

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN ITALY

08/06/2021 – 21/06/2021

- On 21 June 2021, the Italian National Guarantor of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty presented his 2021 report to the Italian Parliament. The report included data and information on migrants' detention in hotspots and Permanent Repatriation Centres as well as the number of migrants returned in 2020.
- On 16 June 2021, the Italian authorities [agreed](#) to take in 86 people, including children, who were rescued by the German vessel, Nadir, of the NGO RESQSHIP in Maltese waters. Malta refused to take responsibility.
- On 16 June 2021, Italian Interior Minister, Luciana Lamorgese, [announced](#) that a protocol on humanitarian corridors from Libya was signed, with the involvement of UNHCR and Community of Sant'Egidio and the Waldensians, to take in 500 migrants from Libya.
- On 15 June 2021, around 700 people [arrived](#) in Lampedusa, where, on 15 June, 1,367 people were staying in the overcrowded hotspot.
- More than 1,000 people arrived autonomously in Lampedusa in 16 different disembarkations on the weekend of 12-13 June 2021, including 250 people who departed from Tunisia, while the rest departed from Zwara, Libya. During one of the disembarkation operations, 24 people who fell into the sea were [saved](#) by fishermen from Lampedusa. The main [nationalities](#) of people departed from Libya and Tunisia are Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Morocco.
- Between 11-12 June 2021, in less than 48 hours, the SAR vessel Geo Barents from Médécins sans Frontières (MSF) (the only SAR vessel currently at sea) rescued [410 people](#) in distress at sea, in 7 different operations, 4 of them in Malta's SAR zone and 3 in international waters off Libya. Malta has [refused](#) to provide a Place of Safety for the people rescued in its SAR zone and rejected any requests from MSF. On 18 June 2021, the 410 people finally [disembarked](#) in Augusta, Sicily.
- On 14 June 2021, [90 people](#) in distress in Malta's SAR zone were finally rescued by Italian authorities.
- Oscar Camps, founder of the NGO Open Arms, [denounced](#) that the stop of 5 humanitarian vessels has caused 811 deaths so far in 2021: almost as in the whole 2019 (918) and more than in the whole 2018 (793), accusing Italian Prime Minister, Draghi, and Interior Minister, Lamorgese, of doing worse than former Prime Minister, Conte, with Interior Minister, Salvini.

- Italian Interior Minister, Luciana Lamorgese, and her Slovenian counterpart, Aleš Hojs, **announced** they would resume police patrol along the Italy-Slovenia border to “curb migration flows”.
- The NGO Doctors for Human Rights (MEDU) **published** its latest report on the living and working conditions of migrant labourers in the Plain of Gioia Tauro (Calabria, Italy).

26/05/2021 – 7/06/2021

- On 6 June 2021, **56 people** (all of Iranian nationality), including one woman and one children, arrived autonomously on a sailing boat in Calabria. On 4 June 2021, 35 unaccompanied minors and two adults were **rescued** on a boat off Calabria.
- On 5 June 2021, the humanitarian search and rescue vessel Sea-Eye 4 **had been stopped** in the port of Palermo, Sicily, after its first mission in which it rescued 415 people. In another attempt to criminalize solidarity and rescue operations, Italian authorities contested the “regularity” of rescue activities.
- On 28 May 2021, 70 refugees, of whom 13 children, from Ethiopia **arrived** in Italy through the humanitarian corridors project.
- According to the Italian National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty, over 700 000 “invisible” foreign citizens in Italy **do not have access** to the anti-COVID vaccination campaign.
- On 1 June 2021, the NGO-led campaign *Ero Straniero* published a **new report** on the state of play of the regularisation campaign started one year ago: only 14% of all requests (220 000) have been processed.
- On 31 May 2021, during the visit of Libyan National Unity government’s Prime Minister, Abdulhamid Dabaiba, to Italy, Italian Prime Minister, Mario Draghi, **showed** his intention to continue to provide resources and training capacities and finance “voluntary assisted repatriations and humanitarian evacuations from Libya”. On 28 May 2021, during a meeting between Search and Rescue NGOs and the Ministry of the Interior, the latter talked about “the precious support by UNHCR and IOM for the respect of human rights in Libyan detention centres”. However, the two UN agencies **refuted** this statement, saying that “they are not allowed to do anything to improve human rights conditions”.
- Following the increase in arrivals in Italy in early May 2021, EU Member States **ignored** calls to relocate asylum seekers from Italy – only Ireland and Lithuania proposed to accept 10 **people** and Luxembourg 2. Not only **Germany and France** did not accept to relocate migrants from Italy, but they are accusing Italy to hamper progress in the negotiations on the EU Pact on Migration.

