

INFO FLASH 20/04

EU INSTITUTIONS

Commission

(18/04) Commission EPALE is hosting written online discussion on migrants' education. The Commission Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe has planned a [3-day discussion](#) in the framework of the Migrant Education Week (25-29/04). Participants will be able to submit written contributions on good practices in the field of education of migrants, sharing the challenges they face and identifying possible solutions. Registration to EPALE [here](#).

EPALE is a multilingual open membership community for teachers, trainers, researchers, academics, policy makers and anyone else with a professional role in adult learning across Europe

(15/04) Frans Timmermans: EU must step up efforts against hate speech. Speaking at a [conference on anti-Semitism](#), Commission First Vice-President Timmermans has called for "better enforcement" of legislation designed to combat hate speech. "The legislation is there. It is EU-wide, it is clear. It makes serious manifestations of racism and xenophobia punishable by means of criminal law" said the Dutch official. However, as he pointed out "[EU legislation] is not enforced everywhere, for everyone. It should be applied more widely in our Member states". He made clear this was one reason why the Commission is "pushing and we will keep pushing - using all our powers - to make sure that these rules are correctly translated into national legislation and correctly enforced.

Parliament

(12/04) Parliament advocates a centralised EU asylum system and legal ways to migrate. A large majority of the EP [voted in favour](#) of the [Report](#) on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration (Metsola EPP, Malta; Kyenge S&D, Italy). In this non-binding resolution, MEPs acknowledged the failure of the EU asylum system to cope with ever-rising numbers of migrant arrivals and call for a radical overhaul of the so-called Dublin rules.

They propose taking a holistic approach binding EU internal and external policies, promoting cooperation between the EU and the countries of origin, and favouring regular channels of migration. In addition, MEPs proposed establishing a central system for collecting and allocating asylum applications. The scheme, which could include a quota for each EU member state, would work on the basis of "hotspots" from which refugees would be distributed.

MEP Kyenge outlined the content and the aspiration of the text during a conference with Italian civil society in Milan titled "EU and migrations - a holistic approach" (18/04).

(13/04) MEPs approve extra funds to help refugees and fight terrorism. Parliament gave [its green light](#) for €100 million in EU emergency aid for refugees within the EU. Given the urgency of these measures, MEPs fast-tracked their approval of the funds, in the first draft amending budget of 2016. The procedure was completed in just over a month.

"I welcome this proposal to enable the EU budget to provide emergency support within EU territory," said rapporteur José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, Portugal). "However, I deplore the fact that this initiative is yet another ad hoc mechanism, set up without an overall strategy to address this crisis and without fully observing Parliament's prerogatives as co-legislator, given that the new instrument is not founded on a proposal under the ordinary legislative procedure", he added.

The €100 million for humanitarian aid, in view of the current influx of refugees and migrants into the Union, is the first tranche from the new €700m Emergency Assistance instrument proposed by the European Commission on 2 March. The funds could be used, inter alia, for food assistance, emergency healthcare, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, and education. MEPs welcome the fact that the funds to support refugees in the EU will not be withdrawn from existing humanitarian aid programmes outside the EU but instead will be redeployed from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

Council

(6/04) France passes law making it illegal to pay for sex - [what you need to know.](#) France is to make it illegal to pay for sex after MPs finally approved new legislation on prostitution following more than two years of rows and opposition by senators.

(19/04) Dutch EU Presidency: mid-term report card (by Amnesty International). Amnesty International has released a [mid-term assessment](#) on the performance of the Dutch presidency of the Council of the European Union in a human rights perspective and taking into account the recommendations made at the beginning of the Presidency term. Among other things, the assessment covers migration, non-discrimination and torture.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Hungary: European Court of Human Rights backs woman's complaint against authorities' failed 'Roma-phobia' inquiry. Judges ruled today that a failure to investigate adequately threats and insults made during an anti-Roma march in Hungary, breached European human rights law.

(14/04) Council of Europe anti-torture Committee calls upon states to review the treatment of life-sentenced prisoners. In its annual report, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) [called upon](#) the 47 Council of Europe's member states to review their treatment of life-sentenced prisoners according to the individual risk they present, and to provide for their possible reintegration into society at some stage.

(18/04) Commissioner for Human Rights releases human rights annual report for 2015. In his [annual report](#), the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights [Nils Muižnieks](#) goes back on the activities he was involved over the past year taking stocks of the major events that shaped the human rights landscape in 2015.

CIVIL SOCIETY

CARITAS EUROPA - [We need to invest in welfare state to fight poverty.](#)

Europe is losing the battle against poverty. Caritas new [report](#) "End Poverty in Europe – Our solutions to make it happen" offers solutions to win this battle. Recommendations focus on five groups most at risk of poverty: long-term unemployed; working poor; single parents; migrants, asylum seekers and refugees; and children.

DEATH BY RESCUE - The lethal effects of the EU's policies of non-assistance at sea.

The Forensic Oceanography team (Goldsmiths, University of London) and WatchTheMed have published a [report](#) that looks at what did and did not work in the rescue operations the EU has conducted over the past year. The report looks namely at the transition from Mare Nostrum to the Triton programme.

PUBLICATIONS

EPRS - [Recent migration flows to the EU](#) (infographic)

OTHERS

(15/04) [FRA issues opinion on EU common list of safe countries of origin.](#) The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has issued an [opinion](#) concerning the European Commission's proposal to establish an EU common list of safe countries of origin.

(2/04) [Seventh unaccompanied child allowed from Calais to UK to reunite with family.](#) After seven months in Calais and 50 attempts to reach Britain, Adnan has found refuge in London. He talks about missing his family and his plans for the future "It feels good to feel safe at last".

(18/04) [Online course for teachers on addressing trauma of refugee children](#) (available in EN, DE, NL).

(18/04) [Frontex - Number of migrants arriving in Greece dropped in March.](#)

The EU-Turkey agreement, coupled with stricter border policies applied by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at its border with Greece and the new NATO operation in the Aegean, led to a noticeable reduction in the number of migrants arriving on the Greek islands in March.