

## INFO FLASH 21/06

The Commission launched initiatives to [support Syrian refugees and host communities under the EU Syria Trust Fund](#) and to support education in emergencies programme in [Turkey](#). It has followed up on the [Agenda on Migration](#) (2015) and on its commitments on [resilience in EU's external action](#) and the [Partnership Framework on Migration](#). It has also organized the [2017 European Development Days](#), a few days after EU institutions finalized the [new European Consensus on Development](#).

The Council issued conclusions on [support to security in Mali and the Sahel](#) and the [EU external action on counter-terrorism](#), while it approved the [revised version of the 2014-2020 budget framework for the EU](#).

### EU INSTITUTIONS

#### European Commission

**(20/06) EU Syria Trust Fund: new assistance package to support Syrian refugees and host communities crosses €1 billion mark.** The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis [adopted new projects](#) totalling €275 million. These projects will support refugees and their overstretched host communities in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, the Western Balkans, and Armenia. Projects will focus on education, health care, support of local community, social inclusion, gender equality. The newly adopted assistance package brings the current overall volume of the EU Trust Fund up to over €1 billion which was the goal set by President Juncker on 23 September 2015 at the Informal meeting of the European Council on migration and in the Communication on Managing the Refugee Crisis.

**(15/06) The European Union maintains its commitment to security and resilience in West Africa.** One week after presenting its new resilience strategy, the European Commission [approves](#) new projects amounting to EUR 88 million, aimed at boosting security and resilience in West Africa. Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, signed four new projects with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). In this context, Commissioner Mimica said: 'These projects, worth a total of EUR 88 million, will bolster security, facilitate trade and improve the resilience of the people of West Africa. These new programmes are essential in the current economic climate. They will support efforts already made by our partners to bolster security and support the economic development of the region. At the same time, they will also support important infrastructure projects made possible thanks to loan/grant blending instruments.' This close cooperation and the joint actions already implemented characterise the relationship between the EU, ECOWAS and WAEMU. These programmes aim to provide solutions to regional problems in the areas of security, economic development and investments in infrastructure, while contributing to the resilience of the region and its people.

**(13/06) European Agenda on Migration: Commission calls on all parties to sustain progress and make further efforts.** Ahead of next week's European Council, the Commission [is presenting](#) four progress reports on measures taken under the European Agenda on

Migration to stabilise the flows and better manage the external borders. With most Member States having shown that relocation works if there is political will, the Commission is calling on those Member States who have not yet done so to take steps to comply with their legal obligations and contribute fairly and proportionally to the scheme. The Commission is also making a renewed call to further accelerate the roll-out of the European Border and Coast Guard and to fill persistent gaps in manpower and equipment as swiftly as possible. The EU-Turkey Statement continued to deliver results - as shown by a consistent reduction in irregular crossings to Greece and the successful resettlement of over 6,000 Syrians given safe and legal pathways to Europe. Continuous efforts are still needed to ensure the full implementation of the Statement and in particular to improve the processing of asylum requests in Greece.

**(13/06) Partnership Framework on Migration: Commission reports on results and lessons learnt one year on.** A year into its implementation and ahead of the June European Council, the Commission and the High Representative present today the fourth progress report on the Partnership Framework on Migration. The report shows that the Partnership has stimulated partner countries in Africa to better tackle irregular migration and to fight smuggling networks. Joint efforts have helped increase assisted voluntary returns of stranded migrants, and supported job creation and social projects. Increased efforts have also taken place along the Central Mediterranean Migration Route since the adoption of the [Joint Communication on the Central Mediterranean Route](#) and the [Malta Declaration](#). This has led to a more efficient cooperation with partner countries and international partners such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Better coordination between the EU and Member States has increased the EU leverage on partners. However, it should be further stepped up to improve delivery, notably on reducing the irregular arrivals of migrants to the EU and enhancing cooperation between the EU and partner countries to ensure returns and readmission. Full press release [here](#).

**(8/06) EU's largest ever education in emergencies programme in Turkey reaches first refugee families.** Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides attends the launch event of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education project. The EU's largest ever humanitarian programme for education in emergencies, which aims to encourage some 230,000 refugee children to attend school in Turkey by the end of 2017, [has started](#) its first payments to refugee families. The 'Conditional Cash Transfer for Education' (CCTE) project receives €34 million in EU funding through the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey. It works by providing cash transfers every two months to refugee families whose children regularly attend school.

