



Briefing on the fundamental rights situation on the ground Migration & Asylum, 10-24 October 2020

Arrivals

Greece: Between 12-18 October there were [zero arrivals](#) on the Eastern Aegean hotspot islands.

Italy: [254](#) arrivals between 12-18 October. The previous week however, [Lampedusa](#) recorded just in 2 days 37 landings of over 800 migrants.

Spain: [2,330](#) people arrived between 12-18 October. More than [1000](#) migrants landed on the Canary Islands in 485 small boats between 8-10 October and [2,391](#) in 94 boats between 15-22 October.

Land borders

The Minister of Citizens Protection announced the hiring of [100 border guards](#) in **Greece**.

During an inspection at the border crossing point Csanádpalota, **Hungary**, 45 migrants were found [hiding](#) inside a truck.

[54 citizens](#) from Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Palestine and Vietnam were found hiding in a truck at the border crossing point Nădlac II between **Romania** and **Hungary**.

Greece started the building of the [fence](#) in Evros region. It will have a total length of 27 kilometers and eight elevated observatories to be used by the Hellenic Army. It should be completed by [April 2021](#).

Migrants continue to arrive in Italy through the [Balkan Route](#). 50 migrants were apprehended in Udine and 76 in Trieste, **Italy**, this week.

Search and rescue

[Frontex](#) launched its second operation in **Montenegro**. The main aim is to tackle cross-border crime at sea borders, including smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings and terrorism. Frontex will provide aerial support as well as technical and operational assistance, including search and rescue support.

According to [IOM Libya](#), in the period of 6 - 12 October, 391 migrants were rescued, intercepted at sea and returned to **Libya**.

The body of a man thought to be an asylum seeker has been discovered on a beach just outside [Calais](#), **France**. It is feared he drowned trying to make the crossing of the strait of Dover.

Use of force and pushbacks

On 22 October, at the meeting of the EURTF in Greece, the Commission mentioned that they have raised the issue of pushbacks with the Hellenic Coast Guard.

In mid-October 2020, a Danish Refugee Council team in a Bosnian border town treated a group of some 75 people who reported being pushed back from **Croatia**, most of which had severe injuries from beatings. One person had a fractured leg and had to undergo surgery in the Bihac hospital. According to the statements provided by interviewed victims, the pushbacks involved violent behaviour, degrading treatment, as well as theft and destruction of personal belongings – and, in one case, severe sexual abuse.^[1]

[1] Danish Refugee Council, information provided to FRA in October 2020.



Child protection and protection of other vulnerable groups

[Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC) found that **Spain's** procedures to determine the age of unaccompanied migrant children violated their fundamental rights. CRC adopted 14 decisions against Spain on the issue of age determination of unaccompanied migrant children since 2019.

More than 861 unaccompanied children were transferred from the Reception and Identification Centres to the mainland in **Greece** with the coordination of the Secretary Special for UAC and the cooperation of IOM. At present, there is a small number of children still residing in Reception and Identification Centres, since they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and have been placed under quarantine. Once their quarantine is lifted, they should be transferred to the mainland. 290 UACs have already been relocated to several EU Member States under the Voluntary Relocation Programme.¹

According to the [Ministry of the Interior](#), as of 12 October, 3,193 unaccompanied children have arrived in **Italy** in 2020.

Reception

[UNHCR](#) called for urgent action and improvements to avoid further deterioration of living conditions for some 7,800 refugees and asylum-seekers currently living in the emergency site in Kara Tepe, Lesvos, **Greece**. UNHCR mentioned critical gaps in drainage, water, sanitation, hygiene and health services that need to be addressed without any delay.

BBC produced a [video](#) “What really happened in the refugee camp destroyed by flames?”, presenting arguments that besides the refugee population of Moria, also the local population may have been involved in setting the fires that destroyed Moria camp in Lesvos, **Greece**.

Covid-19 measures

A Reception and Identification Centre Vial, Chios, **Greece** was placed under [lockdown](#) until [4 November](#) after health authorities confirmed several coronavirus infections.

Return

The Council of Ministers of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** agreed on the Proposal of the [Readmission Agreement](#) between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**. A Draft Protocol between the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the implementation of this Agreement has been established.

Asylum

¹ Ministry of Migration and Asylum in Greece, Special Secretary for the Protection of the Unaccompanied Minors, Fact Sheet for the situation of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece, October 2020.



Migration and Asylum Minister in **Greece** announced structural changes ensuring access of the asylum seekers to the [social welfare](#) system. After the conclusion of the registration stage, the asylum seekers will be provided with bank account, taxpayer ID and temporary social security number.