

INFO FLASH 10/08

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Commission

(29/07) Spring 2016 Standard Eurobarometer: Strong public support for Commission's political priorities. Europeans see immigration and terrorism as the major challenges facing the EU at the moment, and they support the political priorities of the European Commission. These are [two key results](#) of the latest Standard Eurobarometer survey published today. The survey was carried out between 21 and 31 May 2016 in 34 countries and territories.

(28/07) Facility for Refugees in Turkey: over €1.4 billion in support of education and health for Syrian refugees. The European Commission has adopted the Special Measure worth over €1.4 billion in support of refugees who fled from the war in Syria and to assist their host communities. With this accelerated implementation under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, the Commission is delivering on the commitment from the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March and has since then already mobilised €2.155 billion out of foreseen €3 billion for this and next year. A Special Measure worth €1.415 billion has been adopted to support refugees in Turkey in the areas of education, health, municipal and social infrastructure, and socio-economic support. In addition, a further €79 million of previously allocated funds for humanitarian aid projects have been contracted to a number of partners, including UN agencies, international organisations as well as international NGOs. The Special Measure adopted today provides for three strands of funding to address urgent needs of refugees and host communities in Turkey in the priority areas of education, health, municipal infrastructure and socio-economic support in the ten most affected provinces. More info [here](#).

(23/07) EU Commissioner Christos Stylianides announces new humanitarian aid projects in Iraq. The European Commission has announced new humanitarian aid projects worth €104 million to help those affected by the rapidly intensifying conflict in Iraq. The announcement came during the third visit to the country by EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos. The funding is part of an overall EU aid package of €194 million [announced by Commissioner Stylianides at the International Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, held earlier this week \(20 July\) in Washington D.C.](#) The new projects will help the most vulnerable by providing food, health care, water, sanitation and hygiene as well as protection and shelter. It will be provided to humanitarian organisations such as UN agencies, NGOs and international organisations. Since January 2014, more than 3.4 million people, over half of whom are children, have been displaced in Iraq. Nearly a third of Iraq's population, in excess of ten million people, currently rely on humanitarian assistance.

(22/07) EU International Cooperation and Development Results Report. The European Commission has released a report on the results of the financially most important EU funded development projects and programmes, which ended between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 in around 100 partner countries. Three types of results are presented in the report: development progress of partner countries, partner country results to which the EU contributed, and the EU's own organisational performance with respect to development cooperation. The report is based on the EU International Cooperation and Development

Results Framework, launched last year, which aims to allow for reporting on results in an aggregated way. For partner country results to which the EU contributed, the report presents two types of data: not only aggregated data on results of EU funded projects and programmes across about 100 countries, but also main results of EU funded projects and programmes in individual partner countries. The report draws on the results of projects and programmes which ended between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014. The reason for selecting this timeframe as a basis for this report is that data on results at end of the projects and programmes are usually only available sometime after the completion of a project. See the complete Q&A [here](#).

(20/07) Posting of Workers: Commission discusses concerns of national Parliaments.

The College of Commissioners [adopted](#) a Communication re-examining its proposal for a revision of the Posting of Workers Directive in the context of the subsidiarity control mechanism that several national parliaments triggered in May. After careful consideration of their views, the Commission concludes that the proposal for a revision of the Directive does not constitute a breach of the subsidiarity principle. The reform of the Posting of Workers Directive translates a clear commitment of this Commission to promote a deeper and fairer internal market, set out in its [Political Guidelines](#). The revision introduces changes in three main areas: remuneration of posted workers, rules on temporary agency workers, and long-term posting. The proposal sets out that posted workers will generally benefit from the same rules governing pay and working conditions as local workers. The Commission carefully analysed the subsidiarity concerns voiced by the national Parliaments and discussed all issues raised in an open political dialogue with them before drawing its conclusions. The purpose of the review of the arguments raised was to determine whether the objective of the proposed amending Directive can indeed be better achieved at Union level. The Commission has found that the obligation for all Member States to apply the rules in all sectors of the economy cannot be established at national level but must be laid down at Union level. The proposal furthermore fully and explicitly respects the competence of Member States to set wages in accordance with national practices.

(20/07) Statement on the decision to operationalise the African Union Peace Fund (Mogherini, Mimica). Spokespersons of High Representative Mogherini and Commissioner for Development Mimica [said](#) the decision taken by the African Union Summit in Kigali to operationalise the African Union Peace Fund is an important step towards a system of African Union "own resources". They added that this will fulfil the African Union Summit decision that Africa should finance 25% of African peace support operations by 2020. Since the creation of the African Peace Facility in 2004, the EU has contributed almost EUR 1.6 billion to the African Union peace and security agenda and directly supported the African Union Commission for an amount close to EUR 300 million. Yet despite this solid support, demands continue to exceed available resources.