**(7/06) Commission registers "Stop extremism" European Citizens' Initiative.** The Commission has today [decided](#) on the partial registration of a European Citizens' Initiative entitled "Stop extremism" inviting the Commission to "propose legislation in order to prevent the adverse consequences of extremism, above all for the Internal Market". The Commission's decision to register the Initiative concerns only the legal admissibility of the proposal. The Commission has not analysed its substance at this stage. The Commission's Decision, however, makes clear that the signatures for the Initiative should be collected only as regards proposals which are in line with the competences set out in the Treaties (see Annex). The Initiative will be formally registered on 12 June 2017, which will start a one-year process of the collection of signatures of support by its organisers. Should the Initiative receive one million statements of support within one year from at least seven different Member States,

the Commission will have to react within three months. The Commission can decide either to follow the request or not, and in both instances would be required to explain its reasoning.

**(7/06) Joint Communication on "A Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU's External Action".** The EU supports partner countries in becoming more resilient to today's global challenges. It recognises the need to move from crisis containment to a more structural, long-term approach to vulnerabilities, with an emphasis on anticipation, prevention and preparedness. [Here](#) is a fact sheet on the Joint Communication.

**(6/06) European Development Days focus on "Investing in Development" - #EDD17.** Europe's leading forum on international cooperation and development promises to be the biggest ever with some 7,000 participants expected. The event's debates, panels, and special events will provide insights into the most pressing development challenges facing the world, and various approaches to dealing with these challenges. On this occasion, President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker stressed: "Europe is the smallest continent, but it is also the richest. And as the richest, we have to help others not so fortunate in the lottery of birth to catch up. Development aid is a word of the past. It is about partnership, not aid. And it is time we invested more in that partnership." A key moment of the European Development Days will be the signature of the European Consensus on Development, a strategic document, outlining the future of European development policy. For the first time, the Consensus will apply in its entirety to all EU Institutions and all Member States, who are committed to work more closely together. Full press release [here](#).

## European Parliament

### European Council / Council of the EU

**(20/06) Mali and the Sahel: EU strengthens its action in support of security of the region.** The Council adopted a decision to support the regionalisation of EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions in the Sahel region, namely EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUCAP Sahel Niger and EUTM Mali. The Council decision allows for the establishment of a regional coordination cell based within one of the EU civilian missions, EUCAP Sahel Mali. The regional coordination cell include internal security and defence experts in G5 Sahel countries, deployed in Mali but also in EU delegations in other G5 Sahel countries, namely Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) EU response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - a sustainable European future.** The EU has played a leading role in the process that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. It is now determined to take the lead in its implementation. The conclusions [adopted](#) by the Council today reiterate the strong commitment of the EU and its member states to implement in full the 2030 Agenda and accomplish the 17 SDGs. The conclusions set out the EU's response to the 2030 Agenda and its approach to how it is implemented at EU level. They cover next steps, the means and resources required, how multilateral stakeholders can be involved, and measures on future monitoring and review.

**(20/06) EU revises its budget framework for 2014-2020 to meet new priorities.** The European Union is devoting more resources to help boost jobs and growth and to address the migration crisis. It is also strengthening its capacity to react to unexpected events. These are

the main purposes of a revised EU budgetary framework for 2014-2020 [which was adopted](#) by the Council on 20 June 2017. "Today's decision adjusts the EU's budgetary framework to bring it in line with the challenges we face. It means that the EU budget will be an even more effective instrument to strengthen growth, create jobs and tackle the migration crisis. It also allows the EU to react more quickly and take the necessary decisions when faced with new challenges", said Dr Helena Dalli, Maltese Minister for European Affairs and Equality and President of the Council.

**(19/06) EU external action on counter-terrorism: Council adopts conclusions.** The Council adopted conclusions on EU external action on counter-terrorism. The Council reiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever and for whatever purpose. Noting that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that the EU has a vital interest in continuing to work with partners at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels in countering this diverse threat, the Council address in its conclusions: counter-terrorism structures, internal-external nexus, strengthened international cooperation and [much more](#).

**(9/06) European travel information and authorisation system - Council agrees negotiating position.** On 9 June 2017, the Council [agreed](#) a general approach on the proposal for a European travel information and authorisation system (ETIAS). The general approach constitutes the Council's position for negotiations with the European Parliament. ETIAS will allow for advance checks and, if necessary, deny travel authorisation to visa-exempt third-country nationals travelling to the Schengen area. It will help improve internal security, prevent illegal immigration, limit public health risks and reduce delays at the borders by identifying persons who may pose a risk in one of these areas before they arrive at the external borders.

