



## EUROPE – THE CONTINENT OF SOLIDARITY

### SAFE PATHWAYS FOR REFUGEES AND LEGAL MIGRATION

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 bounds with the European Agenda on Migration proposed by the Juncker Commission in May 2015. Europe is a continent of solidarity and will continue keeping legal pathways open for people in need of international protection. Offering legal pathways will also prevent migrants and refugees from having to resort to smuggling and trafficking networks and making perilous irregular journeys to reach Europe.

#### PROTECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

In the face of the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, Europe is the world's first responder. In 2016 alone, EU Member States granted asylum to 710,395 refugees and offered safe and legal pathways through resettlement to 14,205 people in need of protection.



Europe

724,000

Europe is the first responder. In 2016 alone, the EU granted asylum to and resettled **over 720,000 refugees**.

#### RESETTLEMENT – SAFE PATHWAYS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Since 2015, two successful EU resettlement programmes have helped more than **29,000** of the most vulnerable refugees find shelter in an EU Member State.

€500 million set aside for Member States' resettlement efforts in the next two years –  
**€10,000 for each resettled** person from the EU budget.

**The way forward:** A new, more ambitious target for the resettlement of 50,000 persons in need of international protection by October 2019, as set by European Commission President Juncker in September 2017 is within reach. A particular focus should be put on resettlement from North Africa and the Horn of Africa.



### By October 2018:

EU Member States to ensure that **50% are effectively resettled**.



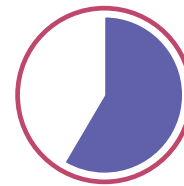
### By October 2019:

Member States to ensure that **100% are effectively resettled**.

The new resettlement programme is also supporting the work of the Joint African Union – European Union – United Nations Taskforce to accelerate assistance to migrants and refugees stranded in Libya. Under the UNHCR's newly established **emergency evacuation mechanism from Libya** vulnerable refugees are being resettled to Europe or other third countries. So far, over 1,300 people have been evacuated from Libya under the mechanism in view of further resettlement.

### PLEDGES RECEIVED UNDER THE NEW RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

A total of **pledges 50,000 planned**



**39,758 pledges so far**

## LEGAL MIGRATION

In 2016, EU Member States issued almost 297,000 permits for **study** reasons, and over 10,000 for **researchers**. In 2017, about 21,000 higher qualified third-country nationals received an **EU Blue Card**, an EU-wide work permit, allowing high-skilled non-EU citizens to work and live in any of the 25 participating countries within the European Union.

### ATTRACTING TALENT

Ensuring legal channels for skilled migrants as part of a structured EU policy on labour mobility is an important element of the EU's comprehensive migration strategy. Safe and legal pathways help respond to skill shortages and the growing needs of Europe's ageing societies, while at the same time reducing incentives to irregular migration.

### A NEW BLUE CARD

The EU Blue Card scheme establishes a fast-track admission procedure and ensures a common set of social and economic rights to attract and retain highly skilled non-EU workers. The European Commission proposed a revised Blue Card scheme in 2016. Once adopted it will make it easier and more attractive to come to the EU, further strengthen the rights of workers and their families and provide for more flexible rules so that Member States can attract the work force they need, when they need it.

### LEGAL ECONOMIC MIGRATION PILOT PROJECTS

Targeted legal migration pilot projects should be put in place in mid-2018, developed by the European Commission and several EU Member States, which expressed an interest to include temporary, as well as longer-term migration schemes, based on labour market needs and offers in the respective Member State and selected third countries.

### INTEGRATION

An early and effective integration is key to making migration a benefit for both migrants and the economy and cohesion of European society. The European Union supports its Member States in their efforts to promote integration in a number of policy areas, in particular through financial support and best practice guidance. This includes:

- Dissemination of integration strategies
- Advice and assistance concerning housing, health and administrative and legal counsel
- Education and training (including language training and preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market)
- Actions to promote meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between migrants and the receiving society