. This way we will know who is travelling to Europe before they even get here.»
>
> European Commission **President Jean-Claude Juncker,** State of the Union Address, 14 September 2016

In November 2016, the Commission proposed to create a **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)** to strengthen security of travel to the Schengen area under visa-free agreements. The ETIAS will carry out pre-travel screening for security and migration risks of visa-exempt visitors. This will help to identify any possible security concerns prior to their travel to the Schengen area, thus contributing to more efficient management of the EU's external borders and improved internal security.

THE ETIAS WILL :

Save travellers time & hassle

Improve border management

Complement the EU's visa liberalisation policy

Prevent irregular migration

Reinforce the fight against crime & terrorism

ETIAS will apply to visa-exempt non-EU citizens

Migration and Home Affairs

VISA-EXEMPT NON-EU CITIZENS

Revenues from fees go to the EU budget.

Payment of the fee for applicants between the ages of 18 and 70.

€7

ETIAS online application

✓ 10 min max

✓ PAID

ETIAS application automatically introduced

Examples of data requested:
✓ Personal data ✓ Travel document (passport or equivalent document) ✓ Member State of first-intended stay ✓ Background questions relating to previous criminal records, presence in conflict zones, orders to leave the territory of a Member State or third countries, return decisions issued. ✓ If the application is submitted by a person other than of the applicant, identity of the person or company that he or she represents.

Automatic application processing

Identity | Travel document | Answers to background questions

Checks against databases
(SIS / VIS / EUROPOL DATA / SLTD & TDAWN (Interpol) / EURODAC / etc…) **+ ETIAS including its screening rules & watchlist**

✗ *If there is a hit from the automated application processing, the application will undergo* **manual** *processing by staff of the ETIAS Central Unit and ETIAS National Unit(s).*

Response to applicants

✓ valid travel authorisation

✓ Valid for 3 years

(or until the expiry date of the travel document).

⏱ response to most of the applicants within minutes

✗ - justification of the refusal
- information on the national authority processing and deciding on the application

⏱ - the decision has to be taken within four weeks
- In case of refusal, applicants always have the right to appeal

Check by carriers prior to boarding
(for people travelling by air, land and sea)
Valid travel authorisation?

✓ Ok to travel

✗ No boarding authorised

Schengen area border crossing point

EES + Valid ETIAS authorisation? ✓

Border guard's final decision

✓ Ok to enter ✗ Refusal of entry

At land borders ETIAS application request can be made at application kiosks

REVOCATION OR ANNULMENT OF ETIAS TRAVEL AUTHORISATION

OR

An ETIAS travel authorisation will be **revoked if the conditions** for issuing the travel authorisation **are no longer met**, particularly when there are serious grounds for believing that the travel authorisation was fraudulently obtained. It will also be **annulled if the conditions** for issuing the travel authorisation **were not met at the time it was issued**.

The revocation will also apply if:

NEW ALERT

in security database

- for a refusal of entry
- or a reported lost or stolen travel document.

ETIAS Central Unit will verify if this alert corresponds to a valid travel authorisation.

If this is the case, Member States will be responsible for the revocation of the travel authorisation.

A revocation or annulment is carried out: by the authorities of the Member State in possession of the relevant evidence; by the ETIAS National Unit of the Member State of first-intended stay as declared by the applicant; or by the Member State that created the alert.

ETIAS STRUCTURE:

ETIAS Central Unit

Ensures that data stored in application files and personal data recorded in the ETIAS are correct and up to date and, where necessary, verifies applications for travel authorisation to remove any ambiguity about the identity of an applicant in cases of a hit obtained during the automated process. It will also:
- define, evaluate, test and review specific risk indicators of the ETIAS screening rules after consultation of the ETIAS Screening Board and; - carry out regular audits on the management of applications and the implementation of the ETIAS screening rules, particularly as regards their impact on fundamental rights and with regards to privacy and data protection.

ETIAS National Units

Responsible for carrying out assessment and decisions on travel authorisation applications referred from the automated process and for issuing opinions on applications when consulted by ETIAS National Units in other Member States'.

