Migration needs better reporting: New media competition awards 35 journalists

The first edition of the Migration Media Award will award 35 journalists from 16 countries for their journalistic excellence on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The award ceremony will be held on 14th June evening in Valletta, Malta, under the auspices of Malta's EU presidency.The winning entries feature fact-based and impartial reporting on the complexity of migration, its many challenges and opportunities. High quality reporting as rewarded by the new journalistic competition is urgently needed to improve people's understanding of migration.

The twelve first-prize winners for the four categories of video, print, online or radio in the English, French or Arabic languages come from eight different countries: Sameh Ellaboody, Ahmed Shalaby and Abdelrahman Ayyash from Egypt; Marco Panzetti, the team Marco Stefanelli, Nerina Schiavo and Nadia Lucisano from Italy; Fouzi Bendjama from Algeria; Catarina Santos from Portugal; Daniel Trilling from the UK; Elisa Perrigueur, the Egypt-based team François Hume-Ferkatadji and Jenna Le Bras from France, and Salaheddine Lemaizi from Morocco. A multimedia prize will be presented to Migration Matters from Germany as an additional first prize.

An international jury, composed of reputable senior journalists, evaluated over 120 applications. Impressed with the quality of the previously published pieces and the proposals for future productions which this award scheme will fund, jury member Aidan White from the Ethical Journalism Network said: "This kind of reporting does great credit to the cause of public-interest journalism. It shines a powerful light on the humanitarian and policy challenges of the recent 'migration crisis'. The authors raise questions that cannot be ignored and challenge those who come up with easy answers."

The Migration Media Award is a new EU-funded journalism competition bringing together four partners based on the initiative of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The EUROMED Migration IV and OPEN Media Hub projects, funded by the EU, developed the scheme in partnership with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and Malta's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.

The award scheme is the first EU-funded activity that addresses the various challenges that journalists face when it comes to conducting balanced and fact-based reporting on migration. These challenges and barriers were identified in the recently launched study entitled "How does the media on both sides of the Mediterranean report on migration?" in which journalists from 17 countries examined the quality of migration media coverage in 2015/16.

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Further information

Relocalisation: la Commission engage des procédures d’infraction contre la République tchèque, la Hongrie et la Pologne

On 23 June 2016 citizens of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU by…

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place some of the highest common asylum standards in the world. And in the past two years, European migration policy has advanced in leaps and…

‘Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan.It will be built through concrete achievementswhich first create a de facto solidarity.’Robert Schuman9 May 1950On 25 March 2017,…

In response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU has imposed restrictive measures against the Russian Federation.Overview…

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his annual State of the Union speech at the European Parliament on 14 September 2016, just two

days ahead of the informal meeting of 27…

Enlargement is the process whereby countries join the EU. Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 member countries to 28.Any European country that respects the principles of liberty,…

Relocation: Commission launches infringement procedures against the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland

Despite the Commission's repeated calls for action, these three countries remain in breach of their legal obligations and have shown disregard for their commitments to Greece, Italy and other Member States.

The Council Decisions require Member States to pledge available places for relocation every three months to ensure a swift and orderly relocation procedure. Whereas **Hungary** has not taken any action at all since the relocation scheme started, **Poland** has not relocated anyone and not pledged since December 2015. The **Czech Republic** has not relocated anyone since August 2016 and not made any new pledges for over a year

The Commission had previously announced in the 12th Relocation and Resettlement report presented on 16 May that those Member States that have not relocated anyone, or have not pledged for almost a year, breaching their legal obligations, should start doing so immediately and within a month. As announced yesterday in the 13th report on relocation and resettlement, since no action has yet been taken by the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to meet their legal obligations, the Commission has decided today to launch infringement procedures and address letters of formal notice to these three Member States.

Next steps

A **letter of formal notice** is a first official request for information and the first step in an infringement procedure. Given that the Council Decisions on relocation were adopted in response to an emergency situation and in view of the repeated calls to the three Member States, the authorities of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland now have one month to respond to the arguments put forward by the Commission, instead of the customary two-month deadline. If no reply to the letter of formal notice is received, or if the observations presented in reply to that notice cannot be considered satisfactory, the Commission may decide to move to the next stage of the infringement procedure, and send a 'reasoned opinion' to the Member States. If necessary, the Commission may then refer the case to the Court of Justice

of the EU.

