

INFO FLASH 21/11

The European Commission has released major reports and analyses on various topics. The [Commission's Autumn 2016 Forecasts](#) draws on the state of the EU economy to put forward recommendations as part of the 2017 cycle of economic governance (the so-called "European Semester"). The [7th Report on Relocation and Resettlement](#) looks at the implementation of the emergency relocation and resettlement schemes in force since 28 September 2016. The [2016 Enlargement Package](#) assesses the integration process of the candidate countries in the South-Eastern region, also in connection with migration. A [EY evaluation study](#) and a [release of the European Court of Auditors](#) give different opinions on the Investment Plan and its proposed extension.

The Council of the EU has reached a [common negotiating position on Visa liberalization for Ukraine](#) and has recommended the [prolongation of internal borders controls](#) in some countries of the Schengen area. The [alternative plan of the Slovak Presidency to the Commission's relocation scheme](#) was outlined and [was criticised by Malta](#), who will soon take over the Presidency early next year.

The European Asylum Support Office has released a series of [Country of Origin Information reports on Western Balkan countries and Turkey](#), while FRA took part in a [workshop on migration data](#) in Ispra, Italy.

Universal Children's Day was celebrated across civil society and European institutions and agencies. Eurostat published [new data on child poverty and exclusion](#), while FRA released the Italian and Bulgarian version of the [Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child](#) and an [article on sexual exploitation](#) and abuse – a topic discussed also by [the Council of Europe](#). The European Medicines Agency has organised a [webinar on how can clinical research networks support developers of medicines for children](#), and has launched a [public consultation on on the Paediatric Regulation](#) that, since 2007, aims to improve the health of children in Europe by facilitating the development and availability of age-appropriate medicines for children, and by increasing available information on the use of medicines for children. ECRE reported on positive developments in Norway in the field of [child statelessness](#). CRIN issued a compendium of [strategic litigation case studies on children's rights cases](#) and MPI held a [webinar on inclusion of migrant and refugee families in two-generation programmes](#).

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Commission

(16/11) European Semester Autumn Package: Working for a stronger and more inclusive economic recovery. The Commission today sets out its views on the EU's economic and social priorities for the year ahead, building on the guidance from President Juncker's [2016 State of the Union](#) address and on the latest economic data from the [Commission's Autumn 2016 Forecast](#). Today's package starts the 2017 cycle of economic governance, the so-called European Semester. Europe is experiencing a fragile but relatively resilient and job-intensive recovery. Its GDP is now higher than before the crisis.

Unemployment is decreasing and investment is growing again. However, there is no room for complacency. Some of the tailwinds that have supported the recovery so far are fading. The legacies of the crisis, notably the social impact, high levels of public and private debt, and the share of non-performing loans, are still far-reaching. The Commission therefore calls on Member States to redouble their efforts along the principles of the "virtuous triangle" of boosting investment, pursuing structural reforms and ensuring responsible fiscal policies, and in doing so, to put the focus on social fairness and delivering more inclusive growth. The Commission recently presented its priorities for action at EU level in its [Work Programme for 2017](#), including the strengthening of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#). Today's package provides further guidance for the economic and social policies of the Member States. Full press release [here](#).

(15/11) Cohesion Policy supports the integration of migrants in Brussels. Following a request made by the Belgian authorities, the European Commission [has agreed to modify the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy programme](#) for Brussels in order to redirect a portion of funding towards a social inclusion project. €1 million from the [European Regional Development Fund](#) will now supplement the Brussels-Capital region's efforts to fight poverty and social exclusion in urban areas by supporting the activities of two care centres operated by the NGO 'Médecins du Monde' in Molenbeek and in Anderlecht. The centres will help marginalised communities, including migrants, by providing healthcare and social services to those most in need in the city. In September 2015, President Juncker announced in his [State of the Union address](#) that the Commission was ready to modify Cohesion Policy programmes and redirect funding to address both the emergency of the refugee crisis and the social inclusion challenge in the long term. Italy and Belgium have both already had one of their Cohesion Policy programmes modified in this context. For more information on the link between EU funds and migration read "[The European Structural and Investment Funds and the migration challenge](#)".

