Migration Update

July 2022

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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.

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

- Since the beginning of the war, a total of over **2.2 million children** have left Ukraine.
  - This included 324 thousand that by the beginning of July had been deported to Russia.
- Over 2.5 million people have been deported or evacuated from Ukraine to Russia since the start of the invasion.
- The total value of assistance for refugees by the Polish authorities and private citizens during the first three months of the war amounted to almost **1% of the country's GDP**.

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UKRAINE

As of 22 July, the UNHCR reported:

- 5,988,696 individual refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe
- 3,709,329 refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe
- 9,567,033 border crossings from Ukraine
- 3,793,403 border crossings to Ukraine.

The majority of refugees from Ukraine hope to return home as soon as possible but around two-thirds expect to stay in their current host countries until hostilities subside and the security situation improves, according to a **survey published by UNHCR**. The report, *Lives on Hold: Profiles and Intentions of Refugees from Ukraine,* shows refugees consistently expressing concerns about their futures due to the ongoing war, which is preventing them from making secure, long-term plans.

On 14 July, the European Commission issued a *Guidance on the provision of* **accommodation** *to those fleeing Ukraine*.

Moldova

Commissioner Johansson and Czech interior minister Rakušan announced the creation of an **EU support hub for internal security and border management in Moldova**. The commissioner said that the hub would "enhance our joint operational action with Moldova to address the challenges posed by organised crime, including the trafficking of firearms or trafficking in human beings." It will reportedly include Europol for the sharing of information and analysis, Frontex for the fight against arms trafficking, and the EU mission for border assistance EUBAM for the fight against human trafficking.

Reverse migration of male Ukrainian workers

Construction sites, factory assembly lines and warehouses across central Europe are scrambling to fill vacancies after tens of thousands of Ukrainian men left their blue-collar jobs to return home after Russia invaded their country. Before the Russian invasion, Ukrainians were the largest group of foreign workers in central Europe. Poland and Czechia hosted Ukrainian workforces of around 600,000 and more than 200,000, respectively.

Deportations to Russia

This AP article provides a detailed picture of forced deportations from Ukraine to Russia.

- 'Those who "pass" filtrations are invited to live in Russia, and often promised a payment of about 10,000 rubles ($170) that they may or may not get. Sometimes their Ukrainian passports are taken away, and the chance of Russian citizenship is offered instead. And sometimes, they are pressured to sign documents denouncing the Ukrainian government and military.'
- "They psychologically influence people….Many of the detainees who are released are simply afraid to return to Ukraine".
- Some Russian volunteers help Ukrainians leave for Estonia or Finland.

Polish intelligence services [located and disclosed](#) the coordinates for at least **5 Russian filtration camps** for illegally detained Ukrainians.

NEW PACT ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson [announced](#) that 13 EU countries are ready for the relocation of migrants, with over **8,000 relocations already agreed upon** and others ready to provide financial aid.

- [Johansson did not the list the countries concerned.]

ASYLUM

In Germany, there [are](#) currently **48,756 refugees who have previously been granted asylum in Greece**. The figure was 17,000 a year earlier.

- Germany cannot send these refugees (mostly Afghans, Iraqis and Syrians) back to Greece because several German administrative courts have prohibited 'Dublin returns' to Greece due to the conditions for asylum seekers in the country.
- German border police officers have knowledge of an "illegal infrastructure" that promotes this onward journey of recognised asylum seekers from Greece to Germany and other EU states.
- People who have applied for asylum in one EU country are technically not allowed to apply for asylum in another EU country. They are, however, free to travel in the EU for 90 days.

Refugee facilities on Greek islands [are emptying.](#) 'Two years ago, tens of thousands of people were living in tents, huts and containers on a hill in Lesbos, but now there are just 2,000, spread across all the Greek islands in the East Aegean.'

BULGARIA-TURKEY

Visegrad Insight [reported](#) that **Kiril Petkov's government collapsed** when it delved into the issue of a shady business operating on the border with Turkey for over a decade.

- 'This government did not fall in parliament. It fell on the Kapitan Andreevo border crossing,' said the leader of the largest parliamentary group in the Bulgarian parliament, after the no-confidence vote, which brought down the cabinet of Petkov.
- The political troubles of Petkov's cabinet […] coincided […] with the largest anti-corruption battle for the return of statehood this government managed to start — taking back control of the Turkish border. For the better part of the last decade a nexus between shady private interests and corrupt state officials have created a 'don't ask, don't tell' zone, through which each year passes millions of euros and a multitude of goods.
- The government did managed to bring in an **EU mission to audit the border**.

GREECE-TURKEY

Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson [asked](#) Greece 'to stop "violent" deportations of migrants or risk losing funds.'

- "Protecting EU external borders from illegal entry is an obligation. Violent and illegal deportations of migrants must stop, now."
- In an address to the European Parliament, Greek Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi said the EU also needed to do more to ensure boats were not crossing over from Turkey. "Greece would expect an even more active role of EU institutions in calling Turkey to abide by its commitments… According to a considerable number of testimonies from asylum seekers, Turkish authorities are actively encouraging illegal departures."

LITHUANIA-POLAND-BELARUS

Frontex has [ended](#) its border surveillance operations in Lithuania. Acting executive director Aija Kalnāja said the agency would retain an operational footprint in Lithuania, noting agents will still be working border checks.

- There had been 18 Frontex officers working at Lithuania's external borders, performing first and second line border check activities and cross-border crime detection.

