

# INFO FLASH 23/07

## EU INSTITUTIONS

### European Commission

**(22/07) African Peace Facility: African Union Peace & Security Operations boosted by an additional €800 million from the European Union.** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, and the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, today announced the signing of an agreement through which the EU commits a further €800 million to support the African Union in its efforts to promote peace, security and stability in Africa within the context of the continued implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture. Full press release [here](#).

**(18/07) European Union presents its progress towards sustainable development.** Today, at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York, the EU reaffirmed its strong commitment to deliver on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a shared global roadmap for a peaceful and prosperous world, with human well-being on a healthy planet at its core. A dedicated event hosted by the European Union and the Finnish Presidency assessed the progress made in implementing the Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within Europe and through the EU's international cooperation. Full press release [here](#).

**(3/07) EU Trust Fund for Africa: new migration-related actions to protect vulnerable people and foster resilience of host communities in North of Africa.** The European Commission has approved five new migration-related programmes in North of Africa totalling €61.5 million. These new programmes adopted under the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#) will reinforce ongoing actions to protect and assist refugees and vulnerable migrants in North of Africa especially in Libya, improve the living conditions and resilience of Libyans as well as foster economic opportunities, labour migration and mobility in the North of Africa countries. Full press release [here](#).

**(1/07) Humanitarian aid: €7 million for disaster preparedness in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region.** As natural disasters threaten the most vulnerable people in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region, the EU is providing €7 million in humanitarian aid to increase the capacity of communities and authorities to prepare for and respond to disasters. This aid is in addition to the approximately €17 million in EU humanitarian assistance given this year to help people hit by cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Comoros, and people affected by food shortages in Zimbabwe. Full press release [here](#).

**(27/06) Humanitarian aid: over €110 million in the Horn of Africa.** As the Horn of Africa region continues to be afflicted by severe and prolonged humanitarian crises, the EU announces a new aid package worth €110.5 million. Since 2018, the EU has provided humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa totalling €316.5 million. Full press release [here](#).

**(24/06) EU approves €150 million disbursement in Macro-Financial Assistance to Tunisia.** This is the second of three planned disbursements under the second Macro-Financial

Assistance (MFA) programme to Tunisia that was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 6 July 2016. In total, the second programme is worth €500 million. With today's disbursement, the EU has now provided Tunisia with €650\* million in MFA funds since 2015. Full press release [here](#).

**(24/06) Humanitarian aid: EU mobilises over €18 million for the Central African Republic in 2019.** As many people continue to suffer in the Central African Republic (CAR), the European Union continues to stand in solidarity with the people in need in the country and announces €18.85 million in humanitarian assistance for 2019. This additional support brings EU humanitarian assistance in CAR to more than €135 million since 2014. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) South Sudan: €48.5 million in additional EU humanitarian aid.** Despite a recent peace deal, humanitarian needs remain high in South Sudan with nearly two million people internally displaced and almost seven million in need of emergency food aid. To help the most vulnerable in the country, the European Commission today announces €48.5 million in humanitarian assistance. This comes on top of last week's €1 million to step up [Ebola prevention](#) in the country. Full press release [here](#).

**(19/06) EU Trust Fund Bêkou for the Central African Republic extended until 2020.** A few months after the signature of the Peace Agreement between the Government and armed groups signed in Bangui in February 2019, the European Commission is today announcing the extension of the Bêkou Trust Fund for the Central African Republic (CAR) until the end of 2020. Full press release [here](#).

## European Parliament

**(16/07) Parliament elects Ursula von der Leyen as first female Commission President.** With 383 votes in favour, the European Parliament elected Ursula von der Leyen President of the next European Commission in a secret ballot on 16 July. She is set to take office on 1 November 2019 for a five-year term. There were 733 votes cast, one of which was not valid. 383 members voted in favour, 327 against, and 22 abstained. Parliament currently comprises 747 MEPs as per the official notifications received by member state authorities, so the threshold needed to be elected was 374 votes, i.e. more than 50% of its component members. President Sassoli formally announced the requisite number before the results were revealed in plenary. The vote was held by secret paper ballot. Full press release [here](#).

**(12/07) The 2019 European elections: A pro-European – and young – electorate with clear expectations.** European Parliament publishes first results of its post-electoral Eurobarometer survey. A significant increase in young people with a pro-European mind-set cast a vote in the 2019 European elections, according to an in-depth Eurobarometer survey across all 28 member states. Conducted in the weeks after the elections, nearly 28.000 citizens throughout the EU answered questions about their participation in the European elections and the issues that motivated them to vote. Full press release [here](#).