(14/11) Independent evaluation of the Investment Plan reinforces proposal for extension. The European Commission welcomes the [independent evaluation](#) of the Investment Plan for Europe published today by EY. The report strengthens the case for reinforcing, extending and expanding the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the heart of the Investment Plan for Europe. The Commission proposed this extension on 14 September in the context of President Juncker's State of the Union Address in order to build on the achievements already delivered in strengthening Europe's competitiveness and stimulating investment in order to create jobs. The report confirms that the EFSI mechanism works to mobilise additional investments in the real economy: EFSI allows the European Investment Bank (EIB) to take on more risk; the EU budget guarantee functions well; SME financing under the EFSI has been a great success; and there is a clear need for technical assistance to strengthen the stable pipeline of projects in Europe. More info [here](#).

(11/11) EU announces €78 million for South Sudan crisis. The European Commission will provide €78 million in emergency aid to help those affected by the South Sudan crisis both within the country and in the region. Over 1 million refugees from South Sudan have fled to neighbouring countries, with the number expected to grow. The funding was announced today by Commissioner Christos Stylianides who is currently in Uganda, one of the largest refugee and asylum-seekers hosting country in the world. He is visiting the Bidibidi refugee settlements built recently to host the rapidly increasing numbers of refugees from neighbouring South Sudan. €40 million will be allocated to humanitarian organisations in South Sudan itself, with €30 million to help displaced South Sudanese in Uganda, and a

further €8 million in neighbouring Sudan. The funding will contribute to life-saving activities in South Sudan, and to meet urgent needs of the displaced population in the neighbouring countries in terms of shelter, nutrition, healthcare, sanitation and protection, especially of children. Of the funds allocated to Uganda, €10 million will come from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. Full press release [here](#).

(9/11) Relocation and Resettlement: Member States need to sustain efforts to deliver on commitments. The Commission adopted its latest progress report on the EU's emergency relocation and resettlement schemes, assessing actions taken since 28 September 2016. With an additional 1,157 persons resettled since the last report, Member States have continued to deliver on their commitment to provide legal channels for people in need of protection, bringing the total up to 11,852 – more than half of the agreed 22,504 under the July 2015 scheme. Regarding relocation, the overall positive trend over the past few months is confirmed with an additional 1,212 relocations taking place during the reporting period. However, despite being a short-term drop due to specific circumstances, the exceptional decrease compared to the high number of relocations in September demonstrates that further efforts are still needed from Member States to sustain the positive trend reached until now. Full press release [here](#). Report available [here](#).

(9/11) 2016 Enlargement Package: credible enlargement process key to driving transformation and anchoring stability in Southeast Europe. The European Commission adopted its annual Enlargement Package. It assesses where the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey stand in implementing key political and economic reforms, and what needs to be done to address the remaining challenges. Among other things, the Commission recommends that Member States consider opening accession negotiations with Albania. This is, however, strictly subject to credible and tangible progress in the implementation of the judicial reform, in particular the re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors ("vetting"). Among other things, the migration crisis has been one of the key issues on the political agenda in the past year. It continued to demonstrate the strategic relevance of enlargement policy in the region. The EU reacted in a comprehensive and rights-sensitive way. The effective closure of the Western Balkans route by the countries concerned in conjunction with the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March delivered clear results on the ground, with the number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers reaching the Greek islands dropping significantly, from several thousand a day to less than 100 per day on average. This also led to a sharp drop in the number of lives lost at sea. Full press release [here](#).

European Parliament

(17/11) EU Budget deal: EP achieves best support for youth and growth initiatives. MEPs have fought for and obtained better support for unemployed youngsters and additional funds to boost key initiatives supporting SMEs, transport infrastructure projects, research and Erasmus+ student mobility. The provisional deal on the EU Budget 2017 with the Council was reached in the early hours of Thursday. After Budget MEPs and Council have formally endorsed the agreement, the new EU budget will be voted in plenary in December. More info [here](#).

