

# Migration Update

June 2022



Wilfried  
**Martens Centre**  
for European Studies

The purpose of these news summaries is to provide a factual base for migration debates within the European centre-right. [Vít Novotný](#) is responsible for the selection of information items from the media, governments and social media. The value of these summaries is in the categorisation of information items and in listing those items that readers might have missed. Facts and opinions are conveyed as they are reported. Original comments are kept to a minimum. Davide Marcantoni and Ailbhe McNamara prepared the Judicial Observatory.

These news summaries are not subject to a formal editorial process. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Vít Novotný at [vn@martenscentre.eu](mailto:vn@martenscentre.eu)

- According to a [Frontex count from 9 June](#), **5.5 million Ukrainian citizens** fled to the EU since the beginning of the war. The total number of displaced people to have entered the EU, including non-Ukrainians, is 7.3 million.
- According to [UNHCR data](#) from 28 June, **8 402 000 border crossings** from Ukraine have been recorded since 24 February. **3 097 000 border crossings** to Ukraine have been recorded.
- The number of Ukrainians returning to Ukraine [continues](#) to **exceed** the number of people leaving the country. Data from the Polish government have [indicated](#) this trend since the week starting 12 May. According to Frontex, in total, over **2.5 million Ukrainians have returned** [to their home country](#) since the war started.

## Contents

UKRAINE .....	2
Temporary protection registrations .....	2
ASYLUM .....	3
NEW PACT ON MIGRATION.....	3
EU-EGYPT .....	4
SPAIN-MOROCCO .....	5
FINLAND-RUSSIA .....	5
GREECE-TURKEY .....	6
UK-RWANDA-NIGERIA-GHANA .....	6
SCHENGEN.....	6
INTEGRATION.....	6
AMERICAS .....	6
GLOBAL.....	7
JUDICIAL OBSERVATORY .....	7
Strasbourg court injunction results in halting a UK flight to Rwanda.....	7
Belgium violated human rights convention by entering a migrant's home without consent and using handcuffs during her deportation arrest.....	7
SELECT EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS .....	8

## UKRAINE

[According to](#) Forbes.ua, every month Ukrainian migrants spend **\$2 billion abroad**.

[This article](#) provides a break-down of the numbers of Ukrainian refugees by **Polish city**. The rental market in most Polish cities is saturated — demand already exceeds supply and prices are on the rise.

On 9 June, the Council [adopted](#) conclusions on the EU strategy on **the rights of the child**, with a particular focus on the protection of children's rights in crisis or emergency situations.

The **Ukrainian cabinet** approved a resolution on 17 June to [bar Russian citizens](#) from entering Ukraine without a **visa** from 1 July. The move is symbolic given that the borders between Russian and Ukraine have remained shut since 24 February.

- Before Russia invaded Ukraine, Russians **didn't need visas** to enter the country. Many Russians have relatives across the border, while others travelled regularly to visit Ukraine's southern beaches and historic cities.

The **European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)** and the Czech Ministry of Interior [signed](#) an operating plan that will help Czechia register and provide protection to Ukrainians seeking safety.

### Temporary protection registrations

The European Commission set up an [EU platform for the exchange of information](#) on beneficiaries of temporary protection and adequate protection. 'The platform will allow EU member states to exchange information on registered persons in real time so that individuals fleeing Ukraine can effectively benefit from their rights in all member states, while addressing instances of double or multiple registrations and limiting possible abuse.'

- [At the time of writing, the registration data were not publicly available. Certain member states, including Poland, were in the process of uploading their national data. This process was lengthy due to domestic legislative issues and large numbers of refugees in some countries.]

**Eurostat** [started publishing](#) national data on registration under the temporary protection directive for Ukrainians.

