

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.

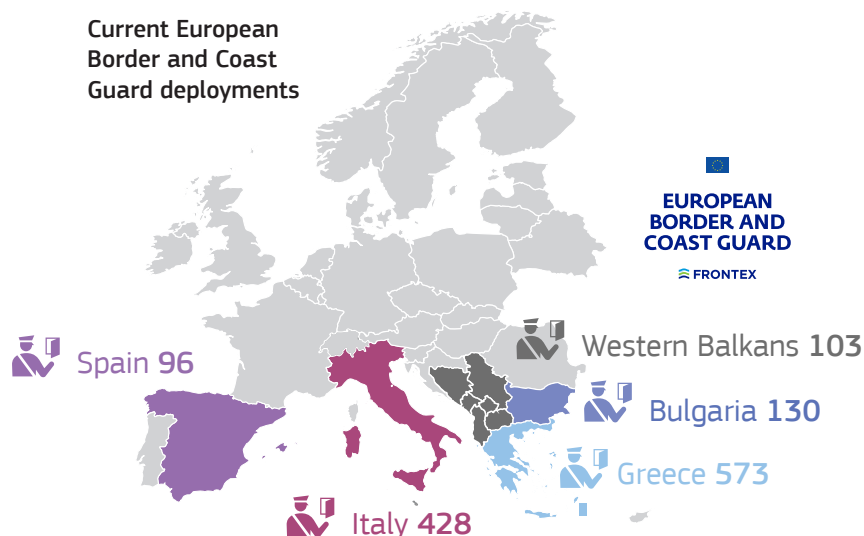
The Commission and the EEAS produce weekly **Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis (ISAA)** reports based on input from EU agencies, Member States and Schengen-associated countries to inform decision-making within the IPCR.

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.



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.