(17/11) Don't incite fear and hatred of migrants and refugees, MEPs urge EU countries. EU member states should "refrain from inciting fear and hatred in their citizens towards migrants and asylum-seekers for political gains", said Civil Liberties Committee MEPs voting a resolution on fundamental rights in the EU. "This is an exceptional agreement!", said the

rapporteur of the non-legislative initiative József Nagy (EPP, SK) “The mass of unsolved problems Europe-wide cause discontent among the public and fuels extremism”. MEPs urge member states to guarantee that reception facilities do not deprive people of their fundamental rights to dignified living conditions and to pay special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, such as asylum seekers with special needs, and women and children, in particular those who are on their own. They note that appointing guardians for unaccompanied children is an important safeguard to ensure their best interests and also encourage member states to keep families together. MEPs call on member states to develop “positive” public information campaigns to accelerate the integration of migrants and refugees and to share best practices in this field. They stress that access to education is vital for integrating refugees. Citing a Europol report that at least 10,000 unaccompanied refugee and migrant children went missing in the EU in 2015, MEPs call on member states and EU agencies to step up their information exchanges and joint investigations to fight child trafficking, sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation. To counter risks that children face on the internet, such as sexual exploitation, child pornography or cyber-bullying, MEPs ask that Europol and Eurojust be given appropriate resources to identify victims, fight networks of sexual abusers and accelerate the referral of child abuse material. They also call for awareness raising campaigns and school programs to teach children about potential risks related to the internet and for member states to address cyber bullying. Full article [here](#).

(14/11) Human rights in the world: 2015 annual report voted in Foreign Affairs Committee. The EU should do more to protect independent journalists and bloggers and human rights defenders, say MEPs in their report on the state of human rights in the world in 2015, approved by the Foreign Affairs Committee. Members point out that the “universality of human rights is seriously being challenged in many parts of the world” and say the EU “should ensure coherence between its internal and external policies with regard to respect for human rights”. On migration, given the “growing number of human rights abuses against refugees, irregular migrants and asylum seekers on their route to Europe”, MEPs urge EU member states to improve the “coherence of the migration policies”. A “holistic approach to find sustainable, long-term and coherent solutions based on human rights” and a “comprehensive and well-coordinated Common European Asylum System” are needed, they say. Full press release [here](#).

European Council / Council of the EU

(17/11) Visas: Council agrees its negotiating position on visa liberalisation for Ukraine. On 17 November, the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) agreed, on behalf of the Council, a negotiating position on visa liberalisation for Ukraine. It confirmed the Commission proposal to provide for visa-free travel for EU citizens when travelling to the territory of Ukraine and for citizens of this country when travelling to the EU, for a period of stay of 90 days in any 180-day period. The Council takes the view that the entry into force of visa liberalisation for Ukraine should be at the same time as the entry into force of the new suspension mechanism. On the basis of this mandate, the presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament. Full press release [here](#).

(14/11) Council conclusions on implementing the EU global strategy in the area of security and defence. Foreign affairs ministers and defence ministers held a joint session on the implementation plan on security and defence. The implementation plan on security and defence was presented by the High Representative, taking into account her roles as Vice-President of the European Commission and Head of the European Defence Agency, to member

states at the Council meeting. The Council adopted conclusions on implementing the EU global strategy in the area of security and defence. These conclusions set out the level of ambition as well as concrete actions. These actions will assist the EU and its members states in addressing further Europe's current and future security and defence needs. Security and defence is one of the priority areas for the work on implementation of the EU global strategy, which also includes resilience building and integrated approach to conflicts and crises, strengthening the nexus between internal and external policies, updating existing or preparing new regional and thematic strategies and stepping up public diplomacy efforts. Full press release [here](#).