- 'In **March 2022**, among the EU Member States for which data are available, Poland granted the highest number of temporary protection statuses to Ukrainians fleeing Ukraine (675 085)... Poland was followed by Czechia (244 650) and Slovakia (58 750).'
- 'Based on the data already available for **April 2022**, the number of Ukrainians receiving temporary protection increased in nine EU Member States, with the largest increases recorded in Bulgaria and Lithuania (+30 965 and +21 800 people, respectively, compared with March 2022).'
- 'In contrast, the numbers dropped in seven EU Member States, with the **largest decrease observed in Poland** (-249 465 people compared with March 2022), followed by Slovakia (-45 310) and Portugal (-15 635).'
- 'Compared with the population of each Member State, the **highest ratio** of Ukrainian citizens granted temporary protection **in March 2022** was recorded

in Czechia (22.9 granted temporary protection per thousand inhabitants), followed by Poland (17.8), Slovakia (10.8) and Estonia (10.5).’

- ‘Data collection is carried out on a voluntary basis, so the completeness of the data may vary.’
- ‘Data presented ...refer to the grants of temporary protection based on the Council Implementing Decision 2022/382 of 4 March 2022.’

The **UNHCR** carried [more complete and more up-to-date] [temporary protection figures](#). These figures included registrations under the European as well as national temporary protection schemes.

## ASYLUM

The EUAA [published](#) asylum statistics for 2021:

- Some 648 000 applications for international protection were lodged in the EU+ (27 EU Member States, plus Norway and Switzerland) in 2021, a third more than in 2020 and essentially returning to pre-pandemic levels.
- The share of male applicants increased to 70 %.
- About 89 000 or 14 % of all applications were repeated applications lodged in the same EU+ country, the most since 2008.
- Some 23 600 applications were lodged by unaccompanied minors, the most since 2017.
- Germany received the most asylum applications, followed by France, Spain and Italy. In Austria, the number of applications was more than twice as high as in 2020.
- Relative to population size, Cyprus received by far the most applications in 2021, followed by Austria and Malta.
- Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis lodged the most applications for international protection overall. From August 2021 onwards, Afghans were lodging the most applications.

## NEW PACT ON MIGRATION

On 10 June, Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson and French IM Gérald Darmanin [announced](#) progress on three elements of the New Pact on Migration. ‘A large majority’ of the member states agreed.

- Johansson also clarified that JHA Council there was no request for taking a unanimous decision on these three documents.

Subsequently on 22 June, COREPER [adopted](#) the relevant texts:

- Council negotiating mandate on the **Eurodac** regulation
- Council negotiating mandate on the **screening regulation**.

In addition, ‘**21 member states or associated states** confirmed the adoption of a **declaration on solidarity**, providing for a voluntary solidarity contribution mechanism, in the form of relocations or other types of contributions, particularly financial contributions.’

The [adopted](#) non-legislative declaration on a ‘voluntary solidarity mechanism’ was signed by:

- Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Spain, Finland, France, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein.
- EU members whose signatures are not under the declaration: AT, DK, EE, HU, LV, PO, SK, SL, SE.

The declaration, to be valid for one year, focuses on needs of Mediterranean countries. The elements of solidarity are optional and include:

- relocations
- financial contributions (direct financial transfers between members)
- projects in third countries with 'a direct impact on the flows at the external border'
- services, personnel, and facilities (incl. reception, border surveillance, control, detention and return).

As for relocations,

- 'each contributing Member State should present a relocation pledge on the basis of an indicative target number of relocations based on the population and the GDP, while maintaining the possibility of going beyond this share;
- in case of situation of disproportionate pressure on a Member State and its reception system due to secondary flows, taking into account the state of cooperation under the Dublin system, this Member State should be able to invoke it to temporarily reconsider its relocation commitment.'

Ahead of publication of the solidarity declaration, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Spain ['called... for an end to the EU's "voluntary" solidarity](#) on migrants and a better way to redistribute the burden of caring for them.....

Before the declaration was published, several countries including Croatia, France, Germany, Ireland, and Portugal [pledged to relocate around 7,000 people](#) from Cyprus, Greece and Italy.

## EU-EGYPT

The ninth meeting of the EU-Egypt Association Council [took place](#) on 19 June. Among pressing global matters such as food security, it discussed migration issues.