Background

The temporary **emergency relocation scheme** was established in two Council Decisions in September 2015, in which Member States committed to relocate persons in need of international protection from Italy and Greece. The relocation decisions concern the commitment to relocate 98,255 people, after the Council adopted an amendment to the 2nd Council Decision on relocation on 29 September 2016 to make 54,000 places not yet allocated available for the purpose of legally admitting Syrians from Turkey to the EU.

The Commission has been reporting regularly on implementation of the two Council Decisions through its regular relocation and resettlement reports, which it has used to call for the necessary action to be taken. As reported yesterday in the 13th report on relocation and resettlement, the pace of relocation has significantly increased in 2017 with almost 10,300 persons relocated since January – a fivefold increase compared to the same period in 2016. As of 9 June, the total number of relocations stands at 20,283 (13,766 from Greece, 6,458 from Italy). With most of the Member States now relocating from Italy and Greece, it is feasible to relocate all those eligible by September 2017 if the pace of relocation is further stepped up. Whereas in Greece there are 11,350 persons are currently registered for relocation, more efforts are needed in Italy to identify and rapidly register eligible asylum seekers.

The 13th report noted that regrettably, despite repeated calls, the **Czech Republic**, **Hungary** and **Poland**, in breach of their legal obligations stemming from the Council Decisions and their commitments to Greece, Italy and other Member States, have not yet taken the necessary action and announced that the Commission has decided to launch infringement procedures against these three Member States. Other Member States have been pledging and relocating. Member States' legal obligation to relocate will not cease after September – the Council Decisions on relocation apply to all persons arriving in Greece or Italy until 26 September 2017 and eligible applicants must be relocated within a reasonable timeframe thereafter.

For More Information

Communication: Thirteenth Report on Relocation and Resettlement

Annex 1: Relocations from Greece

Annex 2: Relocations from Italy

Annex 3: Relocations from Italy and Greece

Factsheet: Relocation and Resettlement

Council Decision on the relocation of 40,000 people from Italy and Greece

Council Decision on the relocation of 120,000 people from Italy and Greece

On the key decisions in the June 2017 infringements package, see full MEMO/17/1577.

On the general infringements procedure, see MEMO/12/12(an info graph).

On the EU infringements procedure.

Speech by President Juncker at the European Parliament on the preparation of the European Council of 22 and 23 June 2017

Good morning, Mr President,

Minister,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Since we last met here one month ago, Europe has again seen its way of life attacked through cowardly acts of terrorism.

In Europe, determination will always triumph over fear. These attacks will not undermine our resilience.

They do, however, bring into sharper focus the discussions on defence and security that we will have at this month's European Council.

Europeans expect their Union to keep them safe from threats whether they be from within or without and whatever their nature.

That was recognised by EU leaders in Bratislava and in Rome when they pledged to step up their defence cooperation. They highlighted defence as one the key issues for our Union when moving forward.

To support that and faithful to what I had told this Parliament last September at the State of the European Union speech, the Commission last week published a reflection paper on the future of European defence showing how far we can go depending on the level of ambition and political will of our Member States.

We have all the tools we need in the Treaties to make it happen, including Permanent Structured Cooperation – the Sleeping Beauty of the Lisbon Treaty. But now is the time to decide and this House must play a full role in that debate.

Whichever road we go down, our ever closer partnership with NATO will remain the cornerstone of Europe's defence and security. On defence, the European Union and NATO are like twins. We are part of the same family and rivalry is not an option. Within NATO, there is a great deal the European Union can do to improve its own cooperation.

The simple truth is that no European country alone can tackle the scale and complexity of the challenges we face. And neither can we rely on any foreign power to do it for us. We cannot outsource our own security.

That starts with the need to invest in a more efficient way. The United States already spends twice as much as all EU countries combined, while Russia and China have dramatically stepped up their defence budgets in recent years.

And 90% of the money we do invest on defence research and technology in Europe is spent without any kind of coordination at all. That leads to inefficiencies and duplication that could easily be avoided.

That is why the European Defence Fund that the Commission proposed last week will support Member States' budgets and facilitate cooperation on joint research and purchasing of equipment and technology.