Europol

Will contribute to establishing and maintaining the ETIAS watchlist.
Will be consulted by ETIAS National Units in the follow up to a hit with Europol data during the ETIAS automated processing.

eu-LISA

will be responsible for developing and operating the ETIAS information system.

ETIAS Screening Board

Advisory body composed of representatives from each ETIAS National Unit and Europol. Will be consulted on the definition, evaluation and revision of the risk indicators as well as for the implementation of the ETIAS watchlist.

European Border and Coast Guard Agency

Mandate to ensure the creation and management of an ETIAS Central Unit.

ETIAS Fundamental Rights Guidance Board

Independent advisory body composed of representatives from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, the European Data Protection Supervisor, and the Fundamental Rights Agency.
Will assess the processing of applications and the screening rules on fundamental rights, and provide guidance to the ETIAS Screening Board.

SECURITY UNION
FACILITATING ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE

April 2018

The European Commission has proposed legislation to facilitate and accelerate law enforcement and judicial authorities' access to electronic evidence to better fight crime and terrorism. This will give authorities the right tools to investigate and prosecute crimes in the digital age.

WHAT IS ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE?

Electronic evidence is data stored in electronic form – such as IP addresses, e-mails, photographs, or user names – that is relevant in criminal proceedings. Often, this data is stored by service providers, and law enforcement and judicial authorities have to turn to them to obtain it.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS ADDRESSED TODAY?

Today, much of the useful information needed for criminal investigations and prosecutions is stored in the cloud, on a server in another country and/or held by service providers that are located in other countries. Even where all other elements of a case are located in the investigating country, the location of the data or of the service provider can create a cross-border situation.

To obtain such electronic evidence stored abroad and/or by a service provider located in another country, EU national authorities rely on either traditional existing judicial cooperation tools or voluntary cooperation with service providers. For requests within the EU, judicial authorities normally use the **European Investigation Order** to obtain evidence. **Mutual Legal Assistance agreements (MLA)** are used by EU Member States' authorities to obtain evidence from outside the EU. While these procedures work well for traditional investigative measures, they are often too slow for obtaining electronic evidence which can be transferred or deleted at the click of a mouse. As a result, **voluntary cooperation** between law enforcement and service providers based in the United States has developed as an alternative way of obtaining non-content data. This form of cooperation is generally faster than judicial cooperation, but it lacks reliability, transparency, accountability and legal certainty.

THREE MAIN PROBLEMS:

Inefficient public-private cooperation
Inefficiencies in cooperation between service providers and public authorities hamper effective investigations and prosecutions.

Slow procedures
It takes too long to access electronic evidence across borders under existing judicial cooperation procedures, rendering investigations and prosecutions less effective.

No legal certainty
Limitations in how authorities can use investigative measures in cross-border situations can hinder effective investigations and prosecutions. Also, there is no clear framework for cooperation with service providers who voluntarily accept direct requests for non-content data as permitted by their domestic law.

Speed for fighting crime

Law enforcement and judicial authorities will be able to get hold of electronic evidence e.g. photographs and messages much more **easily** and **rapidly**.

The new proposal will require service providers to respond within **10 days**, and **up to 6 hours for emergencies**. This will allow authorities to **investigate crimes and terrorism** more quickly and efficiently.