(11/11) Schengen: Council recommends prolongation of internal border controls. On 11 November 2016, the Council [adopted an implementing decision](#) setting out a recommendation allowing for the prolongation of temporary internal border controls in exceptional circumstances. Starting from the date of the adoption, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway should prolong proportionate temporary border controls for a maximum period of three months at the internal borders. Before prolonging such controls, the member states concerned should exchange views with the relevant member state(s) with a view to ensuring that internal border controls are carried out only where it is considered necessary and proportionate. They should also ensure that internal border controls are only carried out as a last resort when other alternative measures cannot achieve the same effect.

(10/11) The Fourth EU-South Africa Structured Dialogue Forum on Human Rights. The 4th EU-South Africa Structured Dialogue Forum on Human Rights [took place](#) on Wednesday 9th of November 2016 in Brussels. As Strategic Partners, both parties share a commitment to democracy, human rights, good governance, tolerance and respect for the rule of law. The Strategic Partnership envisages cooperation on the global scene and in international organisations, with the aim of defining a common position and defending the mutual interests of the two parties on global issues. In terms of multilateral issues, both sides discussed country and thematic resolutions in particular issues related to discrimination against persons based on sexual orientation and gender identity, empowerment of women, Trans National Corporations and other business enterprises, business and human rights, Human Rights Defenders, the right to development and the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights globally, the promotion and protection of children's rights as well as private military and security companies and defending access to justice and protecting victims. At the domestic level, the discussions focused on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as well as policing and human rights. Both sides welcomed, as one of the political deliverables of last year's Human Rights Dialogue, the high level panel event in Geneva that the EU and South Africa organised together with Denmark on "Why we should invest in rehabilitating victims of torture". Both sides agreed to explore ways they could do more together in the future to promote priority issues of common interest and expand cooperation including follow up to the torture event and on migrant children. Both parties shared information on current developments and discussions on ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Human Rights Council.

Others

(18/11) FRA - Children face high risk of sexual exploitation. Europe's current migration situation is placing large numbers of children at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. To mark the second European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse on 18 November, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights [calls on the EU and its](#)

[Member States](#) to ensure adequate and effective safeguards are erected to help put an end to children becoming victims of traffickers and abusers.

(16/11) European Asylum Support Office - EASO publishes Country of Origin Information reports on Western Balkan countries and Turkey. The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) published Country of Origin Information (COI) Reports on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. These reports, drafted upon request of the European Parliament and the Council, provide factual information on selected topics relevant for safe country designation, more specifically in the framework of the proposal for an EU List of Safe Countries of Origin. More info [here](#).

(16/11) Eurostat - 20 November: Universal Children's Day- One in four children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU - 25 million children in this situation in the EU. In 2015, around 25 million children, or 26.9% of the population aged 0 to 17, in the European Union (EU) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were living in households in at least one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived or with very low work intensity. Since 2010, the proportion of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU has slightly decreased, from 27.5% in 2010 to 26.9% in 2015. However contrasting trends were observed across the EU Member States. Press release [here](#). Report [here](#).

(16/11) European Medicine Agency - Webinar: How can clinical research networks support developers of medicines for children? The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is organising a one-hour [webinar](#) on 1 December 2016, starting at 14:30, which aims to showcase to pharmaceutical companies the benefits of working with the [European Network for Paediatric Research at EMA \(Enpr-EMA\)](#) and the clinical research networks it represents in the development of medicines for children. More info [here](#).

(16/11) FRA - Exploring children's rights in alternative care. SOS Children Villages held [a conference in Paris](#) on 9 November on children's rights in alternative care. The Agency spoke of the human rights obligations underpinning the provision of alternative child care and outlined some of the Agency's findings which underline the need for systematic training of all those involved in alternative care, including foster parents. The Agency considers that the respect and protection of child rights require better operational coordination of the different actors involved in alternative care settings, as well as more effective interagency cooperation and multidisciplinary practices.