- The EU will continue to support the Egyptian government's efforts to strengthen its migration and asylum governance framework and mobilise financing under the relevant instruments in a timely manner.
- The EU will continue to support Egypt's efforts to prevent and combat irregular migration... as well as to combat trafficking and smuggling of human beings.
- The EU will seek to enhance its cooperation with Egypt on voluntary resettlement.
- The EU and Egypt will foster and facilitate cooperation on identification, return, including on assisted voluntary return, readmission and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants to their country of origin.
- [The EU will focus on] developing socio-economic opportunities, especially improved perspectives for young people.

- The European Council Conclusions of October 2021 reiterated [the EU] expectation that the **financing for Syrian refugees** and host communities, inter alia in Egypt under relevant instruments will be mobilised in a timely manner.
- In line with Egypt's request, the EU will step up its engagement and financial assistance in the field of **border management**.
- The EU and Egypt will continue to strengthen cooperation also on other aspects of migration and mobility, including legal migration, in line with EU and national competences.

In addition, and due to an increase in irregular border crossings, 'Egypt's coastguard is [set to receive €80 million](#) from the EU to prevent boats carrying asylum seekers from leaving its shores for Europe.'

## SPAIN-MOROCCO

Approximately [30 people died](#) in a stampede at the Morocco-Spain border in Melilla. These deaths resulted from an incident on 24 June where some 2,000 people, [many from Sudan](#), attempted to penetrate into the enclave.

- Dozens of Moroccan and Spanish police officers were [also injured](#) during the storming of the border, where **migrants were armed with homemade knives**, as well as sticks, stones, and hooks to climb the border fence, according to Spanish news agency EFE. Moroccan police used tear gas and Spanish agents fired rubber bullets to disperse those trying to climb the border fence, according to images and reports.
- Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez condemned the attempted mass crossing as a "violent assault" and an "attack on the territorial integrity" of Spain. He also [applauded](#) Spanish and Moroccan collaboration on the border.
- European Council President Charles Michel expressed his support for the Spanish authorities.
- The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat [called](#) for an immediate investigation into the matter.

## FINLAND-RUSSIA

Finland's government [plans](#) to amend border legislation to **allow the building of barriers** on its eastern frontier with Russia.

- The Finnish government has rushed to strengthen border security as it fears Russia could attempt to put pressure on Finland by sending asylum seekers to its borders.
- The government's amendments to the law include a proposal to enable concentrating the reception of asylum applications only at specific points of entry.
- "Later on, the government will decide on border barriers to the critical zones on the eastern border, on the basis of the Finnish Border Guard's assessment," minister of internal affairs Krista Mikkonen [Greens] said in a statement.
- [At present](#), the border between Finland and Russia **is separated only by a [low] barbed wire fence**. "The existing [fence](#) does not play any role in preventing crossing the border. Its main purpose is to prevent pets from

escaping across the border,” said Jukka, deputy commander of the Southeast Finnish Border Guard.

## GREECE-TURKEY

Allegations [emerged](#) of the Greek police using foreigners as “slaves” to forcibly return asylum seekers to Turkey.

## UK-RWANDA-NIGERIA-GHANA

- The inaugural flight of a UK government scheme to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda [was stopped](#) on 14 June, after an intervention by the European Court of Human Rights (see also below under the Judicial Observatory).
- On 30 June, a flight chartered by the UK government, carrying at least 21 people **from Nigeria and Ghana**, [landed](#) in Lagos, Nigeria. The UK has at the same time announced a "major new agreement" with Nigeria to collaborate on migration issues, following similar arrangements with Ghana and Rwanda.

## SCHENGEN

Austria [stated](#) it would continue passport controls on the **Slovenian border**. The country has maintained these internal border checks since 2015.

## INTEGRATION

The European Commission [published](#) the results of a Special Eurobarometer survey. The survey examined **public opinion on the integration of [non-EU] immigrants** in the European Union. From the findings:

- 68% respondents overestimate the real share of immigrants in the population.
- Half of respondents (50%) consider that the integration of most immigrants is successful in the area in which they live, but a similar proportion (47%) believe that integration is unsuccessful at the national level.
- 85% respondents feel that immigrants should be able to speak at least one of the official languages of the EU, in order to be able to better integrate.

