

THEMATIC DIGEST

Supporting analyses for committees



POLICY DEPARTMENTS

A Fair Share in Europe - Creating a European Asylum System

Media seminar, 6-7 June 2017

Purpose

The media seminar organised by the European Parliament's press service on the European Common Asylum System aims to generate a debate between experts, leading MEPs and key media actors on the changes required to the Dublin Regulation on sharing the responsibility for asylum seekers amongst the Member States.

Parliament is currently working on reforming the existing EU asylum system, and specifically the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person. The seminar will go over the need and goals of such a reform, and look into real life experiences of migration and integration.

Inside

This publication provides extracts from supporting analyses provided by Parliament's Policy Departments for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, on Budgets, on Budgetary Control, and the Subcommittee on Human Rights. Scan the QR codes or click on the titles for access.



Publications

[Fact Sheets compilation on asylum policy, immigration policy, and external border management](#) - June 2017

The aim of EU asylum policy is to harmonise asylum procedures in the Member States by establishing common asylum arrangements, with a view to offering appropriate status to any third-country national requiring international protection and ensuring compliance with the principle of non-refoulement. The Fact Sheet on asylum policy gives an overview of its legal basis and objectives, and of the achievements made. It also lists the main existing legal instruments in this field, including the European Agenda on Migration of May 2015. The role of the European Parliament, as co-legislator with the Council of the EU in asylum-related legislation since 2005, is also looked into. This compilation further includes Fact Sheets on: the EU immigration policy - which intends to establish a balanced approach to dealing with both regular and irregular immigration; and on border management policy - which has witnessed considerable developments over the past decade, including the Schengen Information System, the Visa Information System and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.





[Provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and of Greece](#) - March 2017

This study examines the EU's mechanism of relocation of asylum seekers from Greece and Italy to other Member States. It examines the scheme in the context of the Dublin System, the hotspot approach, and the EU-Turkey Statement, recommending that asylum seekers' interests, and rights be duly taken into account, as it is only through their full engagement that relocation will be successful. Relocation requires greater cooperation from receiving States, and a clearer role for a single EU legal and institutional framework to organise preference matching and rationalise efforts and resources.



[Reception of female refugees and asylum seekers in the EU - case studies: Belgium, Germany](#) - August 2016

This study provides an overview of the implementation of the Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU) laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection in the EU and obliging Member States to take into account the needs of vulnerable persons, including (unaccompanied) minors, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking and of violence. It outlines the legal framework and examines how gender related aspects and the reception needs of vulnerable groups are considered in practice in Munich and Brussels.



[The reform of the Dublin III Regulation](#) - June 2016

This study examines the performance of Dublin and of relocation schemes and argues that the Commission's Dublin IV proposal is unlikely to achieve its objectives. It advocates re-centring EU responsibility allocation schemes on one key objective – quick access to asylum procedures. This requires taking protection seekers' preferences seriously and de-bureaucratising the process, in addition to stepping up the enforcement of refugee rights, moving solidarity schemes from a logic of capacity-building to one of compensation, and granting protected persons real mobility rights.



[The implementation of the Common European Asylum System](#) - May 2016

This study provides an overview of the current implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) from both a legal and practical perspective. Against the background of large inflows of seekers of international protection, the study covers the CEAS instruments as well as the EU policy responses brought forward in 2015 until May 2016. It discusses in detail the impact of the refugee crisis on the functioning of the CEAS, dividing the latter into three subtopics: determination of the responsibility for asylum claims; determination of asylum claim; and reception of asylum seekers.



[On the frontline: the hotspot approach to managing migration](#) - May 2016

As part of the immediate response to assist frontline Member States facing disproportionate migratory pressure, the Commission outlined a new hotspot approach to migration in its European Agenda on Migration. Hotspots are designed to inject greater order into migration management by ensuring that all those arriving are identified, registered and properly processed. This study places the hotspot approach to managing migration within its policy framework. It examines the way in which EU agencies provide support to frontline Member States and assesses the chief challenges identified.