(16/11) FRA - EU workshop on migration data. The Agency [took part in a workshop on migration data](#) hosted by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy on 10 November. The meeting gathered participants from various European Commission Directorates General and EU Agencies to discuss the availability of migration data as well as data sharing practices. The aim was to keep up-to-date about the upcoming launch of products from the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography. It was also an opportunity to share information about different data collections and data sharing practices of EU bodies.

(15/11) European Medicine Agency - The European Commission launches a public consultation on the Paediatric Regulation. The European Commission (EC) has launched a [public consultation](#) to get views and feedback from stakeholders, to support the

Commission in drafting its second report on the [Paediatric Regulation](#) after nearly ten years of implementation. The consultation is open until 20 February 2017. Stakeholders should send their comments directly to the EC by accessing the consultation page. The feedback received will form an integral part of the Commission's final report assessing the impact of the Paediatric Regulation on public health and the pharmaceutical industry, which is expected to be published in 2017. The Paediatric Regulation came into force in the European Union (EU) on 26 January 2007. Its objective is to improve the health of children in Europe by facilitating the development and availability of age-appropriate medicines for children, and by increasing available information on the use of medicines for children. Full article [here](#).

(15/11) European Economic and Social Committee - Globalisation, climate change, technological advances and rising inequality: European social partners and civil society to discuss the future of work. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) held a two-day high-level [dialogue on the future of work](#) bringing together more than 300 representatives of the social partners and civil society in Europe. They mapped out the main drivers of change which are transforming jobs and the economy in Europe. Participants discussed possible solutions to future of work challenges and examples of good practice that will feed into the [ILO's Centenary Initiative on the Future of Work](#). The contribution of civil society in Europe to this debate was crucial in shaping a world of work that will best serve people and the economy. More info [here](#).

(14/11) FRA - A united front for security, a united front for human rights. High-level EU representatives gather on 14 November in Vienna at the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to find ways of furthering a more effective security union that integrates a fundamental rights approach from the outset. The discussions are taking place during the annual meeting of the network of EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies, which is currently chaired by the Fundamental Rights Agency. Full article [here](#).

(11/11) European Court of Auditors - EFSI: little evidence that increase is justified. European Commission plans to increase and extend the investment fund at the heart of the "Juncker Plan" were drawn up too soon and with little evidence that the increase is justified, according to a new opinion published by the European Court of Auditors (ECA). The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB). It underlies the EU's Investment Plan, also known as the "Juncker Plan", which aims to generate €315 billion in public and private financing for strategic investments. The auditors considered three aspects: the limited evidential base for the proposal to extend EFSI, the potential for exaggeration of the impact of EFSI, and governance and transparency arrangements. Full press release [here](#).

(10/11) FRA - Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child now in Bulgarian and Italian. The Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child is now available [in Bulgarian and Italian](#). It aims to raise awareness and improve the knowledge of the legal standards that protect and promote children's rights in Europe. Further language versions of the handbook should be soon available.

(10/11) FRA - Crime of Torture and National Independent Commission: is Italy still credible in the field of human rights? The Agency [contributed to a parliamentary hearing](#) in the Italian Chamber of Deputies. The event looked at two human rights-related issues where Italy seeks to improve: National Human Rights Institutions and the definition of torture. The Agency contributed to the debate on the establishment of an NHRI by stressing the links

between the EU and NHRIs, and the added value of an NHRI in an EU context. The event sought to add momentum to renewed attempts in the Italian parliament to pass legislation establishing an NHRI with a view to A-status accreditation.

(10/11) FRA - Trust vital for effective cross-border criminal justice. EU rules essential to build trust in the EU's area of justice are seldom invoked, potentially hindering the fair treatment of people involved in criminal proceedings. Two new reports from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) offer detailed guidance for the EU and its Member States to boost the effectivity of the criminal justice system. Full article [here](#).

