Arrivals and Departures

The first two weeks of April were marked by events related to the implementation of the EU-Turkey agreement. Under the agreement, the first 202 people were returned by Greek authorities on Monday (4 April) on boats bound for Turkey from the islands of Lesvos and Chios. On 8 April, according to the Greek Ministry of Citizens’ Protection, 124 people were returned from Greece to Turkey, (111 people from Pakistan, 2 from Bangladesh, 4 from Iraq, 4 Indian nationals, 1 Moroccan national, 1 Egyptian national and 1 person of Palestinian origin). It is to be noted that on April 7, the Turkish Parliament passed a readmission agreement with Pakistan. The bill now awaits endorsement by the Turkish President for publication as law. The measure has been in the making for over 5 years and will allow Turkey to return Pakistanis with greater administrative ease.

Turkish EU Affairs Minister, Volkan Bozkir said on Thursday, 14 April, that authorities expect the next returns of some 250 persons from Greece to Turkey to take place within a “few days”. He added that this next group of people will contain “more Syrians than Pakistanis and Afghans”, referring to the main nationalities of last week’s returns.

Critical Developments

The first two weeks of April were also marked by events related to legislative changes which may have implications on refugees and asylum seekers.

In Greece, on 3 April, a new law entered into force and was officially published in the Government Gazette. The law highlights the creation of the Reception and Identification Service, restructuring of the Asylum Service, the creation of an Appeals’ Authority, the creation of new Regional Asylum Offices, and the introduction of the possibility to grant humanitarian status to asylum-seekers with long-pending appeals. No mandatory declaration of Turkey as a safe-third country has been included.

On 6 April, the European Commission published a communication on reforms to the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), including two possible options for the future of the Dublin regulation, and on improving legal pathways to Europe. The Communications set out possible legislative changes in the coming months.

On 4 April, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection was amended at a Parliamentary session and was printed in the Official Gazette on 12 April. Amendments introduce two restrictions of concern to UNHCR: the first being family reunification which states that a refugee can exercise the right to family reunification only three years after asylum was granted; and the second regarding the broadening of the safe third country concept with the specification that an asylum claim submitted by a person who seeks to enter or has irregularly entered the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from a
safe EU Member State, a NATO member country, or a country which is a member of EFTA is considered to be manifestly unfounded.

On 7 April, the Turkish government made an amendment to the Temporary Protection Regulation on access to Temporary Protection regarding Syrian nationals, who irregularly travel to Europe and are returned to Turkey from Greek islands.

On 12 April, in Austria, UNHCR issued a press release to express concern regarding the intended amendment of the Asylum Act. The draft law foresees limited access for asylum-seekers to the asylum procedure. The majority of those seeking international protection could, on the basis of this legislation, be rejected at the border in a fast-track procedure and be returned to Austria’s neighbouring countries unless having close family ties in Austria. UNHCR called for joint European solutions rather than unilateral measures. Furthermore, access to the territory and fair asylum procedures for all asylum-seekers, the respect for legal minimum standards, and special treatment for children and particularly vulnerable people were urged. UNHCR appeals to the Austrian Federal government to reconsider the proposed amendment and adopt measures in line with international and European refugee law.

On 13 April, media reports state that Turkey is seeking readmission agreements with several countries, including Iraq and Iran, for the purpose of returning individuals re-admitted from the EU and not in need of international protection. Turkey is reportedly seeking readmission agreements with Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Eritrea, Morocco, Ghana, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan, and Tunisia. At the moment, Turkey has readmission agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Greece, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Moldova, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, and Yemen.

On 13 April, the European Commission reported the unsatisfactory progress made by EU Member States on relocation and urged them to urgently deliver on their commitments. On resettlement, better progress was reported attributed to the EU-Turkey agreement.

The same day, in Germany, the coalition government set out details for an envisaged integration law; leaders of the Social Democrats (SPD), Christian Democrats (CDU), and their Bavarian party, CSU, agreed on key issues to be included in a draft which will be decided upon during a government retreat on 24 May. The draft law sets out that asylum seekers’ refusal of integration measures would lead to reduced social benefits. Consequences would also occur if people violate obligations regarding their residency. Moreover, 100,000 so-called “1-Euro jobs” for asylum-seekers shall facilitate access to the labour market and a “priority review” regulation that prioritized German nationals and nationals of other EU countries over asylum seekers in job applications shall be suspended for three years.

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**Estimated Arrivals and People Present** per Country

**Yesterday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
<th>Present*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>7,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Island</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece Mainland</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fYRoM**</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td></td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Number of people present in Greece and estimated number of people currently present in countries along the previous route not applying for asylum
** The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (please note that the fYRoM abbreviation is used for design purposes)
Greece Islands and Turkey: Estimated Arrivals and Transfers

Arrivals to Greek Islands
7 April - 14 April

Population Overview
Arrived, present and transferred to Greece Mainland and returned to Turkey since 20 March

Returns to Turkey (EU-Turkey Agreement)

Arrivals to Greece Islands post 20 March | 6,614
Present on Greek Islands | 7,216
Departures to Mainland post 20 March* | 6,389
Present in Greece Mainland | 45,450

*People able to depart are those only who arrived before 20 March
Total in Greece: 53,666

Reporting period 20 March - 14 April
Average Daily Arrivals and Arrival Trends Greece

Social Media

In a bid to bring to the light the effect of war and conflict on children, UNICEF Sweden have created a virtual child named ‘Sofia’ using the photographs of 500 real children caught in the middle of conflicts around the world. UNICEF Sweden decided on the name based on the fact that it was voted the most popular name in the world in 2015. The 3-D virtual child was created with the help of animators from films such as Planet of the Apes and Avatar. The hashtag #FörSofia was also launched along with the video as part of a three-part spring campaign by UNICEF. Read the full article and watch the animated video on Mashable’s website.

