MEPs approve the new Migration and Asylum Pact

- Asylum claims to be examined more quickly, including at the EU’s borders, and more effective returns
- Improved identification at arrival; mandatory security, vulnerability and health checks for people entering the EU irregularly
- Member states can choose between taking responsibility for asylum applicants, making financial contributions, or providing operational support
- Better response during crisis situations and new voluntary scheme for the resettlement of refugees from third countries
The European Parliament today adopted ten legislative texts to reform European migration and asylum policy as agreed with EU member states.

Solidarity and responsibility

In order to assist EU countries subject to migratory pressure, other member states will contribute by relocating asylum applicants or beneficiaries of international protection to their territory, making financial contributions, or providing operational and technical support. The criteria according to which a member state is responsible for examining international protection applications (the so called Dublin rules) will also be updated.

The regulation on asylum and migration management, by rapporteur Tomas TOBÉ (SE, EPP), was backed by 322 votes in favour 266 against and 31 abstentions. Read more about it.

Addressing situations of crisis

The crisis and force majeure regulation establishes a mechanism to respond to sudden increases in arrivals, ensuring solidarity and support for member states facing an exceptional influx of third-country nationals. The new rules will also cover the instrumentalisation of migrants, i.e. when they are used by third-countries or hostile non-state actors aiming to destabilise the EU.
The bill, by rapporteur Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR (ES, S&D), was confirmed with 301 votes in favour, 272 against and 46 abstentions. Find more information on the crisis situations regulation.

Screening of third-country nationals at EU borders

People who do not meet the conditions to enter the EU will be subject to a pre-entry screening procedure, including identification, collecting of biometric data, and health and security checks, during a period of up to seven days. Member states will have to set independent monitoring mechanisms to ensure the respect for fundamental rights.

The text, by rapporteur Birgit SIPPEL (DE, S&D), was endorsed by 366 votes to, 229 and 26 abstentions. MEPs also approved new rules for the centralised system on conviction information (ECRIS-TCN), with 414 votes to 182 against and 29 abstentions. Read more about the new screening regulation.

Faster asylum procedures

A new common procedure will be established across the EU to grant and withdraw international protection. Processing asylum claims at EU borders will in future have to be faster, with shorter deadlines for unfounded or inadmissible claims.

The bill, by rapporteur Fabienne KELLER (France, Renew), was adopted by 301 votes to 269 and 51 abstentions. For the Border return procedure the result was 329 votes to 253 and 40 abstentions. Read more about the asylum procedure regulation.

Eurodac regulation

The data of those arriving irregularly to the EU, including fingerprints and facial images from six years old onwards, will be stored in the reformed Eurodac database. Authorities will also be able to record if someone may present a security threat or was violent or armed.

The text, by rapporteur Jorge BUXADÉ VILLALBA (ES, ECR), was adopted with 404 votes to 202 and 16 abstentions. More details about the new Eurodac rules are available here.

Qualifications standards

Parliament also backed new uniform standards for all member states for the recognition of refugee or subsidiary protection status, and regarding the rights granted to those qualifying for protection. Member states should assess the situation in the country of origin based on information from the EU Asylum Agency and refugee status would be reviewed regularly. Applicants for protection will have to remain on the territory of the member state responsible for their application or in which the protection was granted.

Steered by rapporteur Matjaž NEMEC (SI, S&D), the text was endorsed with 340 votes to 249 and 34 abstentions. Read more about the qualifications regulation.
Receiving asylum applicants

Member states will have to ensure equivalent reception standards for asylum seekers when it comes to, for example, housing, schooling and health care. Registered asylum applicants will be able to start working at the latest six months after filing the request. The conditions of detention and the restriction of freedom of movement will be regulated, to discourage applicants from moving around the EU.

The act, by rapporteur Sophia IN ’T VELD (NL, Renew), was approved by 398 votes to 162 and 60 abstentions. Read more about the reception conditions directive.

Safe and legal way to Europe

Under a new framework on resettlement and humanitarian admission, member states will, on a voluntary basis, offer to host UNHCR-recognised refugees from third countries, who would travel to EU territory in a legal, organised and safe way. The bill, by rapporteur Malin BJÖRK (SE, The Left), was adopted with 452 votes in favour, 154 against and 14 abstentions. Read more about the EU resettlement framework.

Next steps

Once the package is formally approved by the Council, the laws will enter into force after their publication in the Official Journal. The regulations are expected to start applying in two years time. For the reception conditions directive, member states will have two years to introduce the changes to their national laws.

In adopting this report, Parliament is responding to citizens’ expectations to strengthen the EU’s role in tackling all forms of irregular migration and strengthen the protection of the European Union’s external borders, while respecting human rights, to apply common rules uniformly in all member states on the first reception of migrants, to strengthen the EU’s role and reform the European asylum system based on the principles of solidarity and fair share of responsibility, as expressed in proposals 42(2), 43(1), 43(2), 44(1), 44(2), 44(3), 44(4) of the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe.
Further information

The adopted texts will be available here (10.4.2024)
Video recording of the plenary debate (10.4.2024)
Text of the provisional agreement on Asylum and migration management
Text of the provisional agreement on Crisis and force majeure
Text of the provisional agreement on Screening regulation
Text of the provisional agreement on Screening TCN-Ecris regulation
Text of the provisional agreement on Asylum procedures regulation
Text of the return border procedure
Text of the provisional agreement on Eurodac
Text of the provisional agreement on Qualification standards
Text of the provisional agreement on EU Resettlement framework
Text of the provisional agreement on Reception conditions

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