(9/11) FRA - FRA exchanges views with European Parliament on employment and human rights. On 8 November, FRA Director Michael O'Flaherty took part in an exchange of views with the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee. He told the Committee about the Agency's extensive research into severe labour exploitation of foreign workers in the EU. Full article [here](#).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

(17/11) End Child Sex Abuse Day. Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children can happen online, on a phone, on the streets or through a webcam, at home or at school. It can cause lifelong damage to the child's physical and mental health. To help prevent these crimes, prosecute the perpetrators and protect the victims, the Council of Europe has set up in 2015 the [European Day for the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) marked on the 18th of November. Read the full statements [here](#).

(15/11) Migrants in limbo in Europe have the right to live in dignity. In some countries, they call them "invisible persons", in others – "ghosts". Throughout Europe there are many migrants, primarily rejected asylum seekers, who live in a state of protracted legal and social limbo without any long-term prospects. The authorities refuse to regularize them or to grant them any kind of legal status, but often, they cannot go back to their countries of origin for various reasons, most often, fear of persecution. These desperate persons tend to live in substandard conditions, completely excluded from society, lacking residence permits and the means to meet basic needs such as shelter, food, health or education. In essence, they are deprived of any opportunity to live in dignity. Full article [here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY

(18/11) ECRE - Stateless children born in Norway obtain the right to acquire Norwegian citizenship. On 28 October 2016, the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security issued [a new instruction](#) to the immigration authorities allowing stateless children born in Norway to acquire Norwegian citizenship. Previously, stateless children born in Norway "without lawful residence" had not been able to acquire Norwegian citizenship. Several national and international organizations, such as [UNHCR](#), [European Network on Statelessness](#), [Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers](#), and [Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion](#) had condemned this Norwegian practice. According to these organizations, the requirement of "lawful residence" violates the [UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961](#). The new instruction has deleted the requirement of lawful residence. Instead, children born stateless in Norway are merely required to have been continuously

residing in Norway for three years before submitting their application for Norwegian citizenship. Full article [here](#).

(17/11) Politico.eu - Malta would 'sink' if Slovaks get their way on migration. Malta would be overwhelmed and “sink” if a Slovakian plan for tackling migration were to be implemented, according to Maltese Interior Minister Carmelo Abela. Slovakia is one of the harshest critics of the European Commission’s refugee relocation scheme, and has drawn up an alternative plan that would allow countries to hand over cash rather than take in migrants. The plan will be discussed by Abela and his EU counterparts at a dinner meeting Thursday. But the Maltese are not impressed. “If ... we receive hundreds of thousands of migrants and [other EU member countries] give us only money, first and foremost I think we’ll sink because our country is already densely populated,” Abela told POLITICO at the Maltese embassy in Brussels. Read more [here](#).

(17/11) Reuters - German minister says Facebook should be treated as a media company. Germany’s Justice Minister says he believes Facebook Inc. ([FB.O](#)) should be treated like a media company rather than a technology platform, suggesting he favors moves to make social media groups criminally liable for failing to remove hate speech. Under a program that runs until March, German authorities are monitoring how many racist posts reported by Facebook users are deleted within 24 hours. Justice Minister Heiko Maas has pledged to take legislative measures if the results are still unsatisfactory by then. Maas has said the European Union needs to decide whether platform companies should be treated like radio or television stations, which can be held accountable for the content they publish. Read more [here](#).

(16/11) The Guardian - Language barrier leaves refugees facing struggle to rebuild their lives. More needs to be done to ease the difficulties facing refugees if they are to reach their potential in the UK, according to the first major piece of research into the government’s resettlement scheme. Academics from the University of Sussex are close to completing a three-year study that has followed the progress of more than 280 refugees who came to the UK before 2010 under the [Gateway protection programme](#). Researchers compared the integration and wellbeing of refugees from Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, living in four areas of the UK. Their findings reveal how the system is failing some of the most vulnerable members of society through [inadequacies in the provision of English classes](#) and a lack of suitable routes to employment and training. The study, [Optimising Refugee Resettlement in the UK](#), found women, along with teenagers who had missed core education because of turmoil in their home country, faced the biggest barriers to integration. Full article [here](#).

