

# INFO FLASH 19/03

## EU INSTITUTIONS

### European Commission

**(18/03) Eastern Partnership: Commission proposes new policy objectives for beyond 2020.** Today, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have put forward a [proposal for the long-term policy objectives of the Eastern Partnership beyond 2020](#). These aim at increasing trade, strengthening connectivity and deepening economic integration with [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), [Belarus](#), [Georgia](#), the [Republic of Moldova](#) and [Ukraine](#), strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, environmental and climate resilience, supporting the digital transformation, and promoting fair and inclusive societies. Full press release [here](#).

**(9/03) Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa.** Factsheet available [here](#).

**(6/03) Migration: Commission takes action to find solutions for unaccompanied migrant children on Greek islands.** Following President von der Leyen's visit to Greece on Tuesday, together with the Presidents of the other EU institutions, the Commission presented its [Action Plan for immediate measures to support Greece](#), which was welcomed by the Ministers at the extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council. Full press release [here](#).

**(4/03) Turkey: Common interest to end conflict in Syria and cooperate on the refugee crisis.** High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell and Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič concluded their two-day visit to Ankara on Wednesday, where they discussed with Turkish partners the situation in North-West Syria and refugee flows to and from Turkey. Full press release [here](#).

**(1/03) The European Union provides €30 million in humanitarian funding for vulnerable people in Sudan to help address needs in the country.** The European Union provides €30 million in humanitarian funding for vulnerable people in Sudan to help address needs in the country. Full press release [here](#).

**(29/02) 10th African Union Commission – European Commission Meeting - Joint Communiqué.** Statement available [here](#).

**(26/02) Burkina Faso: The EU reaffirms its support during this humanitarian and security crisis.** In the light of the very rapid deterioration in the humanitarian and security crisis in Burkina Faso, Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, and Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, visited the country. During their visit to the central-north region where they met people displaced and badly affected by the crisis, the Commissioner for Crisis Management announced an initial humanitarian aid package of EUR 11.45 million for 2020. Full press release [here](#).

**(26/02) European Union-African Union Commission-to-Commission take their cooperation forward.** Factsheet available [here](#).

## European Parliament

**(10/03) The EU must help Greece manage its border with Turkey, while ensuring the right to asylum for those who need it, several MEPs said on Tuesday.** The EU must help Greece manage its border with Turkey, while ensuring the right to asylum for those who need it, several MEPs said on Tuesday. Full press release [here](#).

## European Council / Council of the EU

### Others

**(17/03) FRA - Relocating unaccompanied children from Greece: what works and what does not.** Thousands of unaccompanied children in Greece are living in conditions that are completely unsuitable – without adequate housing, exposed to the cold weather, facing insecurity and even violence. The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) welcomes the initiative of the European Commission and some Member States to relocate these unaccompanied children. Full press release [here](#).

**(6/03) EU Committee of the Regions - Horizon Europe, an investment in and for our future.** Ms. Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and Mr. Emil Boc, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and member of the Committee of the Regions, participated in a Citizens' Dialogue on "Horizon Europe – challenges and perspectives". Full press release [here](#).

**(4/03) EIB - EIB launches new study confirming strong growth and impact of African banking.** The European Investment Bank today published the new edition of the "Banking in Africa" series: "Financing Transformation amid Uncertainty". It is the fifth edition of this economic report that analyses recent developments in the African banking sectors. Based on both macroeconomic and survey data, the report addresses structural issues and investment opportunities in Africa and frames policy options for all stakeholders. Full press release [here](#).

**(26/02) EIB - EIB joins Sahel Alliance. The European Investment Bank, the European Union's long-term lending institution, will join the Sahel Alliance.** The EIB's intention to join the Sahel Alliance, an international initiative to strengthen support for challenges faced in Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad, was confirmed at the first General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance taking place this week in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott. Full press release [here](#).

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE

### CIVIL SOCIETY

**(13/03) ECRE - Joint Communication on EU Strategy with Africa.** This Monday, the European External Action Service and the European Commission (EC) published a [Joint Communication: Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa](#) which sets out the vision of the two institutions regarding the future EU-Africa partnership. It suggests what it defines as a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to migration and mobility as its proposed action for the partnership with Africa. Full press release [here](#).

**(13/03) ECRE - Violations Continue in Greece, EU Says Asylum Procedures Cannot be Suspended.** Greek authorities are continuing apparently illegal actions in an attempt to stop people entering from Turkey. EU confirms that violations will be discussed and short of declaring Greek suspension of procedures illegal, states that they cannot be suspended. A group of member states offered to take in unaccompanied children from the Greek island camps. Full press release [here](#).