We have earmarked EUR 590 million to support defence by 2020 and have proposed to allocate at least EUR 1.5 billion each year after that.

The Fund is both an investment boost to our industry and a statement of intent to our citizens that expect us to do more to protect them.

I was encouraged to see already vocal support for our proposals at last week's high-level conference on security and defence which I hosted with Prime Minister Sobotka in Prague. But also the Franco-German announcement for the development of a European drone programme and the joint training of officers. We are not talking about the militarisation of the European continent. It is about doing more together for the stability and peace of our continent.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Il est normal que l'Union européenne s'implique fortement dans tout ce qui relève de la sécurité et de la défense. Mais la sécurité mondiale exige bien plus que les seuls efforts en matière de dépenses militaires. La stabilité européenne comme la stabilité mondiale dépendent aussi de nos efforts en matière de coopération au développement et de lutte contre les changements climatiques, dont nous savons à quel point ils redessinent notre planète et sont source d'instabilité.

Notre terre et tous ses peuples en subiront les effets. La montée des eaux n'a jamais été aussi rapide. Elle menacera la côte du Bengale comme la côte de Floride et certaines côtes européennes. Mais tous les peuples ne sont pas égaux face aux conséquences des changements climatiques. La partie la plus

pauvre du monde, qui ne représente que 7% des émissions de CO2, est la plus vulnérable.

Et cette fois-ci nous ne pourrons pas prétendre que nous ne savions pas. A travers le monde, le nombre de catastrophes naturelles liées au climat a plus que triplé depuis le début des années 1960. Chaque année ces catastrophes ont provoqué plus de 60 000 décès, principalement – mais non exclusivement – dans les pays en développement. Les épisodes de sécheresse deviennent de plus en plus nombreux et de plus en plus graves, provoquant de véritables situations de famine comme c'est le cas actuellement en Afrique de l'Est.

Réduire les budgets de l'aide au développement ou remettre en cause les engagements pris à la COP 21 c'est porter une lourde responsabilité en nuisant gravement à la stabilité mondiale. Et c'est un message que l'Union européenne doit continuer et continuera à porter, vous pouvez compter sur moi et le monde comptera sur nous.

Nous avons connu ces dernières années le plus important afflux de réfugiés depuis la deuxième guerre mondiale. Mais nous devons aujourd'hui prévenir une crise bien plus grave encore en agissant sans perdre un seul instant. Car ne pas tenir aujourd'hui les engagements de l'Accord de Paris c'est risquer de jeter, d'ici à 2050, jusqu'à 250 millions de réfugiés climatiques sur les routes de l'exil.

Herr Präsident,

Meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren,

Wir haben eigentlich jetzt schon eine Vorreiterrolle bei der Reform des europäischen Asyl- und Migrationssystems eingenommen. Auch wenn die öffentliche und die veröffentlichte Meinung oft behaupten, die Europäische Union komme in der Flüchtlingskrise nicht voran, entspricht dies nicht ganz der Wirklichkeit. Das belegt unser aktuelles Migrationspaket, das die Kommission gestern an den Europäischen Rat geschickt hat. Wir sehen mehr Solidarität als zuvor. Aber wir sehen noch nicht Solidarität genug. Und wir sehen, dass unsere Außengrenzen besser geschützt sind als je zuvor.

Die Union und die Mitgliedstaaten unterstützen Griechenland und Italien. Wir haben 20.000 Flüchtlinge aus diesen beiden Ländern umverteilt. Das zeigt: wo ein Wille ist, ist auch ein Weg. Und wir haben vor Ort zentrale Aufnahmestellen eingerichtet, für die wir EU-Beamte, Mitarbeiter von EU-Agenturen und Experten aus allen Mitgliedsländern entsandt haben.

Gleichzeitig haben wir den Schutz unserer gemeinsamen Außengrenzen in unser aller Verantwortung überführt. Dank der Europäischen Grenz- und Küstenwache können wir heute die am stärksten gefährdetsten Grenz-Abschnitte besser absichern. Zurzeit sind bereits – aber niemand sagt das – 1.600 europäische Grenzschützer im Einsatz, die die nationalen Grenzbeamten unterstützen – 967 in Griechenland, 402 in Italien, 168 in Bulgarien und 65 in Spanien. Zusätzlich steht ein Pool von 1.500 Grenzschutz-Beamten sofort einsatzbereit.