Harmonised, clear rules for service providers

The new rules are binding for service providers and will bring clarity and legal certainty to both service providers and law enforcement authorities. **They will provide a clear** procedure in case of **conflicting obligations** with the law of a non-EU country.
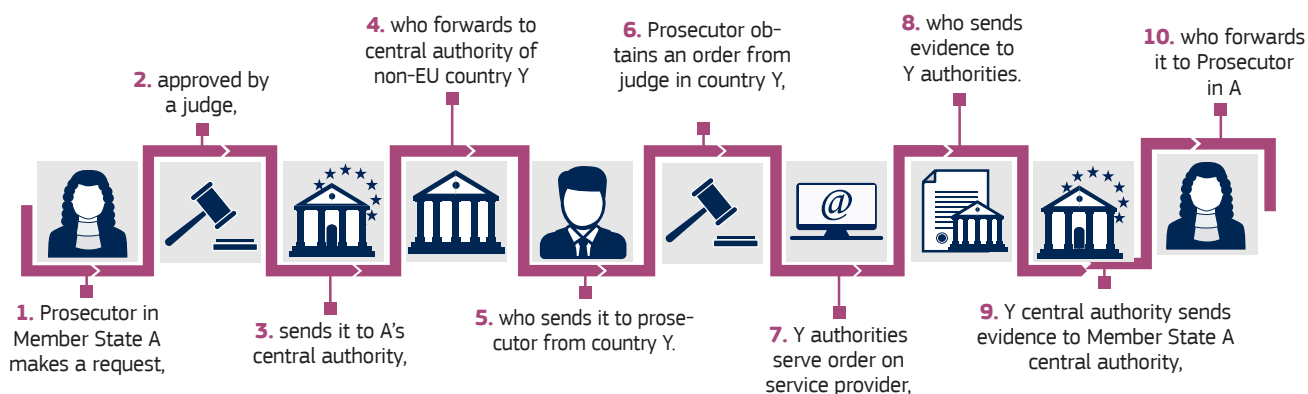
Respect of Fundamental rights

The new rules also introduce conditions and safeguards that aim to ensure **fundamental rights are fully protected**, including safeguards for the right to personal data protection, ensuring effective remedies and safeguards for the subjects of requests.

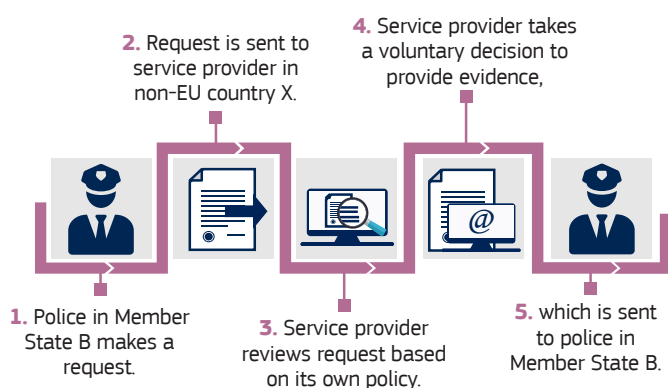## EXAMPLES OF HOW IT WORKS NOW

On Terrorism

After a terrorist attack in Member State A, the police connects the suspect to a terrorist cell that has been involved in other attacks in other Member States. The police has indications that the terrorist cell communicates through e-mail messages using a cloud-based e-mail service. The police would like to obtain transactional data regarding e-mails sent by the suspect to identify other members of the terrorist cell.

2. approved by a judge,

4. who forwards to central authority of non-EU country Y

6. Prosecutor obtains an order from judge in country Y,

8. who sends evidence to Y authorities.

10. who forwards it to Prosecutor in A

1. Prosecutor in Member State A makes a request,

3. sends it to A's central authority,

5. who sends it to prosecutor from country Y.

7. Y authorities serve order on service provider,

9. Y central authority sends evidence to Member State A central authority,

As the service provider hosting the cloud-based e-mail service is based in the Third Country Y, Member State A authorities have to send a Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) request to the Third Country Y authorities who assess the request and transform it into a domestic order to obtain the transactional data from the service provider. Subsequently, the Third Country Y authorities transmit the data to the Member State A authorities. As MLA procedures can take several months to be completed, the investigation may be delayed significantly. New leads that emerge from the data obtained are often no longer useful.
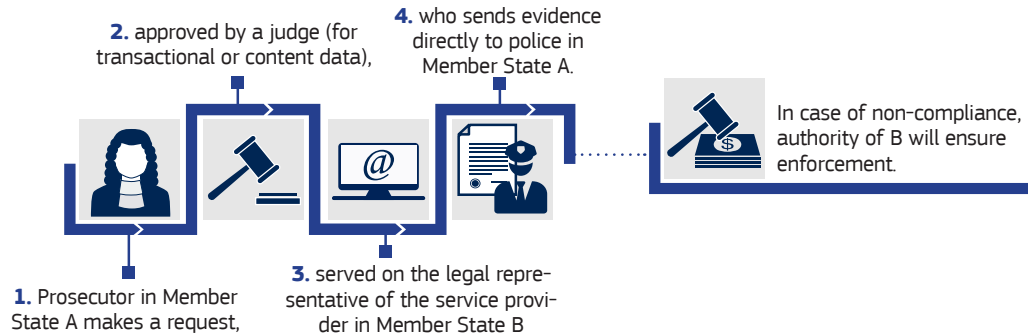
On Child Sexual Abuse