(16/11) Politico.eu - Slovakia outlines alternative migration plan. EU interior ministers will on Thursday discuss a long awaited alternative to the [European Commission’s mandatory relocation scheme](#) for refugees put forward by [Slovakia](#), one of the strongest opponents of the Commission scheme. The Slovak plan, obtained by POLITICO, is called “Effective solidarity: a way forward on Dublin revision,” a reference to the EU’s Dublin regulation that forces migrants to be registered in the first EU country in which they arrived, and which the Commission wants to overhaul. It says “experience shows that the current Dublin system does not function satisfactorily;” stresses how “effective solidarity should be ensured;” and says “each member state should be ready to contribute in different ways.” The ministers will discuss it over dinner the evening before a meeting in Brussels at which they will focus on security and terrorism. Full article [here](#).

(16/11) ECRE - Joint Comments on European Commission proposal for a Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework. ECRE together with ICMC, CCME, IRC, Red Cross and Caritas have published [Joint Comments](#) to the European Commission proposal for a Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework and amending [Regulation \(EU\) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council COM\(2016\) 468](#) (13/07/2016). With these Comments the organisations raise a number of concerns about the Proposal, such as that it is overly reactive and focuses unduly on migration control objectives, to the potential detriment of resettlement's function as a lifesaving tool and a durable solution. Full press release [here](#).

(15/11) Quartz - "Cities will be a powerful antidote to Donald Trump": Social scientist Benjamin Barber on the emergence of a new urban radicalism. The election of Donald Trump has left the Democratic party defanged. Despite winning the popular vote, the Democrats now face four years of a radically right wing executive and at least two years in the minority in both houses of Congress. But as they cast around for succor, there is still one major institution they overwhelmingly control: cities. Of the 20 biggest US cities, only Fort Worth (Texas), San Diego (California), and Jacksonville (Florida) have Republican mayors. Across the whole US, the more densely inhabited the area was in the 2016 presidential election, the more likely it was to vote Democrat. What's more, cities are "the one institution today that still works, where government functions, where trust levels are double the levels of other institutions," says Benjamin Barber of Fordham University, an acclaimed social scientist and author of *If Mayors Ruled the World: Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities*. Full article [here](#).

(14/11) Social Platform - Access to services key to labour market integration. In mid-December a Social Platform delegation will go to south Sweden for a [fact-finding visit](#) to learn about some good examples of economic inclusion of migrants, which will be Social Platform's focus next year. Ahead of the meeting, Annica Ryngebeck reports on a chapter about Sweden in a report by [Bertelsmann Stiftung](#) that has mapped labour-market integration support measures for asylum seekers and refugees in nine European Union Member States. It concluded that only Sweden provided sufficient evidence to allow for policy recommendations, while most countries lack systematic follow-up and impact evaluation. Full article [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Housing Europe - [Structural Funds allocated to housing - A Housing Europe analysis of the latest update released by the European Commission](#) (article)

EUROCITIES - [Making cities. Visions for an urban future](#)

Equinet - [Equality bodies and integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers \(compendium of good practices\)](#) + ([factsheet](#))

Amnesty International - [Hotspot Italy: how EU's flagship approach leads to violations of refugees and migrant rights](#)

MPI - [Including Immigrant and Refugee Families in Two-Generation Programs: Elements of Successful Programs and Challenges Posed by WIOA Implementation](#) (webinar)

CRIN - [The stories behind children's rights cases](#) (strategic litigation case studies)

IOM - [Summary Report on the Migrant Integration Policy Index](#) (Health Strand and Country Reports)

MPI - [Serving Immigrant Families Through Two-Generation Programs: Identifying Family Needs and Responsive Program Approaches](#)

EPRS - [Refugee And Asylum Policy In Australia: Between Resettlement And Deterrence](#)

EPRS - [Universal Children's Day 2016](#) (Briefing file)