[Female refugees and asylum seekers: the issue of integration](#) - February 2016

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[EU cooperation with third countries in the field of migration](#) - October 2015

EU external cooperation in migration and asylum has increased considerably in terms of instruments of cooperation with third partner countries and of funds committed. This study reflects on the imbalances of EU external action and on the lack of evidence regarding the impact of EU funding on the objectives of migration policy. It makes recommendations for rationalization and coordination of action, more balance between the different components of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), and a reinforced partnership approach with third countries, amongst others.



[Enhancing the Common European Asylum System and alternatives to Dublin](#) - July 2015

The EU is faced with two substantial challenges related to the migration crisis: preventing unsafe journeys and risks to the lives of people seeking international protection; and organising the distribution of related responsibilities among the Member States. This study examines the reasons why the Dublin system of allocation of responsibility does not work effectively from the viewpoint of Member States or asylum-seekers. As long as it is based on the use of coercion against asylum seekers, it cannot serve as an effective tool to address existing imbalances between Member States.



[The principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between Member States](#) - April 2011

This study assesses the scope and implications of Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), on the principle of solidarity in the field of Border Checks, Asylum and Immigration. It analyses primary and secondary sources of European law in order to identify the implications of Article 80 TFEU in terms of obligations and jurisdiction. It also discusses the results of a questionnaire that was administered to senior public officials in the EU to collect their views on the scope and possible mode of implementation of this Article. The study's conclusions outline some practical solutions for the implementation of new solidarity mechanisms in this field.



[Overview on the use of EU Funds for Migration Policies](#) - August 2016

The EU is dealing with an unprecedented increase in migration: a huge influx of asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia are fleeing to Europe in search of safety and a better life. Migrants from countries that are normally considered as safe third countries are also supplementing these arrivals. The aim of this document is to give an overview of the use of EU funds on migration policies during the first two years (2014-2015) of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and present a preliminary budgetary outlook for 2016-2017 and the remaining MFF period.



[EU funds for migration policies: analysis of efficiency and best practice for the future](#) - July 2015

This study provides an overview of EU funding and agencies in the field of migration, asylum and integration. It begins with a brief assessment of their effectiveness and efficiency. At fund level, it asks whether the design of management, budgeting and control systems is effective in preventing the misuse of resources. At agency level, the research analyses added value and their potential to facilitate better coordination and collaboration among Member States. The study also gives recommendations on achieving greater transparency in implementing future funding programmes.



[Study on EU financing for NGOs in the area of home affairs, security and migration](#) - January 2014

This study analyses EU financing for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the area of home affairs, security and migration. Amongst other things, it describes the general principles of EU financing for NGOs, quantifies and qualifies EU financing for NGOs (under central direct management) in the area of home affairs, security and migration; assesses the administrative burden faced by NGOs applying for and receiving EU grants; and examines the state-of-play of measures undertaken by the Commission to ensure the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of EU financing for NGOs.



[Migrants in the Mediterranean: protecting human rights](#) - October 2015

This study focuses on the existing and planned EU policies and actions to protect the human rights of migrants before entering the EU or after they have left its territory. It cannot be denied that instruments of sea borders surveillance and instruments of cooperation with third countries now generally include human rights safeguards. However, implementation, monitoring and control remain problematic. The study therefore provides specific recommendations to ensure a coherent human rights-based approach to improve the protection of the rights of migrants aiming to reach the EU.



Policy Departments

There are five policy departments within the European Parliament's DGs for Internal Policies and for External Policies. They are responsible for providing both in-house and external high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General).

Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of the committees, which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies. Policy departments deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, ranging from studies and in-depth analyses to briefings and the Fact Sheets on the EU. This written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of members.

Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, which enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues.

www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses

Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets give an overview of European integration and of Parliament's contribution to the process.

They cover six main themes:

- the EU's functioning;
- a citizens' Europe;
- the internal market;
- economic and monetary union;
- sectoral policies; and
- external relations.

The Fact Sheets are available in 23 languages and are updated regularly.

www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

