



3rd MEDMEP Session  
October 2019 - Nicosia, Cyprus

## Factfile | SEDE/LIBE Committee

### Defining Key Terms

- **Migration**: movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions.
- **Immigration**: the inward flow of people into an economy.
- **Emigration**: the outward flow of people out of the economy.
- **Net migration**: the difference between immigration and emigration.
- **Irregular migration**: movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries.
- **Brain drain**: the emigration of highly trained or qualified people from a specific country.
- **Mediterranean countries**: all countries around the Mediterranean Sea (e.g. Greece and Italy, but also countries like Morocco, Egypt or Algeria).
- **Dublin Asylum Regulation**: a European Union law that determines which EU Member State is responsible for the examination of an application for asylum, submitted by persons seeking international protection under the Geneva Convention and the EU Qualification Directive, within the European Union.
- **Schengen area**: an area comprising 26 European states that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders.
- **Treaty of Lisbon**: an international agreement that amends the two treaties which form the constitutional basis of the European Union, based on amendments on the earlier treaties of Maastricht and Rome, which formed the European Union.
- **Third-country nationals**: Any person who is not a citizen of the European Union and who is not a person enjoying the European Union right to free movement.

### Topic Overview

The European Union aims to set up a balanced approach to manage regular immigration and combat irregular immigration. Proper management of migration flows consists of certain factors: ensuring fair treatment of non-EU nationals residing legally in Member States, enhancing measures to oppose irregular immigration, including trafficking and smuggling, and promoting closer cooperation with non-member countries in all fields. It is the EU's aim to establish a uniform level of rights and obligations for regular immigrants, comparable with that for EU citizens.



Mediterranean countries, naturally due to their physical position tend to attract more immigrants since they're in the middle of the most-aimed place for migrants to go to: North-Western Europe. However, migrants mostly don't cross the entire continent, which results in the Mediterranean countries camping with an enormous overflow of immigrants. The European Union aims for European countries to share the number of immigrants according to their capacity, since countries receiving the largest number of immigrants, such as Italy and Greece, often find themselves the least able to support them.

However, not all countries are willing to take on a greater number of immigrants than they currently must support. Abandoning those rules has not had any consequences up and until now. This raises questions by other Member States; how many immigrants should each country take in? Is there a limit to the total amount of immigrants in Europe? For which criteria are refugees welcome to stay Europe? How can we refuse immigrants without violating human rights? These criteria need to get more concrete, which the resolution of the Committee on Security and Defence, subcommittee Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs will be about.

## Facts

### Competences:

- Regular immigration: the EU is competent to lay down the conditions governing entry into and legal residence in a Member State, including for the purposes of family reunification, for third-country nationals. Member States retain the right to determine volumes of admission for people coming from third countries to seek work.
- Integration: the EU may provide incentives and support for measures taken by Member States to promote the integration of legally resident third-country nationals; EU law makes no provision for the harmonisation of national laws and regulations, however.
- Combating irregular immigration: the European Union is required to prevent and reduce irregular immigration, in particular by means of an effective return policy, in a manner consistent with fundamental rights.
- Readmission agreements: the European Union is competent to conclude agreements with third countries for the readmission to their country of origin or provenance of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry into, or presence or residence in, a Member State.

## What has been done?

### Regular immigration:

- Directive 2009/50/EC: the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment created the 'EU blue card', a fast-track procedure for issuing a special residence and work permit, on more attractive terms, to enable third-country workers to take up highly qualified employment in the Member States.
- Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU): sets out a common, simplified procedure for third-country nationals applying for a residence and work permit in a Member State.



- Directive 2014/36/EU: regulates the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers.
- Directive 2014/66/EU: on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer.
- Directive (EU) 2016/801: on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects.

#### Integration:

- Council Directive 2003/86/EC: sets out provisions on the right to family reunification.

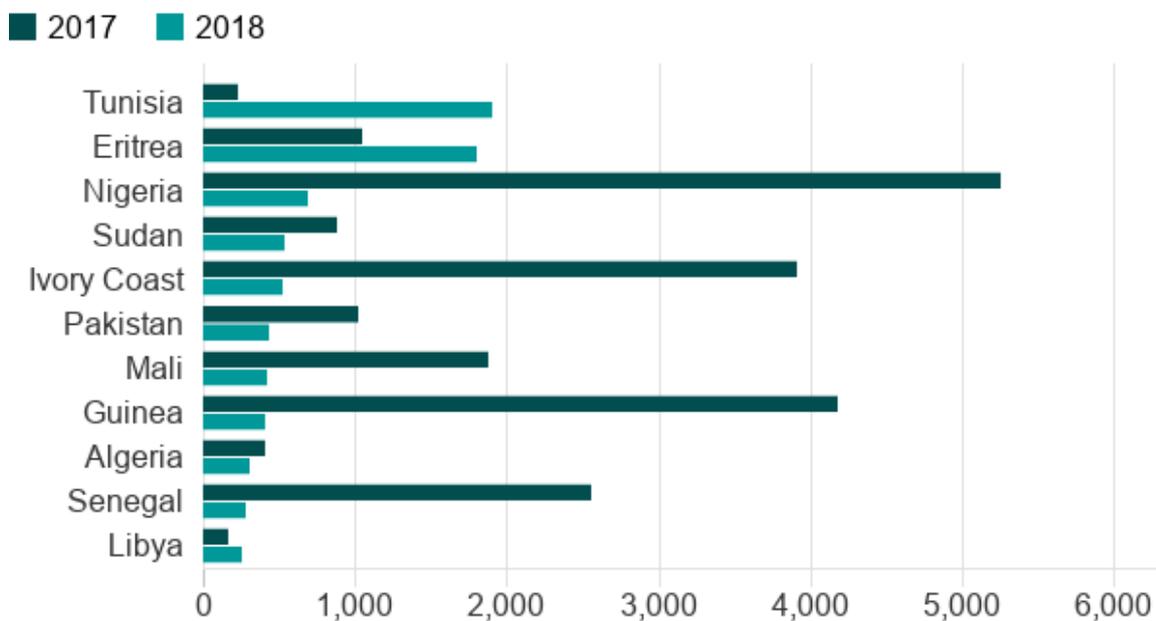
#### Irregular migration:

- Council Directive 2002/90/EC: setting out a common definition of the crime of facilitating unauthorised entry, transit and residence.
- Directive 2011/36/EU: on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.
- The 'Returns Directive' (2008/115/EC): sets out common EU standards and procedures for returning irregularly resident third-country nationals.
- Directive 2009/52/EC: specifies sanctions and measures to be applied in Member States against employers of illegally resident third-country nationals.

### Statistics

#### Main nationalities arriving in Italy by sea

Comparison of the period 1 Jan-30 Apr, 2017/18



Source: IOM



Figure 1: Main nationalities arriving in Italy by Sea; you can see that the amount of immigrants has increased drastically over 2018

## MEDITERRANEAN ARRIVAL ROUTES TO EUROPE



Figure 2: The three largest Mediterranean Arrival Routes to Europe

## Mediterranean migrant arrivals in 2018



Figure 1: The amount of Mediterranean migrant arrivals in 2018, divided over countries of arrival