

# Article

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## EU asylum rules: reform of the Dublin system

The influx of migrants and asylum seekers to Europe in recent years has shown the need for a fairer, more effective European asylum policy. Check out our infographic for more.

# REFORM OF THE EU ASYLUM SYSTEM

Parliament is fighting for a well functioning system based on **solidarity**

**ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBER STATES**

All member states should **share responsibility** for asylum seekers.

"Frontline" countries that fail to register applicants would see relocations from their territory stop.

Member states refusing to accept the relocation of applicants to their country could face limitations on their access to EU funds.

**ADJUSTMENT TO THE NEW SYSTEM**

Member states will have a **three-year transition period**.

During this period, they will automatically see the share of applicants they are required to accept move towards a **fair share** determined on the basis of GDP and population size.

The **EU Agency for Asylum** will support and monitor member states.

**SECURITY CHECK UPON ARRIVAL**

As soon as asylum seekers arrive in the EU they must be **fingerprinted** and their **identity and documents** checked against EU databases.

**SPECIAL FOCUS ON CHILDREN**

Minors should always be interviewed in a **child-friendly manner** by specially trained staff. **Unaccompanied minors** must have a guardian appointed. The guardian must be present during the interview and also when fingerprints are taken.

**LINKS TO A PARTICULAR COUNTRY**

A check ascertains if asylum seekers have **family members, prior residency** or undertaken studies in a particular EU country.

**IF THERE IS A LINK**

**THEY ARE TRANSFERRED TO THIS COUNTRY.**

**IF THERE IS NO LINK**

**A PERMANENT AND AUTOMATIC RELOCATION MECHANISM**

Asylum seekers that do not have a **genuine link** with a particular member state will automatically be assigned to an EU country that will take responsibility for them.

**FASTER FAMILY REUNIFICATION**

Asylum seekers should immediately be transferred to the country in which they claim to have **family**.

**INCENTIVES TO STAY WITHIN THE SYSTEM**

If asylum seekers attempt to avoid registration or **wrongly claim a link** to a particular member state, they would be allocated to an EU country at random.

Source: European Parliament europarl.eu

Check out the facts in our infographic

Although the [record migratory flows to the EU](#) witnessed in 2015 and 2016 have subsided, Europe - due to its geographic position and stability - is likely to remain a destination for asylum seekers and migrants amid international and internal conflicts, climate change and poverty.

There is need for an overhaul of EU asylum rules, and of the Dublin system in particular, in order to increase the EU's preparedness for receiving migrants and asylum seekers and to ensure greater solidarity and a fairer sharing of responsibility among EU countries.



Young Rohingya refugees look out over Palong Khali refugee camp, near the Myanmar border in south-east Bangladesh.©

UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

## What are the Dublin rules?

The cornerstone of the EU asylum system, the Dublin regulation determines which EU country is responsible for processing applications for international protection. On 6 November 2017, the European Parliament confirmed a [mandate](#) for inter-institutional negotiations with EU governments on an overhaul of the Dublin rules. Parliament's suggestions for a new Dublin regulation include:

- The country in which an asylum seeker first arrives would no longer be automatically responsible for processing the asylum application.
- Asylum seekers with a "genuine link" to a particular EU country should be transferred there.
- Those without a genuine link to an EU country should be shared fairly among all member states. Countries refusing to participate in the transfer of asylum seekers could lose EU funds.
- Security measures should be stepped up, and all asylum seekers must be registered upon arrival with their fingerprints checked against relevant EU databases.

- Provisions on minors should be strengthened and family reunification procedures accelerated.

Although the Parliament has been ready since November 2017 to enter negotiations on an overhaul of the Dublin system, EU governments have been unable to reach a position on the proposals.

Learn more about Parliament's suggested amendments in the infographic above and in this [background note](#).

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## 13.6 million

The number of new people forced to flee their home in 2018

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