10/05/2021 – 26/05/2021

- On 25 May 2021, in the framework of the European Council, **Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi and French President Emmanuel Macron**, met in Brussels to discuss migration management and stabilisation in Libya, with a reinforced cooperation between Italy and France. Mario Draghi is pushing for reaching an **agreement** on migration management at the next European Council on 24-25 June 2021.
- On 28 May 2021, Search and Rescue NGOs **meet** Interior Minister, Luciana Lamorgese.
- Between 22-23 May 2021, a **23-year-old Guinean man, Musa Balde**, **committed suicide** in the Permanent Repatriation Centre (CPR) in Turin. He was held just a few days after he had been violently attacked by three Italian people in Ventimiglia in a racially-motivated attack. Italian National Guarantor for detainees' rights, Mauro Palma, said "officials had not recognized the victim's vulnerability and fragility".
- On 18 May 2021, Sicily's regional government **declared** they will set up new multi-function centres for migrants holding a residence permit to increase integration of around 190 000 migrants, working mainly in agriculture.
- According to the government's "Report on operations authorised and carried out for the control of export, import and transit of armaments materials", Italy is continuing **exporting** armaments to countries where violations of human rights are perpetrated, such as Egypt, Libya and Syria.
- On 17 May 2021, Alarm Phone **lost contact** with around 85 people who entered the Italian SAR zone.
- Between 16 and 17 May 2021, around 61 people, including 8 minors and 5 women, were **rescued** and disembarked in Lampedusa. Another 73 people were intercepted and disembarked. All migrants were brought to the **hotspot** which is now hosting around 400 people. At the same time, the rescue vessel **Sea-Eye 4** **rescued** more than 400 people in distress, including many minors and pregnant women, in six different operations during its first rescue mission. On 22 May 2021, all people on board were finally disembarked in Pozzallo, Sicily. Although all were **tested** negative to COVID-19 and the local quarantine has been reduced to 10 days, the crew will be subject to a 14-day quarantine period.
- Prosecutors in Catania had **asked** the judge **not to send right-wing former Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini to trial** in the "Gregoretta case", for refusing to let migrants and refugees disembark from a coastguard ship in 2019. Matteo Salvini is still **involved** in the similar Open Arms case on kidnapping charges.

- On 17 May 2021, 40 asylum seekers of nine different nationalities arrived in Rome from Lesbos through the [humanitarian corridors](#) organised by the Sant'Egidio Community in cooperation with the Italian government.
- In the northeast region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, authorities recorded a [20% increase](#) in migrants' arrivals in the first 5 months of 2021, compared to the same period last year. Since February 2021, there have not been any official readmissions to Slovenia.
- [Ireland](#) accepted to relocate 10 asylum seekers from Lampedusa following the peak in arrivals in the first week of May 2021.