Poland has [completed building a new steel wall](#) at its border with Belarus to curb the flow of undocumented asylum seekers. The wall is 5.5 metres high along 186 km of the frontier with Belarus.

- Polish authorities also **lifted a state of emergency** along the border.

ITALY-LIBYA

- At the end of June, 95 asylum seekers and refugees [were evacuated](#) from Libya to safety in Italy.
- Frontex [reported](#) that on 23 June, its airplane operating for Joint Operation Themis **assisted the Italian authorities in detecting** a vessel in distress with 501 people on board, coming from the Tobruk area. The agency provided information to the Italian authorities who launched a search and rescue operation and disembarked the passengers in Pozzallo, Reggio Calabria and Catania.

SPAIN-MOROCCO

In a speech, Commissioner Ylva Johansson [condemned](#) the loss of life at the Spain-Morocco border:

- On 24 June, up to 2500 people tried to force their way into Spain. 23 migrants were confirmed dead and many, including police officers, were injured.
- Johansson called for investigations.

On 8 July, [Morocco and the EU](#) 'highlighted the solid results of their cooperation based on shared responsibility in matters of migration, and **agreed to renew their partnership** in order to work together to tackle human smuggling networks, in particular following the emergence of new, extremely violent, methods adopted by such criminal networks.'

- The new operational anti-smuggling partnership between the Commission and Morocco to tackle human trafficking will cover support for border management and enhanced police cooperation.

EU-NIGER

The European Union Capacity Building Mission in Niger and Frontex, in the presence of Hamadou Adamou Souley, Niger's Minister of the Interior and Decentralisation, [signed](#) a working agreement.

- Combatting [illegal trafficking](#) is among the objectives of the agreement.
- This is the first agreement of its kind signed by Frontex with a civilian EU mission. The agreement will support the Nigerien authorities in **integrated border management and provide assistance** for the further development of risk assessment and management capacities. This agreement will facilitate and strengthen efforts to exchange information, provide targeted training activities, share best practices and advise the Nigerien authorities.

FRANCE-UK

- **Extensive queues of UK holidaymakers** heading to France were [reported](#) in Dover. French officials and border staff warned that the delays were a result of post-Brexit border arrangements struggling to cope in their first major test since Britain left the EU. New rules require all passports to be checked. "The shortage of French border force officials is a short-term, tactical problem…The long-term, serious issue is that this is the first time we've seen the full pressure on the border after Brexit. Even if it was a full complement of the French border force there would still be massive delays, because Dover port can't cope with the volume."

JUDICIAL OBSERVATORY

European Court of Justice denies Lithuania the possibility to detain asylum seekers solely on the grounds of illegal entry

On 30 June 2022, in judgment C-72/22, the European Court of Justice [ruled](#) that EU law precedes Lithuanian legislation under which, in the event of a mass influx of foreigners, an asylum seeker may be detained solely on the grounds of illegal entry. The onus is in principle on the member state, where the illegally staying asylum seeker applies for international protection, to demonstrate that due to specific circumstances, the asylum seeker constitutes a threat to national security or public order.

On 2 July 2021, Lithuania declared an emergency situation throughout its territory. This declaration was followed on 10 November 2021 by a proclamation of state urgency on the [eastern] side of the country. This was due to a massive influx of migrants mostly from Belarus. Lithuanian legislation provided that, in the event of an emergency, a foreigner who has entered the country in an irregular manner cannot apply for international protection and may be detained solely on the basis of his or her irregular entry. The ECJ [condemned Lithuania](#) for its decision to detain the asylum seeker known as MA after he crossed the Lithuanian border…. "A threat to national security or public order can be used as a justification for detention only if a person's behaviour causes a real, present, and sufficiently large threat to the fundamental public interest or to the internal or external security of the member state concerned."

European Court of Human Rights rules that Greece violated the Convention when it pushed back a fishing boat towards Turkish waters

On 7 July, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in the case of Safi and Others v. Greece (application no. 5418/15). The case concerned the sinking on 20 January 2014 of a fishing boat transporting 27 foreign nationals in the Aegean Sea, off the island of Farmakonisi, resulting in the death of 11 people, including relatives of the applicants. The Court held that that there had been:

- a violation of Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention on Human Rights; that the national authorities had not carried out a thorough and effective investigation capable of shedding light on the circumstances in which the boat had sunk and that the Greek authorities had not done all that could reasonably be expected of them to provide the applicants and their relatives with the level of protection required by Article 2 of the Convention.
- a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment), concerning 12 of the applicants who had been on board the boat and who, after it had sunk, had been subjected to degrading treatment on account of the body searches they had undergone on arriving in Farmakonisi.

The application was lodged by a group of 16 applicants, made up of 13 Afghan nationals, two Syrian nationals and a Palestinian national. According to the applicants, the coastguard vessel was travelling at very high speed in order to push the refugees back towards Turkish waters, and this caused the fishing boat to capsize. According to the national authorities, the boat was being towed towards Farmakonisi in order to rescue the refugees, and it capsized because of panic and sudden movements among those on board.

SELECT EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

P. Coy, 'Why So Many Children of Immigrants Rise to the Top', *New York Times*, July 2022

J. Bornemann, 'The Selective Nature of a pan-European Willkommenskultur', *Verfassungsblog*, 12 July 2022

S. Peers, 'Giving Back Control: British Travel to the EU after Brexit', *EU Law Analysis*, 24 July 2022

J. Bast et al., *Human Rights Challenges to European Migration Policy*, 2nd edition, REMAP Study, Schriften zum Migrationsrecht 36 (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2022)