**(7/06) The new European Consensus on Development – EU and Member States sign joint strategy to eradicate poverty.** The European Union and its Member States signed today a strategic blueprint, outlining the future of European development policy. This "New European Consensus on Development" represents a new collective vision and plan of action to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The jointly developed strategy, in the form of a Joint Statement, was signed today during the annual two-day European Development Days by the Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph Muscat, on behalf of the Council and Member States, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, the High Representative/Vice President, Federica Mogherini, and the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani. The new European Consensus on Development constitutes a comprehensive common framework for European development cooperation. For the first time, it applies in its entirety to all European Union Institutions and all Member States, which commit to work more closely together. The new Consensus strongly reaffirms that poverty eradication remains the primary objective of European development policy. It fully integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In doing so, it aligns European development action with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which is also a cross-cutting dimension for the EU Global Strategy. Full press release [here](#). Q&A [here](#).

**(7/06) A Europe that defends: Commission opens debate on moving towards a security and defence union.** The Commission is today opening a public debate on the future direction of defence in an EU of 27. Following the Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe,

today's reflection paper outlines different scenarios on how to address the growing security and defence threats facing Europe and enhance Europe's own abilities in defence by 2025. The debate will make an important contribution to deciding on how the Union will strengthen the protection and security of European citizens, which has been at the heart of the Juncker Commission [priorities](#). The reflection paper is complemented by concrete proposals presented today to launch a [European Defence Fund](#) which will support more efficient spending by Member States on joint defence capabilities. Full press release [here](#).

## Others

**(20/06) FRA - FRA participates in annual Global Media Forum.** On 19-20 June, FRA took part in the annual Global Media Forum organised by the German international broadcaster Deutsche Welle, which was dedicated this year to the themes of identity and diversity. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) European Court of Auditors - Combatting human trafficking in South and South-East Asia: fresh priorities needed, say EU Auditors.** The EU's policy for combatting human trafficking in South and South-East Asia should be more relevant to the needs of the region, and a fresh set of priorities is required, [according to a new report](#) from the European Court of Auditors.

**(16/06) FRA - Reducing the risk of refoulement in external border management.** During a recent [SHADE MED meeting](#) from 8 to 9 June, the Agency shared some of its research findings and encouraged the use of its guidance on how to reduce the risk of refoulement in external border management when working in or together with non-EU countries. The meeting is a biannual event organised by the EU NAVFORMED, the EU naval operation in the Central Mediterranean, also referred to as Operation Sophia. Participants included the different forces operating in the central Mediterranean, the European Commission, EU and UN agencies as well as representatives from other authorities, NGOs, the shipping industry and academia.

**(15/06) European Investment Bank - Social housing, energy, innovation and urban development backed by EUR 10 billion new EIB financing approved today.** The Board of the European Investment Bank [approved](#) new financing totalling EUR 9.8 billion to support investment in 38 new projects to strengthen infrastructure and investment across Europe and around the world. This includes EUR 2 billion for earthquake reconstruction in Italy and the EIB's first ever support for PPP investment in social housing, through a new initiative in Ireland. Outside Europe the Board agreed on financing for the EIB's first dedicated backing for new investment to improve the quality of healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa and for projects in three African counties to provide clean drinking water for millions of people.

**(13/06) Frontex - Frontex offers funding for development and delivery of training courses.** Frontex published a call for proposals for Development and delivery of European border and coast guard courses. The objective of the call is to support the development and implementation of courses for European border and coast guards. Individual entities or groups of entities can develop and implement courses in accordance with the European standards in vocational and higher education and in line with the Sectoral Qualifications



Framework for Border Guarding, to respond to the current challenges and training needs of the European Border and Coast Guard community. Frontex experts will monitor and support the processes of development, review and/or delivery of courses. Full press release [here](#).

**(9/06) FRA - Age Platform's annual conference focuses on inequalities and abuse of older people.** On 7 June, the Agency attended the [5th Age Platform Europe Annual Conference](#) as a rapporteur to the thematic session on elder abuse, violence and neglect. This year's conference focused on inequalities and abuse of older people. It builds on the momentum of the European Commission's year of actions on violence against women, the upcoming World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and the growing acceptance within the EU that more needs to be done to ensure an equal protection of older people's rights and to combat elder abuse.

## **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

**(19/06) European countries must lift obstacles to reunification of refugee families.** "The right to family reunification is a fundamental part of the right to family life, which is protected by international human rights law. This right is particularly important for refugees in Europe. Because of the dangers they face at home, their only option to enjoy their right to family life is to bring their families to Europe. Regrettably, many European countries are limiting refugees' access to this right through restrictive measures which are unjust, unlawful and cause immense hardship for refugees and their families. This has to change", says today Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, [while releasing a report](#) which aims at helping Council of Europe member states adopt a more humane and human rights oriented policy on family reunification for refugees and beneficiaries of international protection.