**(13/03) Eurodiaconia - Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the Child Guarantee.** Our partner EU Alliance for Investing in Children has released a new *“Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the Child Guarantee for the wellbeing of all children across the EU”*. Full press release [here](#).

**(10/03) PICUM - EU gender equality strategy risks leaving out millions of people.** The EU’s much anticipated Gender Equality Strategy for 2020-2025, released on 5 March, is an important step up for the EU on gender equality. But without addressing parallel policy agendas that actively undermine migrants’ opportunities and safety, the strategy risks leaving out millions of people. Women represented 51.4% of migrants in Europe in 2019. But too often migration policies either ignore women or reduce them to a “vulnerable group”. This ignores the systemic barriers that current migration policies create for women migrating to Europe. Barriers that intersect not only with their gender but also very often with their race, nationality and class. Full press release [here](#).

**(6/03) ECRE - MFF Resources for Asylum and Migration Risk Sharp Reduction in the Negotiating Process.** After the failure of the extraordinary European Summit from the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, the EU still does not have an agreement on the size and components of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), which is supposed to define the EU budget for the next 7 years (2021-27). The delay has significant implications for the many EU member states that rely on EU resources for complementing the national budget dedicated to the asylum and integration of refugees. Full press release [here](#).

**(6/03) ECRE - Report ‘Follow the Money III’ Solidarity: The use of AMIF funds to Incentivise Resettlement and Relocation in the EU.** The third ‘Follow the Money’ report maps and assesses the use of financial incentives (lump sums) allocated under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) to EU Member States (MS) participating in refugee resettlement and intra-EU relocation. The four case studies, France, Italy Portugal and Slovenia provide a range of national contexts and practices within the role and impact of EU funding is explored. The research draws on the first two ‘Follow the Money’ studies published by ECRE and UNHCR in 2017 and 2018 tracking the use of AMIF for asylum, integration and return. Full press release [here](#).

**(6/03) ECRE - Weekly Editorial: EU is Crossing the Red Line by Preventing Refugees from Crossing its Borders.** All week alarming news has circulated of the situation at the EU-Turkey border. ECRE called on Europe to stay calm and stay human, using the positive alternatives at its disposal. A Joint Statement from organisations in Greece published below denounces the responses of the Greek government and calls for EU action. Across Europe people mobilised in solidarity with refugees and against heavy-handed and illegal tactics. Civil society is quite united in its expression of immediate concerns, opposition to the long-term strategy and support for the positive alternatives that should be under discussion. Full press release [here](#).

**(4/03) Caritas Europa - A humane reaction is urgently needed at the Greek-Turkish border.** Migrants should not be seen as a security threat; they are individuals in a vulnerable situation who need our help. In response to the latest dramatic developments at the Greek-Turkish border, Caritas Europa calls for a united Europe of dignity and humanity to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable. Full press release [here](#).

**(28/02) Eurodiaconia - The European Commission publishes the Country Reports.** The European Commission has just published the Country Reports for 2020 which analyse each EU member state's key socio-economic challenges with the aim of providing a framework for the coordination of social and economic policies across the European Union. Full press release [here](#).

**(25/02) Caritas Europa - EU Pact on Asylum and Migration.** As the European Commission is drafting a new Pact on Asylum and Migration, Caritas Europa joins other civil society organisations in co-signing a statement asking for a fresh start, which moves away from the security oriented approach and develops a rational and rights-based asylum and migration policy. Full press release [here](#).

**(28/02) ECRE - Weekly Editorial: From Imposing to Engaging: African Civil Society Perspectives on EU Africa Cooperation.** ECRE has become increasingly concerned about the impact of Europe's toxic migration control policies on other regions, including Africa. As European and some EU policy-makers clamour to make migration deals with African governments, to get them to prevent migration, to contain people or to accept back their own or other countries' nationals, all the signs were of limited gains and significant negative effects. To find out more about what's going on, ECRE commissioned a set of papers from civil society representatives across Africa, published today. The authors will also be participating in events in Brussels to meet policymakers to share more of their analysis. Full press release [here](#).

## [PUBLICATIONS](#)

EPC - ['When Mayors make Migration Policy': What role for cities in EU migration and integration policymaking?](#)

EPRS - [Demographic Outlook For The European Union 2020](#)

EPRS - [Implementation Of Macro-Regional Strategies](#)

EPRS - [Family Reunification Rights Of Refugees And Beneficiaries Of Subsidiary Protection](#)

Eurodiaconia - [Fighting youth unemployment, marginalisation and radicalisation through social inclusion in Europe](#)