## European Council / Council of the EU

**(8/07) Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals across the world: Council adopts conclusions.** The Council today adopted conclusions welcoming the publication of the first joint synthesis report of the EU and its member states on "Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals across the world" as an important contribution to EU reporting at the High Level Political Forum in 2019. The Council welcomes the collective contribution of the EU and its member states to the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the world, leveraging all means of implementation, in support of the 2030 Agenda. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) A new strategic agenda 2019-2024.** In recent years, the world has become increasingly unsettled, complex and subject to rapid change. That creates both opportunities and challenges. Over the next five years, the EU can and will strengthen its role in this changing environment. Together, we will be determined and focused, building on our values and the strengths of our model. This is the only effective way to shape the future world, promote the interests of our citizens, businesses and societies, and safeguard our way of life. Full press release [here](#).

**(14/06) Immigration liaison officers: Council adopts new rules to improve coordination.** The EU is strengthening the cooperation and coordination between liaison officers deployed to third countries by member states or the EU to deal with immigration-related issues. To achieve this, the Council today adopted a regulation to improve the functioning of the European network of immigration liaison officers. Full press release [here](#).

**(13/06) Better working conditions in the EU: Council adopts a directive on more transparency and predictability at work.** The Council today adopted a directive which will make working conditions across the EU more transparent and predictable. The new law introduces new minimum rights, as well as new rules on the information to be provided to workers about their working conditions. Its main aim is to respond to labour market challenges triggered by demographic developments, digitalisation and new forms of employment. Full press release [here](#).

## Others

**(22/07) EASO/IOM - EASO and IOM sign Working Arrangement.** The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have established a formal cooperation framework to guide the relevant areas of common work in the fields of international protection and migration management. Full press release [here](#).

**(10/07) Eurostat - First population estimates - EU population up to over 513 million on 1 January 2019 - More deaths than births.** On 1 January 2019, the population of the European Union (EU) was estimated at almost 513.5 million, compared with 512.4 million on 1 January 2018. During 2018, more deaths than births were recorded in the EU (5.3 million deaths and 5.0 million births), meaning that the natural change of the EU population was negative for a second consecutive year. The population change (positive, with 1.1 million more inhabitants) was therefore due to net migration. Full press release [here](#).

**(9/07) EASO - Nationals from Colombia and Peru apply for asylum in the EU+ in record numbers.** The monthly total of applications for international protection remains relatively stable. In May 2019, the monthly number of applications for international protection lodged in the 30 EU+ countries (European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland) remained stable at around 57 000. However since the start of the year, some 287 500 applications have been lodged, which is 14 % more than in the same period last year. Full press release [here](#).

**(4/07) EASO - EASO publishes two new country guidance notes on Iraq and Afghanistan.** EASO has published the '[Country Guidance: Iraq](#)' and the updated '[Country Guidance: Afghanistan](#)'. The documents reflect the common assessment of EU Member States of the situation in two of the main countries of origin for applicants applying in the EU. They are based on recently published [EASO Country of Origin Information Reports](#) and provide a detailed analysis in terms of international protection needs and qualification in accordance with the applicable EU asylum legislation. Full press release [here](#).

**(28/06) Eurostat - Eurostat monitoring report - How has the EU progressed towards the Sustainable Development Goals?** Sustainable development aims to achieve a continuous improvement in citizens' quality of life and well-being, without compromising the well-being of future generations. This involves the pursuit of economic progress, while safeguarding the natural environment and promoting social justice. For these reasons, sustainable development is a fundamental and overarching objective of the European Union and the progress towards the goals agreed at UN level is regularly monitored and reported. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) Eurofound - How can public services work more effectively to integrate refugees and asylum seekers?** Today is World Refugee Day, the international day to show solidarity and support to refugees. Eurofound has just published a new report, coinciding with this occasion, looking at the role of public services in integrating refugees and asylum seekers. Following the influx of over three million asylum seekers into the European Union in the three-year period 2015–2017, Member States faced a number of challenges related to integrating the newly arrived into their country. This report explores the role of public services – specifically housing, social services, health and education services – in the social and economic integration of refugees and asylum seekers. It aims to identify the factors that hinder this process and the elements that contribute to successful integration. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) FRA - Migration reporting learning for the media by the media.** Help is at hand for media professionals seeking to enhance the quality of their work when reporting about migration, as FRA releases a new e-learning platform developed by journalists for journalists to mark World Refugee Day on 20 June. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) EASO - EASO publishes the updated Country of Origin Information (COI) Report Methodology and Writing and Referencing Guide for EASO COI reports.** Today, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) published an updated version of the 2012 EASO COI Report Methodology. This methodology was developed for the purpose of producing and publishing different types of EASO COI reports. The use of this methodology is binding for the production of EASO COI reports. Full press release [here](#).

**(19/06) FRA - NGO search and rescue in the Mediterranean - state of play.** Over six people per day on average died crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe in 2018. Tougher migration policies have been undermining civil society rescue efforts to save lives and bring migrants in distress at sea to safety, as recent FRA research shows. Full press release [here](#).