**(13/06) EU signs Council of Europe convention to stop violence against women.** Global support for the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ("[Istanbul Convention](#)") significantly increased today with the official signature by the European Union. The signing sends a strong political signal from all 28 EU member states to subscribe to the Convention. It shows the recognition, by the EU, of the importance of the Istanbul Convention as establishing the global norms in this field and thus reinforces its international standing. So far, 23 countries have [ratified](#) the Convention, including 14 EU members (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden). The other 14 EU member states have all signed the Convention. The EU signing – the first step towards EU accession to the Istanbul Convention – follows the EU Council's [adoption of two decisions for the signature](#): one related to articles of the convention dealing with asylum, refugees and refoulement and another on articles dealing with co-operation in criminal matters. Full press release [here](#).

## **CIVIL SOCIETY**

**(19/06) Caritas Europa - Caritas Europa: Europe can be a strong global leader on asylum and migration.** Caritas Europa calls on EU Heads of State and Foreign Affairs Ministers to change tack on migration and seize the opportunity to gain strong global leadership on asylum and migration during the European Council on 22-23 June. Full press release [here](#).

**(16/06) ECRE - UN report: Libyan Coast Guard directly involved in human rights violations.** A [report](#) by the [UN Panel of Experts on Libya](#) raises concern over direct involvement of the Libyan Coast Guard in human rights violations against migrants. The [Panel of Experts on Libya](#) established pursuant to UN Security Council [resolution 1973](#) from 2011, states in its report of June 1 that the Libyan Coast Guard has been directly involved in human rights violations: “Abuses against migrants were widely reported, including executions, torture and deprivation of food, water and access to sanitation. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) also reported enslavement of sub-Saharan migrants. Smugglers, as well as the Department to Counter Illegal Migration and the coastguard, are directly involved in such grave human rights violations...” Full press release [here](#).

**(16/06) ECRE - Potential expansion of Eurodac database scope raises data protection concerns.** The Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee of the European Parliament has adopted a [report](#) on the European Commission proposal to recast the Eurodac Regulation. It outlines a wide expansion of the scope of the Eurodac database that raises strong concerns about data protection. With the multiple ambition of improving the operation of the Dublin Regulation, ensuring better law enforcement and increasing control of irregular migration, the adopted report seeks to broaden the scope of Eurodac. It introduces the tracking of movement of refugees resettled into the European Union, eases Europol access to the database and permits access by Frontex. These measures have raised serious concerns about asylum seekers’ right to data protection from a number of actors and organisations including [ECRE](#), the [European Data Protection Supervisor](#) and the [Meijers Committee](#). Full press release [here](#).

**(16/06) ECRE - This is not a war – the need for demilitarisation of migration, OP-ed by Yves Niyiragira, Executive Director of Fahamu.** In April 2015, Africans were shocked to hear news of the death[i] of more than 800 of their fellow African brothers and sisters in a single day trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to go to Europe. In November 2015, five months after that awful loss of lives, European leaders invited African leaders to attend a summit on migration in Valetta, Malta. The main issue in the minds of European leaders was how to convince or force their African guests to do whatever was necessary including the use of military force and opening detention centres to stop Africans from going to Europe. It did not matter if Europe was dealing with African repressive leaders—the same heads of state and governments that were the main reason why Africans, especially young people, were leaving their countries to go to Europe and other places. Full article [here](#).

**(16/06) ECRE - Weekly Editorial: European refugee response – emergency measures or new normal?** A few days before World Refugee Day on 20 June and we all await the statistics to be revealed in the UNHCR Global Trends 2017 report. Unfortunately we can expect yet another sad record number of people in forced displacement. But when European politicians perform the predictable ritual of expressing deep concerns about the global displacement crisis let’s remember their response to the arrivals of people seeking protection in 2015/2016. Yes, there was an increase, however the numbers of asylum seekers in Europe are small compared to other regions, with the report to show that nearly over 85 % of the forcibly displaced remain in the 5 major host countries. Full article [here](#).

## [PUBLICATIONS](#)

LSE - [Exposure to news about immigration and crime is positively associated with support for anti-immigration parties](#)

LSE - [Public opinion indicates the EU is not seen as a better development partner than China in most African countries](#)

Bruegel - [Income inequality and growth in Europe: key role for national policies](#)

MPI - [In Search of Common Values amid Large-Scale Immigrant Integration Pressures](#)

MPI - [Weathering Crisis, Forging Ahead: Swedish Asylum and Integration Policy](#)

WHO - [European Development Days #EDD17 \(Storify\)](#)

Eurostat - [Monitoring social inclusion in Europe — 2017 edition](#)