27.04.2021 – 10.05.2021

- An increase in arrivals in Lampedusa was registered since the last weekend of April 2021, when around 700 people [arrived](#) autonomously in Lampedusa. On 5 May 2021, another 39 people [disembarked](#) autonomously in Lampedusa with three different boats that left Tunisia. Between 8-9 May 2021, around 2 100 people [disembarked](#) in Lampedusa in less than 24 hours on 20 different boats which had left Tunisia and Libya, including numerous women and children. The [hotspot in Lampedusa](#) is completely overcrowded with more than 2000 people and more than 400 people spending the [night outside](#) on the dock Favarolo. 446 migrants are on board the [quarantine boat *Allegra*](#) which left the island during the first week of May.
- On 20 May 2021, Italian Interior Minister, Luciana Lamorgese, will [visit](#) Tunisia to discuss migration management together with EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson.
- On 9 May 2021, Alarm Phone [alerted](#) that 97 people who have been at sea for 2 days were in distress close to Lampedusa.
- After 5 years from the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on the case [Khlaifia v. Italy](#), the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers [decided](#) on 3 May 2021 that Italy is still not guaranteeing the respect of rights in hotspots and this will be re-examined in December 2021. The decision followed the violations and critical events denounced by ASGI, A Buon Diritto and CILD.
- On 2 May 2021, 60 migrants, including 7 women and 13 children, from Iraq, Iran and Syria [arrived](#) on board a sailboat to Leuca, in Apulia. On 3 May 2021, another 35 migrants from Afghanistan, including 9 women and 12 children, [arrived](#) on a sailboat in Vieste, Apulia.
- On 30 April 2021, the Italian Coast Guard [rescued](#) 49 people fleeing Libya in international waters off Tripoli.
- On 29 and 30 April 2021, the search and rescue vessel ***Sea Watch 4*** rescued first [44 people](#) and another [77 people](#) from a rubber boat, including 11

women and a baby. On 5 May 2021, all the 455 [rescued people](#) in different operations were able to disembark safely.

- On 27 April 2021, the search and rescue vessel ***Ocean Viking*** [rescued](#) 236 people from two boats in distress in international waters off Libya, including 114 unaccompanied minors. They have [disembarked](#) in the port of Augusta, Sicily, on 1 May 2021.

13.04.2021 – 26.04.2021

- On 26 April 2021, eight humanitarian search and rescue NGOs [wrote an open letter](#) to Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi calling for an urgent search and rescue operation to stop the immense loss of lives in the Mediterranean and to respect the Law of the Sea.
- On 19 April 2021, Italian Interior Minister, Luciana Lamorgese, [went on an official visit to Libya](#) to discuss migration matters. The Minister announced she was committed to open a humanitarian corridor to Italy for “a significant number of migrants” and that she would visit Tunisia soon, together with Commissioner Ylva Johansson, to relaunch the Malta agreement on relocations.
- On 15 April 2021, the head of UNHCR Filippo Grandi [met](#) with Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Luigi di Maio and Pope Francis. He called on the Italian authorities not to criminalize and impede the work of rescue NGOs in the Mediterranean as they play a crucial role in saving lives at sea.
- On 12 April 2021, the Italian National Guarantor for the rights of detainees Mauro Palma released the [report](#) on the visits to migrant repatriation centres in 2019-2020. He [noted](#) that severe problems existed in the centres in terms of detainees’ rights and called for “structural changes as well as legislative intervention”.
- Transcripts of conversations between Italian officials and Libyan coastguards, contained in a 30,000-page file produced by Italian prosecutors and [leaked by The Guardian](#), revealed that migrants in distress in the Mediterranean were left to die.
- The rescue vessel *Open Arms* has been [stopped](#) at the Pozzallo port in Sicily after 19 hours inspection from the Italian Coast Guard.

29.03.2021 – 12.04.2021

- On 8 April 2021, 27 people were [rescued](#) off Italian coasts.
- On 6 April 2021, Italian Prime Minister, Mario Draghi, [during his meeting](#) with Libya’s interim Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, in Tripoli, praised Libya’s efforts to prevent migrants crossing to Italy, amid

strong criticisms by human rights groups. According to Dbeibeh, Draghi agreed to make it easier for Libyans to apply for visas to Italy.

- On 2 April 2021, the Italian newspaper Domani [revealed](#) that Sicilian prosecutors have wiretapped and secretly recorded dozens of conversations of Italian journalists working on Libya and the Central Mediterranean, in the investigation of sea rescue NGOs including Save the Children and Médecins Sans Frontières.
- The Italian journalist Duccio Facchini [revealed](#) that the maintenance of two patrol boats provided by Italy to the Libyan Coast Guard should be done in Sicily in a “discreet place” for “large vessels” in order to “hide them from view of outsiders”.
- A 10-year-old Afghani girl was [pushed back](#) at the French-Italian border in the Alps from French police while she was trying to cross in the woods with her parents and two other families. She was then transferred to the hospital for suffering from a shock.