2. Request is sent to service provider in non-EU country X.

4. Service provider takes a voluntary decision to provide evidence,

1. Police in Member State B makes a request.

3. Service provider reviews request based on its own policy.

5. which is sent to police in Member State B.

Having infiltrated an online forum for exchanging child sexual abuse material on the Darknet for over a year, the Third Country Z police gathers information on more than one million users globally, which they then share with law enforcement authorities around the world. Some of the child victims and suspects appear to be in Member State B, which receives information from Z authorities. The information and subsequent investigation in B lead to the discovery of the suspect's social media profile. B authorities need information about who is behind the profile to allow for identification. The social media company is based in the Third Country X, whose legislation allows B police to request the company to disclose subscriber information voluntarily.

The above process is dependent on the goodwill of the service provider. There are no standardised procedures across service providers, and the process can be non-transparent and unreliable.

HOW IT WILL WORK WITH THE PROPOSED RULES

2. approved by a judge (for transactional or content data),

4. who sends evidence directly to police in Member State A.

In case of non-compliance, authority of B will ensure enforcement.

1. Prosecutor in Member State A makes a request,

3. served on the legal representative of the service provider in Member State B

The proposed new rules would provide a faster tool for obtaining electronic evidence **irrespective of where the data is stored**.

Safeguards:

● must be approved by judicial authority
● for transactional and content data, the European Production Order is limited to serious crimes
● individuals will be notified that their data was requested
● individuals will be notified of their rights
● criminal law procedural rights apply

HOW WILL THE ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE RULES WORK IN PRACTICE?

The proposed new rules would **provide a faster tool** for obtaining electronic evidence.
The European Investigation Order (EIO) and the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) will continue to exist, but there would be a fast track alternative for the specific case of electronic evidence: **the European Production Order**.

Under current procedures, the judicial authorities in both countries are involved. The new EU rules will allow the judicial authority to go **directly** to the legal representative of the service provider in another EU country. Also, the evidence will no longer travel back through many hands, but go directly from the legal representative to the authority requesting the data. The authorities of the host country will only be involved in cases where there are specific legal concerns or where the Order needs to be enforced.
The proposed new rules also include a **European Preservation Order** which may be issued to avoid deletion of electronic evidence.

SECURITY UNION
Denying terrorists the means to act

April 2018

It is a basic and universal right to feel safe and secure in your own home. Europeans rightly expect their Union to help provide that for them. The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one, and in the past three years, the Commission has taken a series of landmark initiatives to tighten security laws across the EU and cut terrorists off from the money, firearms, substances and fake documents they use to carry out attacks.

With the current security threat, the Commission has today proposed to take additional measures to further squeeze the space in which terrorists operate and make it more difficult for them to acquire the means necessary to carry out attacks. These actions include strengthening the rules on explosives precursors that are used to make **home-made explosives**, enhancing the security of **ID cards and residence documents**, improving the security of the import and export of **firearms,** facilitating the use of **financial data and establishing new tools for gathering electronic evidence across borders**.

DOCUMENT FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT

There are currently varying levels of security of national **ID cards**, some of which are paper-based and easy to falsify and which can also be used to enter the EU from non-EU countries. According to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, national identity cards with weak security features are the most fraudulently used travel documents within the EU. It is estimated that 80 million Europeans are currently having non-machine readable ID cards without biometric identifiers. This makes it challenging for border guards and law enforcement to verify the authenticity of such documents and the identity of its holder. This in turn weakens EU external border management and creates a potential security gap that can be exploited by criminals and terrorists who seek access to the EU area of free movement. To close this gap and remove the «weakest links», the Commission has proposed to **improve the security features of ID cards of EU citizens and residence documents of their non-EU citizen family members**.