**(13/06) FRA - 10 ways to protect children deprived of parental care and combat child trafficking.** Almost one quarter of trafficked victims registered in the EU are children. EU child victims are twice the number of non EU child victims, with girls especially targeted. So what can be done? A new guide developed by FRA suggests 10 ways to protect children moving across EU Member States without parental care. Full press release [here](#).

**(18/06) European Court of Auditors - Auditors assess EU efforts to combat child poverty.** The European Court of Auditors is conducting an audit to assess whether EU action helps reduce child poverty in Member States. In particular, the auditors will analyse the effectiveness of EU policy and funding in supporting Member States' efforts to alleviate child poverty. Full press release [here](#).

**(12/06) European Court of Auditors - EU reporting on sustainability and UN Sustainable Development Goals still lacking, warn Auditors.** Despite the EU's commitment to sustainability and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the European Commission does not report on or monitor how the EU budget and policies contribute to sustainable development and achieving the SDGs, according to a new review by the European Court of Auditors. The building blocks for meaningful sustainability reporting at EU level are largely not yet in place, say the auditors. The Commission has not yet built sustainability into reporting on performance, also due to absence of a long-term strategy on sustainable development up to 2030. Two EU institutions and agencies currently publish a sustainability report, while reporting by others is piecemeal. Full press release [here](#).

## **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

### **CIVIL SOCIETY**

**(18/07) ECRE - Op-ed: The EU at the Dock for Crimes against Humanity?** Op-ed by Jens Dieckmann and Susan Adamsen. Jens Dieckmann is Senior-Partner of Becher & Dieckmann-Rechtsanwälte (Bonn, Germany). He represented clients at the ICTY and ICC and is currently assigned Common Legal Representative, Associate Counsel, for victims in the ICC Banda case. Susan Adamsen is an LLM candidate in the University of Southern Denmark and is currently an intern at the Office of the Prosecutor at the UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. Full article [here](#).

**(28/06) ECRE - Interview: Regime Change and Migration Cooperation in the "New Gambia".** Interview with Omar N Cham, PhD candidate at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels. His research focuses on the politics of return migration in his home country, The Gambia. Full press release [here](#).

**(28/06) ECRE - The Committee on the Rights of the Child Condemns Spain's Treatment of Unaccompanied Children.** The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child condemned Spain for the violation of children's rights in two cases concerning age assessment

of unaccompanied children. The Committee [denounced](#) the lack of legal guarantees and the insufficient consideration of the documentation provided by the applicants and ordered the provision of legal representation during age assessment and the compensation of the applicants. Full press release [here](#).

**(21/06) ECRE - UNHCR's Recommendations to the Finnish Presidency of the Council.** The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) calls on the future Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) to progress on the EU's asylum reform. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) Eurodiaconia - Eurodiaconia: New report from Eurodiaconia on cooperation between civil society and local authorities on refugee integration (via Social Platform).** On the occasion of World Refugee Day, Eurodiaconia launched its [new report](#) on how to foster cooperation between local authorities and civil society actors in the integration and social inclusion of migrants and refugees. The increased numbers of migrants and refugees arriving in Europe in 2015 have led to a localization of the public perception of integration. Specifically, there has been an increased acknowledgment of the special capacity and the commitment of the local level in giving a timely response to the needs of the newcomers. While arrivals have decreased over the last two years, it has become increasingly important to find holistic solutions to foster the overall long-term integration process. Full press release [here](#).

## PUBLICATIONS

FRA - [The General Data Protection Regulation – one year on](#)

FRA – [e-Media Toolkit](#) (eLearning)

FRA - [Database 2012-2017 On Anti-Muslim Hatred](#) (Dataset)

FRA - [Forced return monitoring systems - 2019 update](#)

[Protecting migrant workers from exploitation in the EU: workers' perspectives](#)

OECD - [The new immigrants Global trends in migration towards OECD countries between 2000/01 and 2015/16](#) UNHCR - [Global Trends in 2018](#)

UNHCR - [Routes Towards the Mediterranean - Reducing Risks and Strengthening Protection](#)

EASO - [Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2018](#)

Council of the EU General Secretariat – [Think Tank Review](#) (June)

Council of the EU General Secretariat – [Think Tank Review](#) (July)

ECRE - [Policy Note: Return Policy: Desperately Seeking Evidence and Balance](#)

ECRE - [Policy Note: Migration Mission Creep?](#)

ECRE - [Policy Note: Border Procedures Not A Panacea](#)

ECRE - [Working Paper: Education as an Instrument of Integration for Refugee Millennials in the European Union](#)

CEPS - [Can Regular Replace Irregular Migration Across The Mediterranean?](#)

CEPS - [An Eu-Africa Partnership Scheme For Human Capital Formation And Skill Mobility](#)

EPRS - [Impact Assessment And European Added Value Work During The Eighth Legislative Term, 2014-2019](#)

EPRS - [The European Elections And Thereafter](#) (Think Tank Review)

MPI - [Migration, Development, and Global Governance: From Crisis toward Consolidation](#)