

The European Pact for Migration and Asylum: what responses to the challenges of irregular migration and asylum?



The European Pact for Migration and Asylum was agreed by the Council of the European Union on 23 April 2024, after being approved by the European Parliament on 10 April.

Its operational phase is expected to last two years, to allow Member States to implement the new regulations. The Member States will have to make greater efforts to improve the conditions for the integration of legally resident migrants and to find a balanced relationship of common interest with the countries of departure or transit.

The infographic below attempts to give an overview of the general logic and architecture of the Pact as adopted.









Since the Syrian crisis of 2015/2016, the European Union has been faced with a significant increase in asylum applications, a situation that has not occurred over such a long period since the Second World War.

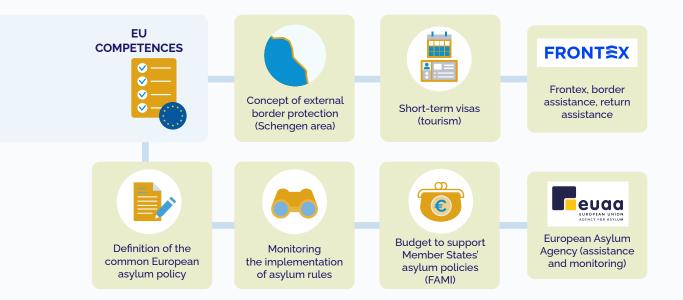
At the same time, with the exception of a pause recorded at the height of the COVID epidemic in 2020, the number of irregular entries that are only partially asylum-related has also risen sharply.



Since the early 2000s, the European Union as a whole has been experiencing a higher rate of immigration than the average for OECD countries, largely as a result of its ageing population.

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The division of competences between the EU and its Member States in the areas of migration and asylum



COMPETENCES SHARED BETWEEN THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES





Bilateral external cooperation initiatives, migration partnerships (e.g. Turkey, Tunisia, etc.)



Taking account of migration in trade agreements, Readmission agreements



EUROPOL, EUROJUST agencies to organise cooperation between Member States in the fight against trafficking



Managing legal migration: family, studies, work



Long-term visas

EXCLUSIVE POWERS OF MEMBER STATES





Implementation of regalian capacities: border police, customs



The fight against smugglers and trafficking



Integration policies



Language learning, housing, training, employment, health



Irrespective of the Syrian crisis in 2015-2016, net migratory flows to the EU from countries outside the EU are increasing, largely for structural reasons:

- · labour market needs in the EU
- · labour availability in non-EU countries

DID YOU KNOW



Frontex data does not record all irregular entries, only those observed when crossing external borders.



The European Pact for Asylum and Migration and its three accompanying policies



In September 2020, the European Commission proposed a "new European pact for asylum and migration". 8 successive rotating presidencies of the EU have worked hard to negotiate the content with the European Parliament, making this Pact one of the most significant legislative achievements of the Van der Leyen presidency.





THE PACT ITSELF



The core of the Pact:

"Screening" regulations, "External border procedures", "Integrated management of asylum and migration" (ex Dublin), crisis situations (e.g. temporary protection), etc.

Complementary provisions of the Pact:

EURODAC regulations, "Qualification", European Asylum Agency, European framework for resettlement, Return Directive, etc.

PROTECTION OF EXTERNAL BORDERS



Revision of the Schengen Code:

new vulnerability assessment procedures, police cooperation at internal borders Strengthening FRONTEX, New European framework for combating smuggling networks

EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF MIGRATION POLICY



Bilateral partnership agreements on migration, taking account of migration issues in EU policies on trade and development and visa policy.

PROMOTING LEGAL LABOUR IMMIGRATION





"Talent partnerships" programme, "skills declaration platform" for prospective immigrants Revision of the directive on the rights of long-term resident foreigners Simplification of the single work permit



The new pact aims to re-establish the **effective responsibility** of States of first entry for the strict control of regular and irregular arrivals, including priority responsibility for examining asylum applications.

Responsibility



Greater responsibility for stricter and more effective application of external border control measures.