The proposed minimum common security measures for ID cards and residence documents **INCLUDE**:

✔ Adding mandatory biometrics (two fingerprints and facial image) for ID cards and residence documents, to be used only for checking the authenticity of the document and the identity of its holder
✔ The phasing out of non-compliant cards at expiry or within a maximum period of five years or two years for less secure (i.e. non-machine readable) cards
✔ A maximum validity for ID cards of 10 years
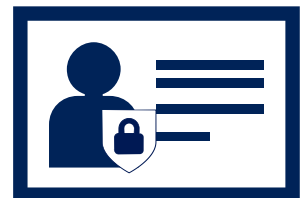

The proposed measures **DO NOT**:
X Create an obligation for Member States to introduce ID cards
X Introduce a uniform European ID card

TERRORIST FINANCING

Criminal groups and terrorists are increasingly operating across borders with their assets located both within and beyond EU territory. With modern technology, they are able to transfer money between banks in a matter of hours to prepare terrorist or criminal acts or launder the proceeds of crime. With the current procedures, access to and exchange of **financial information** is too slow and the information often incomplete, leading criminal investigations to dead ends. It is imperative that law enforcement authorities have access to the most crucial pieces of financial information to complete their investigations and crack down on the financing of terrorism and serious crime. This is why the Commission is proposing new rules to **facilitate the use of financial information in criminal cases**.

The proposed measures **INCLUDE**:

✓ Direct access for law enforcement authorities and Asset Recovery Offices, on a case-by-case basis, to national centralised bank account registries

✓ A list of competent authorities that can access the registries or systems, including Asset Recovery Offices, certain tax and anti-corruption authorities and Europol

✓ Clear rules on the type of information that can be shared between law enforcement and Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and between FIUs across borders

✓ Fundamental rights and data protection guarantees
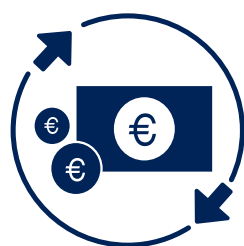
According to Europol, financial crime and money laundering in Europe amounted to almost **€180 billion** in 2014.

Terrorist financing is still a small percentage of this sum but many transactions go unnoticed and are not reported by FIUs – allowing terrorists to plot their attacks.

Currently, in most cases, law enforcement authorities have to send a request to all banks in a Member State to obtain financial information. This process is extremely slow and burdensome – often leading to dead ends in criminal investigations.

HOME-MADE EXPLOSIVES

Since 2013, rules have been in place at EU level to restrict access to explosives precursors that are used to make **home-made explosives**. Unfortunately, the security threat has evolved since then with terrorists using new tactics, developing new recipes and finding new sources from which to purchase explosives precursors. In many attacks in recent years, home-made explosives were used by terrorists and criminals. To respond to this new security environment and further restrict access to dangerous substances, the Commission has proposed to **strengthen the existing rules – for both online and offline sales**.

Who are the economic operators concerned?
An economic operator is anyone who manufactures distributes or sells chemical substances that could, if misused, be used to make home-made explosives.

The proposed measures **INCLUDE**:

✓ Addition of two new substances and concentration limits to the list of banned chemicals

✓ Inclusion on the list of economic operators of entities operating and selling online