Wir zeigen Solidarität nicht nur innerhalb der Union, sondern auch denjenigen Staaten gegenüber, die einen Großteil der Flüchtlinge aufnehmen. Dazu gehört die Türkei. Bei meinem jüngsten Treffen mit Präsident Erdoğan Ende Mai haben wir beide bekräftigt, dass wir weiterhin an der erfolgreichen Umsetzung der EU-Türkei Flüchtlingsvereinbarung arbeiten wollen. Die EU steht zu ihrem Wort. Und auch die Türkei steht zu ihrem Wort, denn heute kommen 98% weniger Flüchtlinge von der Türkei nach Griechenland als dies vor dem Abkommen der Fall war.

Aber natürlich werden wir uns nicht auf dem Erreichten ausruhen. Unsere Berichte zeigen deutlich, wo noch Mängel bestehen und wo die Mitgliedstaaten sich noch weiter anstrengen müssen. Hier geht es um ganz praktische Fragen, wie zum Beispiel die noch fehlende Ausrüstung für den Europäischen Grenz- und Küstenschutz. Es geht aber auch um grundlegendere Fragen, nämlich wie Mitgliedstaaten EU-Recht umsetzen.

Nach ganzen 12 Berichten, in denen wir immer wieder angemahnt haben, dass einige Länder mehr tun müssen, um ihren Verpflichtungen bei der Umverteilung nachzukommen, gibt es immer noch drei Länder – Polen, Ungarn und die Tschechische Republik –, die entweder keinen einzigen Flüchtling aus Italien und Griechenland aufgenommen haben oder aber seit über einem Jahr niemanden mehr aufnehmen. Das lässt uns keine andere Wahl, als heute deshalb die Vertragsverletzungsverfahren* gegen diese Länder einzuleiten. Hierbei geht es nicht – ich möchte dies unterstreichen – um Sanktionen, sondern es geht darum, deutlich zu machen, dass getroffene Entscheidungen geltendes Recht sind – selbst wenn man dagegen gestimmt hat. Die Kommission ist Hüterin der Verträge und wir müssen unserer Pflicht nachkommen – so wie wir es heute in 137 weiteren Vertragsverletzungsfällen gegen insgesamt 27 Mitgliedstaaten tun.

Man soll aufhören zu behaupten, die Einleitung von Vertragsverletzungsverfahren wäre mit Sanktionen gleichzusetzen. Es geht hier um die Einhaltung des europäischen Rechts. Und wer darauf drängt, dass europäisches Recht eingehalten wird, der sanktioniert nicht.

Die europäische Solidarität darf keine Einbahnstraße sein. Der Verkehr muss sich in beide Richtungen bewegen. Ich gebe die Hoffnung nicht auf, dass sich der europäische Geist, die europäische Vernunft und unsere europäischen Werte am Ende durchsetzen werden, und wir diese Frage der Solidarität nicht vor dem Gerichtshof lösen müssen. Europäische Solidaritätsfragen müssen nicht vor Gericht gelöst werden, sondern schreien nach einer sofortigen politischen Antwort. Solidarität kann man allerdings nicht mit der Brechstange erzwingen – sie muss von Herzen kommen, vor allem wenn es um Menschenleben geht. Ich werde die Mitgliedstaaten anlässlich des nächsten Europäischen Rates intensivst daran erinnern.

Ich danke für die Geduld.

* Please note that the interpretation provided by European Parliament included a wrong translation.

Correct translation of the sentence:

DE: “*Das lässt uns keine andere Wahl, als heute deshalb die Vertragsverletzungsverfahren* gegen diese Länder einzuleiten*”

EN: “*This therefore leaves us no other choice but to launch infringement procedings against these countries today*”

FR: *“Ceci ne nous laisse guère d’autre choix que d’engager des procédures d’infraction à l’encontre de ces pays aujourd’hui”*

First estimates for 2016 – Consumption per capita varied by more than one to two across EU Member States – GDP per capita by almost one to six

Actual Individual Consumption (AIC) is a measure of material welfare of households. Based on first preliminary estimates for 2016, AIC per capita expressed in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) varied from 53% to 132% of the **European Union** (EU)average across the Member States.

Full text available on EUROSTAT website