Twitter Activity

Human Rights Watch (HRW) highlighted this morning that renewed violence resulted in at least 30,000 people being displaced within the last 48 hours. In total, HRW report that some 100,000 have are located at the border crossing area between Syria and Turkey. Russian news channel RT reported on HRW’s call for Turkey to “stop firing on Syrian civilians fleeing fighting and allow them to cross the Turkish border”. Full article available here.

Frontex posted: “Norwegian Siem Pilot arrived in Palermo, Sicily with 898 rescued [refugees and] migrants, including 224 children. #Triton”

Frontex also announced that discussions were underway with industry representatives about the possible use of remote piloted aircraft systems (RAPS) for maritime surveillance and how it can be used in operations concerning the protection of the EU’s external borders in reference to the flow of refugees and migrants into Europe.

According to Reuters, the Italian coastguard operations rescued a reported 371 refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean on Tuesday 12 April. In a short video summary posted on YouTube by Reuters, in the course of one day in the Strait of Sicily, the coastguards are said to have provided assistance to some 2,154 refugees and migrants over the course of 17 operations.

BBC Outside Source posted about an Iraqi Kurd named Asya Hekmat who lost 16 relatives while attempting to reach Greece. Access the full BBC article.

Current Statistics for #syria

- 158 tweets, 234 retweets per hour
- Over 416,000 impressions per hour
- 13-14 April: 15,600 individual tweets, 31,700 retweets, and 995,100 impressions.

#syria in Numbers in the Last 30 Days

14,900
Highest no. of tweets (#syria) on 18 March

29,800
Highest no. of retweets (#syria) on 18 March

1,880,700
Highest no. of impressions (#syria) on 17 March
Timeline Overview

- 7 March: European Council meeting with Turkey, Brussels. Statement of the EU Heads of State or Government and UNHCR's reaction to Statement of the EU Heads of State and Government of Turkey
- 8 March: European Parliament Plenary session, Strasbourg. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi's speech
- 10-11 March: Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels. Council conclusions on migrant smuggling
- 26 March: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) to help detect migrant boats
- 30 March: High-level meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathways for admission of Syrian refugees, Geneva
- 4 April: 'Target date' for the start of the returns of people with inadmissible claims from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey agreement.
- 15 April: Informal meeting of Ministers and State Secretaries for European Affairs, Amsterdam
- 12 April: EU-Turkey deal: Statement by Commissioner Avramopoulos following his visit to Ankara
- 21 April: Donald Tusk to visit Gaziantap, Turkey with Angela Merkel and Frans Timmermans

Key Events

- 21 Jan: High number of arrivals
  - Jan-Ez-Zor under attack from ISIL, 3,200 displaced, 400 abducted + 300 killed (unconfirmed)
- 22 Jan: Arrivals drop dramatically compared to previous day
  - 42 dead in two shipwrecks
- 27 Jan - 02 Feb: Low number of arrivals
  - Increased sea and shore patrols by HCG and FRONTEX
  - 26 dead in shipwreck (28 Jan)
  - 996 people rescued/apprehended in Turkey (30 Jan and 1 Feb)
  - 453 people apprehended in Turkey, 13 dead in shipwreck (2 Feb)
  - 37 people dead in shipwreck (30 Jan)
  - 3 dead in shipwreck (31 Jan)
- 04-06 Feb: Low number of arrivals (overall, many people not permitted to board trains in Sid)
  - Discussed: possible German-Turkish alliance in greater NATO involvement in countering irregular sea crossings
  - 28 dead in shipwreck (8 Feb)
- 16-20 Feb: High number of arrivals
  - Austria sets asylum claims cap
- 25 Feb - 06 Mar: Marked decrease in arrivals
  - Greek government to ask member states to participate in distribution of refugees @ EU Summit (7/8 Mar)
  - Tusk announces that Europe will not accept any more economic migrants (3 Mar)
  - UK to join NATO patrols in Aegean
  - EU maritime agency prepares to use drones to monitor refugee boats

Arrivals to Lesvos

- Events & Meetings
- Wave Height
- Daily Report
- April 15, 2016 3:58 PM
- Contact us: hqewoc@unhcr.org

Timeline Events:

- 8 January
- 15 January
- 22 January
- 29 January
- 5 February
- 12 February
- 19 February
- 26 February
- 4 March
- 11 March
- 25 March
- 1 April
- 8 April
- 15 April
- 22 April
- 29 April
- 6 May

The timeline shows key events related to arrivals and events in different dates, indicating changes in arrivals and key meetings and statements.
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Europe Refugee Emergency

Daily map indicating capacity and occupancy (Governmental figures)

As of 15 April 2016 08:00 a.m. EET

Presence and capacity are based on Governmental figures from the Coordination Centre for the Management of the Refugee Crisis, as of 15/04/2016 08:00 a.m. Eastern European Time. Online map with additional information: http://www.unhcr.gr/sites