✓ Background and criminal-record checks of public buyers

✓ Obligation to report a suspicious transaction within 24 hours

✓ Greater awareness raising and information sharing along the supply chain

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF FIREARMS

International trafficking of firearms is a concern for the security of European citizens. The Commission has reinforced the control of legally held firearms and put in place new rules to make it harder to legally acquire high capacity weapons. The import and export of firearms for civilian use is also harmonised at EU level. However, the divergent national practices in the application of those import and export rules create a loophole that could be abused by organised crime and terrorist networks. The Commission has put forward a set of clear recommendations for Member States to **improve the security of export and import procedures of firearms.**
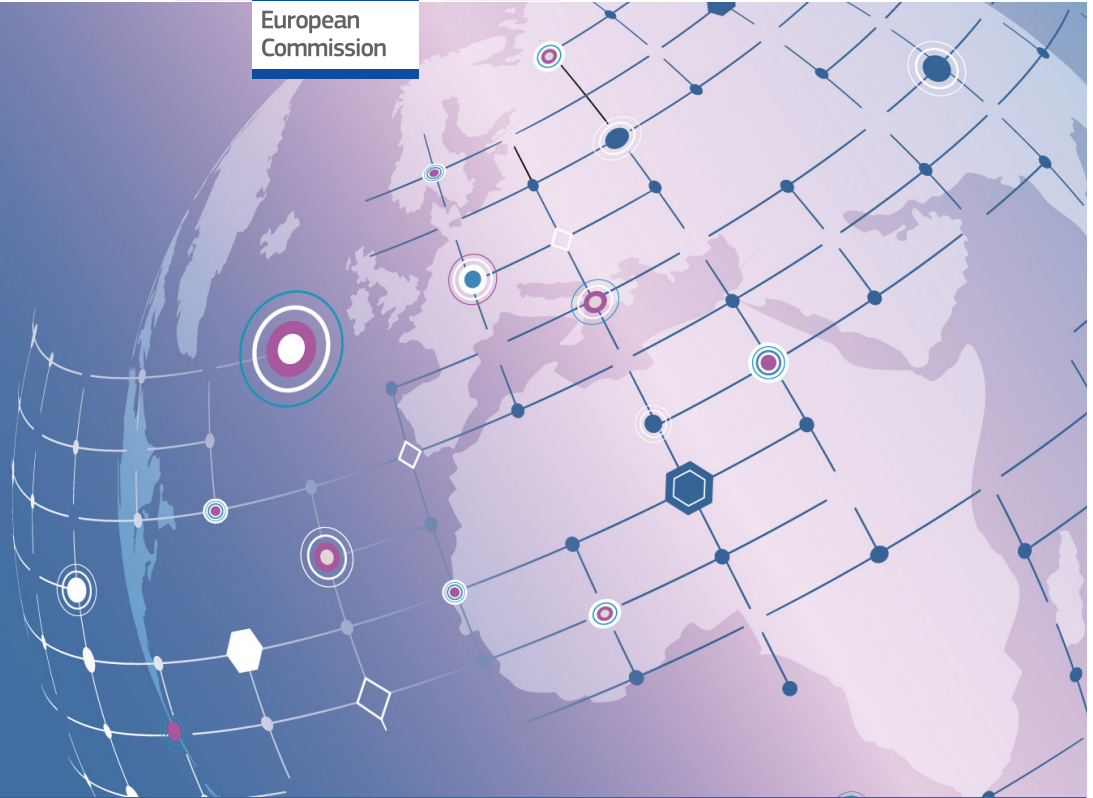
The proposed recommendations **INCLUDE**:

✓ Systematic background checks on individuals applying for export authorisations
✓ Member States are encouraged to mark each imported firearm with the country and year of import
✓ Systematic verification of deactivated firearms marking and certificate
✓ Member States to provide detailed statistics by 1 July each year

A EUROPE
THAT PROTECTS:

PREVENTING
RADICALISATION

EU MAYORS' CONFERENCE:
''BUILDING URBAN DEFENCES
AGAINST TERRORISM''

8 MARCH

Radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism is a complex and rapidly-evolving phenomenon. The majority of terrorist suspects involved in recent attacks in Europe were born and raised in EU Member States, but were radicalised and turned against their fellow citizens.

Preventing radicalisation is at the heart of the EU response to terrorism. It requires long-term, sustainable efforts involving all relevant actors, different policy areas and actions at local, national, EU and global level. Over the past two years, the Commission has driven action to counter radicalisation, both online and offline.

STEPPING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST RADICALISATION OFFLINE

Improving coordination at EU level : High-Level Expert Group on Radicalisation

The Commission set up a High-Level Expert Group on Radicalisation in 2017, bringing together experts from Member States, EU institutions and agencies. Its task is to advise the Commission on how to strengthen the EU policy response, increase the capacity, impact and visibility of EU policy in this area and enhance cooperation at all levels – local, national and European.

