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The European Commission has come up with alternatives for a "more humane and efficient" way of handling asylum in response to the migrant crisis.



COMMISSION UNVEILS ASYLUM REFORM PLANS

EURACTIV.COM

The European Commission on Wednesday launched its bid to reform the EU's common asylum system, including a push for the automatic, mandatory relocation of refugees across Europe.

According to the Commission, the volume and concentration of arrivals of refugees over the past year has exposed the weaknesses of the current Dublin System, which determines where asylum applications should be made.

Dublin states that the member state responsible for examining an asylum application is the country of first point of irregular entry.

In 2015, more than a million migrants entered Europe. About half of them were Syrians fleeing war.

Today over 51,000 refugees and migrants, seeking to reach northern Europe, are stuck in Greece, after Balkan states sealed their borders. Hundreds more continue to land on the Greek islands every day.

Member states have further exacerbated the problem by encouraging "irregular secondary movements" - when refugees travel to another country from their first point of origin. Differing treatment of asylum seekers across the EU incentivised such movement, said the Commission.

The executive said it is considering two possible scenarios for the future of the EU's Dublin regulation.



EU VOWS TO ACT QUICKLY ON PANAMA PAPERS

POLITICO.EU



The EU has "a duty" to stop the kind of tax avoidance uncovered in the Panama Papers scandal, the European commissioner for taxation, Pierre Moscovici, said Wednesday.



DUTCH VOTERS HAVE REJECTED A PACT WITH UKRAINE

DW.COM



Dutch voters have rejected a pact with Ukraine, although a low turnout could invalidate the ballot. The nonbinding referendum asked voters if they approved of extending an EU association agreement with Ukraine.

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GOVERNMENT TO SPEND £9M ON LEAFLETS TO EVERY HOME

BBC.COM

The government is to spend more than £9m on sending a leaflet to every UK household setting out the case for remaining in the European Union. The 14-page document, to be sent to 27 million homes, is designed to respond to public demand for more details about the EU referendum by setting out the facts behind the government's position.

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MAKE THE EU'S RULES ON ASYLUM WORK BETTER, RATHER THAN REINVENTING THE WHEEL

ECRGROUP.COM

The European Commission put forward two possible visions for the future of the EU's Dublin regulation, which determines where asylum applications should be made. The ECR group home affairs spokesman Timothy Kirkhope says that the principles underpinning Dublin should remain the same, with better implementation and assistance for those countries on the front line.

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MEPS CONSIDER MOVES TO INCREASE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

ECRGROUP.COM

New measures to secure a greater role for the UK and national parliaments in EU law making are being proposed by a Conservative MEP.

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TURKEY, GERMANY HERALD PROGRESS AS MIGRANT FLOW TO GREECE SLOWS

REUTERS.COM

Turkey and Germany said on Wednesday an agreement between Ankara and the EU meant to stem the flow of migrants to the Greek islands was showing signs of success, but many were still trying to cross the sea and the route remained far from sealed off.

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TATA STEEL TO LAUNCH UK SALE PROCESS BY MONDAY: UK MINISTER

REUTERS.COM

India's Tata Steel (TISC.NS) will launch the formal sale process for its British assets by Monday and give a "reasonable" timeframe to find a buyer, Britain's business minister said after meeting the company's chairman in Mumbai.

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7 APRIL, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

• 9:00 **Committee on Budgetary Control**. The agenda includes: Votes - Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Commission (vote on a draft report by **Martina Dlabajová**, ALDE), EU general budget - 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs (vote on a draft report by **Claudia Schmidt**, PPE), EU general budget - European External Action Service (vote on a draft report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), EU general budget - European Parliament (vote on a draft report by **Markus Pieper**, PPE) (ASP- 3G2).

• 9:00 **Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**. The agenda includes: Amending Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments as regards certain dates (consideration of amendments, rapporteur **Markus Ferber**, PPE), Indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts (vote on the text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations, rapporteur **Cora van Nieuwenhuizen**, ALDE), European Deposit Insurance Scheme (second exchange of views, **Esther de Lange**, PPE) (PSH - 1A002).

• 9:00 **Committee on Industry, Research and Energy**. The agenda includes: Discussion on the Market Economy Status for China: possible implications for European industry - presentation by director **Leopoldo Rubinacci**, European Commission, Competitiveness of the European Rail Supply Industry (adoption, rapporteur **Martina Werner**, S&D), A new forward-looking and innovative future strategy on trade and investment (adoption, rapporteur **Theresa Griffin**, S&D) (PSH - 3C050).

• 9:00 **Committee on Transport and Tourism**. On the agenda: Common Aviation Area Agreement between the EU and its Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part, to take account of the accession to the EU of the Republic of Croatia (vote on draft recommendation (consent), rapporteur **Francisco Assis**, S&D), Technical requirements for inland waterway vessels (repealing Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council) (vote on the text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations, rapporteur **Ivo Belet**, EPP) (PSH - 7C050).

• 9:00 **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**. The agenda includes: Follow-up to the extraordinary meeting of EU Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of Thursday 24 March 2016 after the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March 2016. 9:15 joint debate on the next steps in EU-Turkey cooperation in the field of migration and the progress made by Turkey towards visa liberalisation. 12:00 Exchange of information on third country nationals and European Criminal Records Information System (rapporteur **Timothy Kirkhope**, ECR) (JAN - 4Q1).

• 15:00 **Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector**. On the agenda: Discussion with European Commission - DG GROW, DG CLIMA and DG ENV (ASP - 3G-3).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

• Yesterday, the Commission adopted a **Communication launching the process for a reform of the Common European Asylum System**, presenting: options for a fair and sustainable system for allocating asylum applicants among Member States; a further harmonisation of asylum procedures and standards to create a level playing field across Europe and thereby reduce pull factors

inducing measures to reduce irregular secondary movements; and a strengthening of the mandate of the European Asylum Support Office.

• The Commission yesterday presented its revised proposal for a **Regulation on the establishment of an Entry-Exit System** to speed-up, facilitate and reinforce border check procedures for non-EU nationals travelling to the EU.

WHO WHEN WHERE

• 9:00 The conference **'30 years since Chernobyl - Witnesses of the past & nuclear power today'** takes place in Brussels. President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz** gives an opening speech at the conference (ASP - G3).

• 9:00 The conference **'30 years since 13:30 a two-day 'Sustainable Built Environment 2016: Transition Zero'** starts in Utrecht. The conference aims to rally technology transition professionals in urban sustainability around a number of hot issues to promote international best practices in urban sustainability.

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



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