European Parliament

(5/08) Migration crisis: 74% of Europeans want EU to do more. The EU has experienced an unprecedented influx of migrants over the last few years. 74% of Europeans want the EU to do more to manage the situation, according to the latest Eurobarometer poll commissioned by the European Parliament. In addition two thirds of respondents said EU action on migration was insufficient. Read on to discover what measures the European Parliament is working on. Read more about the survey and the Parliament's initiatives [here](#).

European Council

(28/07) Angela Merkel Sticks With Her Plan to Integrate Migrants (via [The New York Times](#)). Chancellor Angela Merkel doubled down on her pledge that Germany would achieve what she called the “historic” task of integrating hundreds of thousands of migrants, while defending freedom and democracy against the hate sown by terrorists. “Today, as in the past, I am convinced that we can do it — to live up to our historic task, which is a historic test in the age of globalization,” she said, in an attempt to reassure the nation after three recent violent attacks, two of them linked to the Islamic State. “We can do this.”

(25/07) Migration Agency lowers forecast for asylum seekers to Sweden (via [Radio Sweden](#)). The Migration Agency now forecasts that between 30,000 and 50,000 people will seek asylum in Sweden this year, which represents a large reduction compared to last year’s record numbers. The agency expects 34,500 people, including 3,000 unaccompanied children, to apply for asylum in 2016. That figure is lower than the 60,000 which Migration Agency had previously predicted. Full article [here](#).

(20/07) EU budget for 2017: Council agrees its position. The Council's Permanent Representatives Committee [agreed](#) its position on the 2017 EU draft budget for the upcoming negotiations with the European Parliament. "More than ever we need to ensure that the EU budget is focused on key priorities and enables the European Union to address the challenges that it is facing. I believe the Council's position responds to this necessity by offering appropriate means to stimulate growth, help creating jobs, reinforce security inside, and outside the EU and tackle the migration crisis. It also ensures good value for money by taking care that the financial resources match the needs", said Vazil Hudák, chief negotiator on the EU budget of the Slovak Presidency of the Council. Among other things, the Council wants the EU budget to continue to offer the high level of support that has provided since 2015 to help member states stem migration flows, protect EU external borders and combat organised crime and terrorism.

(20/07) Sweden's tough new residency laws begin (via [The Local Sweden](#)). Tougher rules on seeking asylum in Sweden entered into force, as law changes approved by the Riksdag in June come into effect. The [amendments to the country’s asylum laws](#) mean that asylum seekers in Sweden are now granted the minimum level of rights the European Union requires of its member states. One of the biggest changes is the introduction of a new temporary residence permit for those offered protection in Sweden, instead of permanent permits, as the ruled had been previously. The right to family reunification has also been limited and security requirements tightened. The changes to the family reunification process could impact expats and Swedish citizens who would like their partner to come and live in Sweden with them. The changes are designed to significantly reduce the number of people seeking asylum in Sweden, which received a record 163,000 asylum applications in 2015. The alterations have been criticized by [charities in particular](#), including Amnesty, Unicef and Save the Children. But the Swedish government has argued that they are necessary in order to cope with the influx of people coming to the country.

Others

(4/08) EASO launches ‘EU Relocation Programme’ mobile app. The European Asylum Support Office [launched](#) its first mobile app for smartphones and tablets, allowing asylum seekers to quickly find information in English and various non-EU languages (English, Arabic,

Sorani, Kumjani and Tigrinya) about the EU Relocation Programme, their rights and obligations when applying, contact points and more. The app is the latest initiative in the implementation of EASO's integrated information and communication campaign on relocation. With the app, EASO aims to promote relocation as the only safe and legal way from Greece and Italy to other EU Member States. The EU Relocation Programme app can be downloaded from the [AppStore](#) and [Google Play](#).

(3/08) FRA - Human rights education for legal professionals to fight hate crime. From 25-26 July, FRA [attended](#) a seminar entitled "HELP in the 28: a European Seminar on Fight against racism, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia" at the Spanish Judiciary School. This was done as part of the framework of the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP Programme) of the Council of Europe (CoE). The seminar's objective was to train and discuss with legal professionals legislation at EU and CoE level, along with the latest developments in case law from the European Court of Human Rights and Court of Justice of European regarding protection against racism, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia.