Complete datasets are [here](#).

## AMERICAS

On 10 June, most countries in the Americas signed the [Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection](#). ‘We embrace the need to promote the political, economic, security, social, and environmental conditions for people to lead peaceful, productive, and dignified lives in their countries of origin. Migration should be a voluntary, informed choice and not a necessity.’ The Declaration has the following sections:

- promoting stability and assistance for communities of destination, origin, transit, and return
- **promoting regular pathways for migration and international protection**
- **promoting humane migration management**
- **promoting a coordinated emergency response**
- **a shared approach to reduce and manage irregular migration.**

The Declaration is accompanied by a [list of deliverables](#).

## GLOBAL

According to an [UNHCR Global Trends](#) report, at the end of 2021, 89.3 million individuals worldwide were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. This was the highest number in 30 years.

## JUDICIAL OBSERVATORY

### **Strasbourg court injunction results in halting a UK flight to Rwanda**

In April, the UK and Rwanda signed an [agreement](#) in which Kigali would be a strategic partner in addressing irregular migration to the UK. Migrants who arrived in the UK in an irregular fashion would be extradited to the African country and, there, the local authorities would process their asylum claims.

Despite civil mobilisation in Britain, the UK Court of Appeal [considered](#) extradition to Rwanda admissible as it guaranteed that anyone scheduled to fly to Rwanda had the possibility to be defended by a lawyer. The British government rejected the UNHCR [claim](#) that Rwanda was not a safe destination. The first flight to Rwanda was due to leave the UK on 15 June. Initially, the flight was supposed to have about [130 passengers](#), but the vast majority of them successfully appealed to the British courts against the decision to deport them.

On 14 June, the European Court of Human Rights intervened with an urgent interim measure in the case [K.N. v. United Kingdom](#), indicating to the UK that the applicant should not be removed to Rwanda until three weeks after the delivery of the final domestic decision in his ongoing judicial review proceedings.

On 16 June, the British government criticised the ECtHR decision, claiming that the Court had intruded too far into a sovereign UK matter and that the flights would proceed despite strong international and domestic opposition. Justice Secretary Dominic Raab [suggested](#) that a new bill could end the need for the UK government to be obliged to comply with last-minute injunctions by the Strasbourg court.

### **Belgium violated human rights convention by entering a migrant's home without consent and using handcuffs during her deportation arrest**

On 8 March 2022, the ECtHR [ruled](#) that Belgium violated Article 8 of the ECHR when police entered a woman's home without consent and handcuffed her after she had ignored multiple expulsion orders. Aferdita Sabani, a Serbian national living in Brussels, brought her Respect for Home case to the Brussels Court of Appeal and to the Court of Cassation but both appeals were rejected, and Sabani was repatriated on 30 June 2015. On her third attempt, she brought her case to the European Court of Human Rights where she outlined that Belgian law forbids the police to enter people's homes without their consent, which the police report of her arrest gave no record of.

The Belgian Government attempted to refute her claim by stating that the arrest occurred in front of her home, rather than inside and that she had not complied with the expulsion order, which permitted Belgian police to arrest her. However, interference in Sabani's private domicile was established by the ECtHR, as police records showed Sabani had received no notice of the police visit and could therefore not have freely consented to it. It was shown that the police had no authority to



conduct a search of Sabani's domicile as the inviolability of the home is enshrined in Article 15 of the Belgian Constitution. The violation of Article 8 was determined because the Government had not established the need to handcuff Sabani during her arrest. In this case, the police had neither consent from Sabani nor legal authority to proceed with the search.

### **SELECT EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS**

P. Scholten (ed.) [\*Introduction to Migration Studies: An Interactive Guide to the Literatures on Migration and Diversity\*](#), Springer, 2022

European Court of Auditors, [\*Free Movement in the EU During the Covid-19 Pandemic\*](#), 13 June 2022