17 January 2018 - **Recommendation** calling on Member States to take steps to boost critical thinking, media literacy, and shared values.

April 2018 - conference to discuss how to respond to the challenges regarding the return to the EU and the **Western Balkans** of children of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF).

Supporting front-line responders: Radicalisation Awareness Network

In 2011 the Commission established the **Radicalisation Awareness Network** (RAN), bringing together frontline and grassroots practitioners, who have the trust and relationship within local communities and who are often best placed to identify early warning signs of radicalisation. The network provides a platform to exchange expertise and experiences, identify best practices and issue recommendations to policymakers – it is a **strong ally** in the quest to prevent and counter radicalisation in all its forms.

In 2015, the Commission set up the **RAN Centre of Excellence** to help manage the work of the RAN, and to provide support to the Commission and Member States by acting as an information hub and by disseminating expertise.
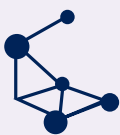
The RAN connects over **4,600 front-line practitioners** from all over Europe and has peer reviewed over **160 practices** on the ground.

The Commission has allocated **€25 million** over **4 years** to support the work of the RAN Centre of Excellence.

Cooperation with industry: The EU Internet Forum

The EU Internet Forum was launched by the Commission in 2015 to stop the misuse of the internet by international terrorist groups. The Forum provides a framework for efficient and voluntary cooperation with the internet industry to curb terrorist online content.

The Forum brings together governments, EU Agencies, academics, and internet platforms. The Forum aims to reduce accessibility to terrorist content online and empower civil society to spread alternative narratives online.

▶ **Reducing accessibility to terrorist content online**

Building on the ongoing work within the EU Internet Forum, on 1 March 2018 the Commission recommended a set of urgent **operational measures** that online platforms and Member States should take, including **swift detection and removal** of terrorist content online, and increased cooperation with law enforcement authorities. Most harmful in the first hours of its appearance online, such content should be removed **within one** hour from its referral by online platforms.

Based at Europol, the **EU Internet Referral Unit (IRU)** works to anticipate and pre-empt terrorist abuse of online platforms. The Unit identifies and flags terrorist content to the hosting companies, and provides operational support and analysis to EU Member States. The database of known terrorist content (the so-called **Database of Hashes**), was launched in 2017 in the context of the EU Internet Forum. It prevents content which has been removed from one site from being published on another site.

The Internet Referral Unit has made over **40,000 content** referrals to **80 platforms** in more than **10 languages.**	The **Database of Hashes** contains well over 50,000 hashes of known terrorist videos and images, while **automatic detection tools** on some platforms remove 83% to 98% of identified terrorist content.

The Commission has also proposed **legislation on combatting terrorism** – criminalising any incitement, promotion or glorification of terrorism online. This legislation has been adopted and will be in place in all Member States by September 2018.

▶ **Spreading alternative narratives**: Civil Society Empowerment Programme

The Commission supports civil society partners in delivering effective counter-narratives online. Under the **Civil Society Empowerment Programme**, €6 million has been made available to support campaigns providing alternative narratives to terrorist propaganda and promoting fundamental rights and values.

In 2017, The EU Civil Society Empowerment Programme has trained more than **250 civil society organisations** across Europe.

REINFORCING EDUCATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Schools, teachers and youth workers play a crucial role in strengthening vulnerable young people's resilience, and preventing them from feeling marginalised and turning away from society towards radicalisation. They are also key in promoting common democratic values, enhancing critical thinking and media literacy and helping to handle controversial issues in open, inclusive and safe environments.

Erasmus+ funds projects on social inclusion through education, training, youth and sport. These projects disseminate, replicate and upscale good practices at grass-roots level as well as facilitate direct contacts between young people at risk of marginalisation and positive role models in schools, sport clubs and prisons.
In January 2018, the Commission proposed a Council Recommendation on ''promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching'' aiming at ensuring that young people understand the importance of and adhere to common values, as well as at strengthening social cohesion and contributing to fighting the rise of extremism, populism, xenophobia, and the spreading of fake news.