(1/08) EASO - End of large scale pre-registration on mainland Greece. The Asylum Service [announced](#) that the operation to pre-register applications for international protection on mainland Greece, through the dedicated registration centres that were temporarily set up, has now come to an end. Those who have not been able to pre-register yet and wish to apply for asylum can do so, preferably by obtaining a registration appointment through Skype. Given that the vast majority of those who wish to pre-register have done so by now, access to the Skype system should function more efficiently. Those who have been already pre-registered will receive soon a text message (SMS) with the date and location for their next appointment at the Asylum Service to lodge their asylum claim, including for family reunification or relocation. The pre-registration exercise, supported financially by the European Commission, was launched on 8 June 2016 by the Greek Asylum Service, and implemented with the help of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). Through this large-scale operation, thousands of persons were provided with asylum seeker cards, allowing them to reside legally in Greece and have the right to access health and education services. A detailed statistical report, based on the findings of the pre-registration exercise, will be released soon.

(29/07) FRA - Towards an end to human trafficking. Ahead of the UN World Day against Trafficking in Persons (30/07), FRA [raised awareness](#) of the plight of the children, women and men worldwide who are victims of trafficking is vital to combating this abhorrent practice. FRA has been contributing to efforts to do so through its reports and publications. One example is the Agency's regular [migration overviews](#), which document migration-related fundamental rights concerns in the nine EU Member States most affected by the large migration flows. Measures to better protect victims were also discussed during FRA's Fundamental Rights Forum in June and then distilled in the [Forum Chair's Statement](#). This highlights the wealth of promising practices collected and shared to date, for example through the office of the [EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator](#). Children are particularly at risk of being trafficked, which is why prevention and assistance to children is a priority in the [EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings](#). Find out more [here](#).

(25/07) FRA - Roundtable on hate speech and the role of civil society. FRA [attended](#) a conference entitled "Hate Speech and the role of Civil Society" on 12 July in Sofia. Organised by the Open Society Institute and supported by European Economic Area Grants, attendees

included the Ombudsman for Bulgaria, the Secretary of State for Justice in Bulgaria, and the Norwegian Ambassador. FRA contributed to discussions by drawing on its [Compendium of good practices for tackling Hate Crime](#), focusing particularly on practices that combat hate speech and the current situation regarding hate crime legislation at the EU level.

(25/07) New language versions of the FRA focus paper “Fundamental rights implications of the obligation to provide fingerprints for Eurodac” available. The FRA focus paper “Fundamental rights implications of the obligation to provide fingerprints for Eurodac” is [now available in French, German, Greek and Italian](#) on the FRA website. It examines the measures that authorities can implement to enforce the obligation of newly-arrived asylum seekers and migrants in an irregular situation to provide fingerprints for inclusion in Eurodac.

(21/07) Turkey to temporarily suspend European Convention on Human Rights after coup attempt (via [Hurriyet daily news](#)). Turkey will temporarily suspend the implementation of its obligations emanating from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), in line with the declaration of a state of emergency, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmuş has said, while vowing that fundamental rights and freedoms will not be affected during this period. “France has also recently proclaimed a state of emergency. And they suspended the ECHR, based on Article 15 of the convention,” Kurtulmuş told a group of Ankara bureau chiefs of media outlets on July 21. As [POLITICO.eu](#) points out, “all eyes will be on MEPs in September, who will almost certainly reject the proposal to waive visas for Turkish citizens. Also in the spotlight will be the recently beefed-up European Border and Coast Guard, which will become operational around the same time”.

(22/07) Stricter asylum requirements take effect: 77 percent of Iraqi applications refused in June (via [Yle Finland](#)). Finland now judges Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia to be safe countries, and this has changed its asylum granting policy. A radical jump in the number of negative decisions was noted in June, once the new policy came into effect. Iraqi citizen Sabah Anzi heard his application was rejected three weeks ago. Read more [here](#).

(20/07) Post-coup crackdown throws doubt on Turkey migration deal (via [POLITICO.eu](#)). Diplomats are worried that a pillar of the EU’s migration strategy could fall apart as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan goes after opponents in the wake of Friday’s failed coup attempt. European Commission officials said this week the EU would stand by its tenuous migration deal with Turkey, even as many politicians expressed alarm over the arrest or removal from their jobs of thousands of people in retaliation for the coup attempt, and [hints](#) from Erdoğan and his prime minister that the [death penalty](#) could be reinstated to deal with the alleged plotters. Full article [here](#).

[COUNCIL OF EUROPE](#)

(28/07) National minorities: Council of Europe body calls on Italy to better protect Roma, Sinti and Camminanti. The Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities ([FCNM](#)) has called on Italy to take urgent steps to elaborate and adopt a specific national legislative framework for the protection of Roma, Sinti and Camminanti communities. In its [Fourth Opinion on Italy](#) published today together with the [governments’ comments](#) the Committee urges Italy to make sustained and effective efforts to prevent, fight and sanction the inequality and discrimination suffered by Roma, Sinti and Camminanti : improving their living conditions, in order to allow residents to

move out of the so called “nomad camps” to adequate social housing. Roma, Sinti and Camminanti remain socially and economically marginalised. Resolute measures are also needed to combat early school dropout and underachievement, ensuring that all children have full access to mainstream education. Read the full press release [here](#).