Solidarity



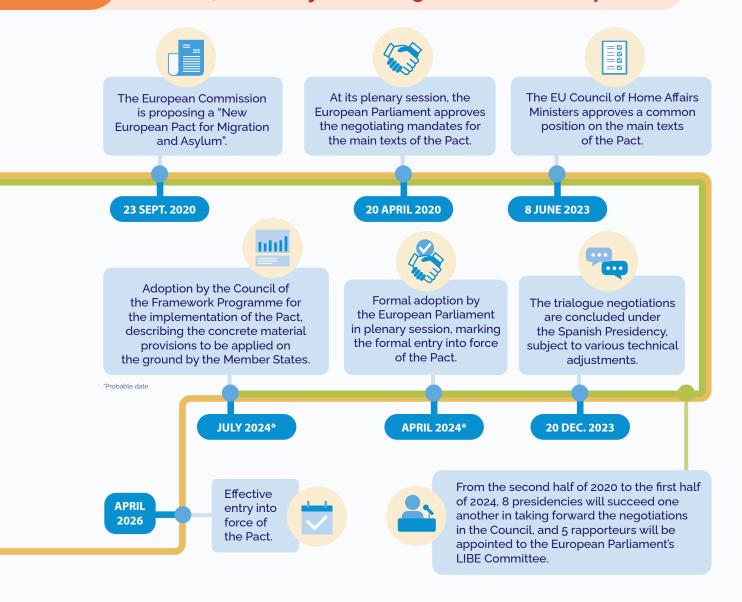
Relocation of asylum seekers, payment of compensation by individual states, EU budget to cover the costs of control and reception.

Prevention



Migration cooperation agreements with third countries, filtering and accelerated border procedures, organisation of immediate returns in the event of unfounded claims, framework for the resettlement of people whose refugee status has been determined by the UNHCR.

Between the Commission's proposal and the approval of the Pact, almost 4 years of negotiations were required.



Migration figures for Europe

DID YOU KNOW

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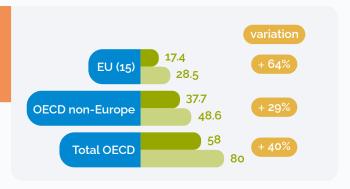


Despite the disorganised appearances, the European asylum area is working remarkably well, with an average of almost 600,000 applications examined each year since 2015, accompanied by an average of 200,000 appeals, allowing around 60% of applications examined at first or second instance protection.

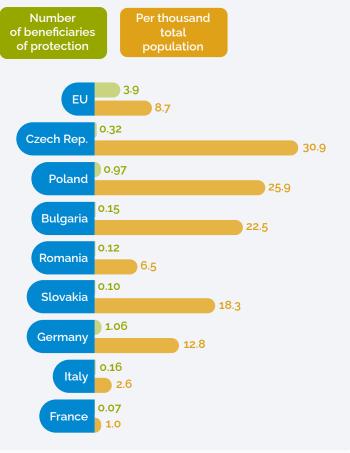


Immigrant
population aged 15
and over in the
OECD 2000-2010

Source: OECD, DIOC database



Number of people having fled Ukraine and benefiting from European Temporary Protection in some EU countries, end March 2023 (in millions)



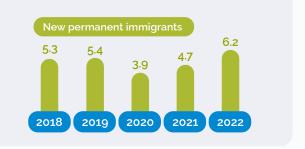
Source: EUROSTAT

External immigration and internal mobility in the EU (27) over two decades (in millions)



Source: Eurostat *Immigrants with EU nationality **Non-EU immigrants

New immigrant populations in OECD countries: permanent



Source: OECD, International Migration Outlook 2023

Number of Ukrainian refugees* in selected **OECD** countries (June 2023) (in millions)

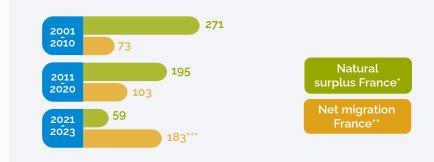


OECD, International Migration Outlook 2023
'All protection statuses combined, including
EU temporary protection.

Change in balance of births over deaths, EU (27) and France 2001-2021



Trends in the natural population surplus and net migration from outside France 2001-2023 (in thousands of people, annual averages)



* Excess of births over deaths
**Difference between immigration and emigration flows
**Provisional data
**Source: Bilan démographique de la France, INSEE Première January 2024