The European Social Fund also supports national schemes and small local projects to foster the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups. The Fund is expected to reach 2.5 million disadvantaged people.

In 2017, an Erasmus+ call allowed to select **24 projects** in education, training and youth with a total budget of **€10 million.**

Under the European Social Fund **€25.6 billion** is available for social inclusion. **€8 billion** will be devoted to education and addressing early school leaving.

European Commission

SECURITY UNION:

PROTECTING PUBLIC SPACES

EU MAYORS' CONFERENCE:
"BUILDING URBAN DEFENCES
AGAINST TERRORISM"

8 MARCH

In the past three years, the European Union and its Member States have taken decisive action to deny terrorists the means to carry out attacks, share information between Member States, counter radicalisation and manage our borders better. But as the recurring terrorist attacks in Europe show, more needs to be done to prevent in the future attacks such as those seen in the streets of Barcelona, Berlin, London, Manchester, Nice, Paris or Stockholm.

What these attacks had in common is that they targeted open public spaces. While the risk of such attacks can never be entirely eliminated, there are concrete operational measures Member States can take with the support of the EU in order to better protect public spaces from the threat of terrorism. In its Action Plan from October 2017, the Commission has committed to providing targeted funding of up to €118.5 million over the next year, stepping up the exchange of best practice, issuing guidance material to Member States, and fostering cooperation between local actors and the private sector.

TARGETED FUNDING

EU funding supports Member States in the protection of public spaces, be it in developing urban infrastructure to secure open public spaces, raising public awareness, or investing in security research.

- €18.5 million in a call currently under evaluation to support transnational projects improving the protection of public spaces
- €100 million in mid-2018 to support cities, particularly investing in security solutions
- €195 million in funding for 48 security research projects related to public space protection

DEVELOPING GUIDANCE MATERIAL

Over the next year, the Commission will issue new guidance material in collaboration with practitioners to help Member States address a wide set of issues related to the protection of public spaces, including:

- Guidance on enhancing the physical resistance of buildings
- Guidance on the security barriers in crowded places for cities and urban planners
- Guidance on 'security by design' for protective urban landscape design
- Guidance on the protection of sports and cultural events
- Guidance on the protection of landside areas at airports
- Guidance on the use of explosives detection dogs
- Guidance on information campaigns to raise public awareness
- An EU vulnerability assessment checklist

IMPROVING COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL ACTORS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

STAKEHOLDERS

Private operators are often owners of the infrastructure that needs protection. Whether it is a shopping mall, a football stadium or a cinema, the private sector is usually the main stakeholder. On 20 December 2017, the Commission organised the first meeting of the EU **Operator's Forum** bringing together public authorities and operators of different public spaces in order to open a channel of communication between them, share lessons learnt and best practices and exchange information. A dedicated **EU Policy Group** is further guiding work in this area, helping to better coordinate actions at the EU level.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Mayors of major cities have a crucial role to play in the protection of public spaces. The Commission will reinforce the involvement of these stakeholders and establish a dialogue to explore how communities can better enhance the protection of public spaces. The first dedicated meeting with mayors of cities and other regional and local authorities is taking place on 8 March.

ENHANCING TRANSPORT SECURITY

Transportation means are both targets of terrorist acts but also a means to conduct attacks (e.g. hijacked planes or truck-ramming). The EU constantly monitors whether security rules and their implementation on the ground set the right framework.

AVIATION SECURITY

A comprehensive risk assessment is being carried out looking at how we can enhance security systems for detection of prohibited items and suspect passengers coming to the EU from third countries.

RAIL TRANSPORT

There is currently no EU legislative framework to protect passenger rail transport against terrorism and serious crime. In 2017, the Commission developed an EU security risk assessment with the input of the Member States and the rail sector. We are now working on further measures to improve passenger railway security.

ROAD TRANSPORT

In January 2018, the Commission published a security guidance toolkit for the commercial road transport sector. It contains best practices aiming at improving truck security by mitigating the risk of unauthorised intrusion, including hijacking or theft.

NOTES