(25/07) EU and Council of Europe introduce project to promote global development education. From residential and online training courses on human rights to intercultural dialogue, a new three-year project – iLEGEND – will strengthen global development education throughout Europe. iLEGEND, (Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue) will foster inclusive and equitable education to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. [Launched](#) by the European Commission and the Council of Europe, iLEGEND will promote global development education in school curricula. Global development education helps students understand an increasingly interconnected world, and appreciate economic, political, environmental and cultural challenges that people from different countries face, from north to south. The project will assist youth workers and educators in non-formal education sectors as well, which are not regulated or certified by national authorities, such as international youth exchanges and youth conferences. Carried out by the North-South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe, which has more than 20 years of experience in this field, iLEGEND activities also will include capacity building and awareness-raising initiatives, such as seminars and workshops that will mobilize representatives from governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society. With a €1.3m budget, iLegend will be financed 75% by the EU’s Development Education and Awareness Raising programme (DEAR) and 25% by the Council of the Europe.

CIVIL SOCIETY

(2/08) Eurochild - What can faith communities do to end child poverty and violence against children? On Thursday 28th July Eurochild [took part](#) in a roundtable ‘Faith Communities Partnering towards Ending Child Poverty and Violence against Children’ in Sombor, Serbia. It was organised by Arigatou International (specifically through its End Child Poverty initiative and Global Network of Religions for Children; GNRC) in collaboration with the Sombor Education Centre. The key aims of the roundtable included to explore the different faces, drivers and realities of child poverty and to discuss how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could be used to support our efforts at all levels to end child poverty and promote child wellbeing.

(28/07) Caritas Europa: New Caritas report casts spotlight on poor level of trafficking prevention in conflict and post-conflict situations (via SocialPlatform). Ahead of world day against trafficking in human beings on 30 July, the network of Caritas organisations from the Euro-Mediterranean area [launched](#) a new report to cast the spotlight on the poor level of prevention of trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations. Because of that, many vulnerable people who are fleeing from danger end up in the nets of unscrupulous criminals every year. The report, entitled “[Trafficking in human beings in conflict and post-conflict situations](#)”, is the result of a research and actions conducted by Caritas in ten countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, France, Kosovo, Lebanon, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. The national Caritas organisations in these countries identified risk situations for vulnerable people and took actions to tackle them

(25/07) Steeve Peers - Domestic violence and free movement of EU citizens: a shameful CJEU ruling. EU laws on the free movement of EU citizens don’t give non-EU citizens rights in

their own name. Rather, non-EU citizens can only gain rights under those laws if they have a family link with an EU citizen. This creates an obvious problem in cases of domestic violence committed by an EU citizen against a non-EU citizen family member. If the non-EU family member breaks the family link in order to flee the violence, there could be a risk of expulsion. So the victims might stay with their abusers due to a fear of removal from the country, which might include separation from their children. Full blog article [here](#).

(20/07) Terre des Hommes - Systematic violations of children's rights under the new Hungarian Asylum and immigration regime. New Hungarian legislation “allow[s] the Hungarian police to automatically push back asylum-seekers who are apprehended within 8 km (5 miles) of either the Serbian-Hungarian or the Croatian-Hungarian border to the external side of the border fence”. Terre des hommes is extremely concerned about the current situation in Hungary and at its borders. Switzerland’s leading child relief agency has been providing emergency aid to refugees in the Balkans since October 2015 and calls on Hungary and the EU to protect child refugees against all forms of violence. Full statement [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Unicef - [The State of the World’s Children 2016: A fair chance for every child](#)

UK House of Lords - [Children in crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU](#)

European Commission - [Recommendations on “Investing in Children”](#) (child-friendly version)

The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration - [The Return on Investment on Migration: What is in it for Business?](#)

General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union - [Think Tanks Reviews](#) (July 2016)

EPRS - [Public Opinion And EU Foreign Policies: Exploring The Expectations Gap](#)

EPRS - [Public Opinion And EU Security: Exploring The Expectations Gap](#)

EPRS - [Public Opinion And EU Action On Migration And Border Management: Exploring The Expectations Gap](#)

EPRS - [Public Opinion And EU Action On Social Protection: Exploring The Expectations Gap](#)

EPRS - [The EU, The Middle East And North Africa](#) (What Think Tanks Are Thinking)

MPI - [Understanding and Addressing Public Anxiety About Immigration](#)