10/03/2021 – 29/03/2021

- On 26 March 2021, the Italian association ASGI published an [analysis](#) of data on forced returns of Tunisian citizens in recent months from Italy to Tunisia.
- On 17 March 2021, the Libyan Coast Guard asked the search and rescue vessel *Ocean Viking* to intervene and rescue [10 people](#), including two women and 4 children, in distress off the Libyan Coast. On 20 March 2021, Ocean Viking [rescued](#) 106 children, women and men from an overcrowded rubber boat in distress in international waters. On 23 March 2021, all 116 survivors on board the Ocean Viking [disembarked](#) in Augusta, Sicily.
- On 22 March 2021, the Italian coast guard once again [stopped](#) the humanitarian rescue ship *Sea Watch 3*, accusing it to have too many people on board and preventing it to save lives at sea.
- On 8 March 2021, around 120 migrants who left Turkey [arrived](#) on a sailing boat in the Apulia region (South of Italy).
- At least 500,000 vulnerable people, who reside on the Italian territory, are excluded from the COVID-19 vaccination plan. Local organisations [denounced](#) the issue and wrote a letter to the Italian Health Minister, Roberto Speranza.
- An Italian prosecutor formally [called](#) for right-wing League leader Matteo Salvini to be tried for kidnapping over his decision to prevent more than 100 migrants from landing in the country in 2019. The next hearing will be on 17 April 2021.

23/02/2021 – 09/03/2021

- On 4 March 2021, the network *Ero straniero* published a [report](#) on the state of play of regularisation procedures of migrant agricultural and care workers. The report shows that the procedure is very slow and only a small number of residence permits have been issued so far.
- On 3 March 2021, the rescue vessel *Sea-Watch 3* was [assigned Augusta](#) as a port of disembarkation for the 363 rescued people on board.
- In the umpteenth attempt of **criminalisation of solidarity**, Italian prosecutors, after a four-year investigation, have [charged](#) more than 20 people with crimes carrying sentences of up to 20 years. The crews of the NGOs Jugend Rettet, Save the Children and Médecins Sans Frontières have been accused of collaborating with people smugglers after saving thousands of people from drowning in the Mediterranean.
- On 23 February 2021, the police [broke into](#) the private home of two local volunteers and founders of [Linea d'Ombra ODV association](#), in Trieste (north-east Italy), to seize personal mobiles and materials of the organisation which supports people on the move in order to find evidence of "facilitating illegal immigration".
- Former Interior Minister, Marco Minniti, will [lead](#) the new Med-Or foundation, affiliated to the *Leonardo* defence and security company, which will lead discussions in the field of aerospace, security and defence in the wider Mediterranean region, including the Sahel and Middle-East.
- According to the [latest Ismu Foundation report](#), the number of foreigners in Italy is decreasing, although arrivals by sea have increased.
- A big [investigation](#) by ActionAid revealed how Italy tried to stop migration from Africa – also using European funds – and how much it spent doing so (a video of the project is available [here](#))

08/02/2021 – 22/02/2021

- Between 19 and 20 February 2021, two boats [capsized](#) off Lampedusa, one of them during the rescue operations, leaving between 50 and 120 people missing. The public prosecutor of Agrigento opened an investigation into the shipwreck happened during the transshipment operations in Italian territorial waters. The aircraft Moonbird of the NGO SeaWatch [spotted](#) more than 450 people on board 6 boats. On 21 February 2021, around 80 migrants were rescued by the merchant vessel Vos Triton and following [protests](#) of migrants on board not to be pushed back to Libya, the vessel inverted course and is now close to Lampedusa. The vessel Asso Trenta [rescued](#) around 232 people in distress at sea.
- Between 17 and 18 February 2021, around 230 people [arrived](#) in Lampedusa. On 13 February 2021, Open Arms [rescued](#) around 107 people, many of them were women and children, in Maltese Search and Rescue

zone. On 16 February 2021, Porto Empedocle in Sicily was [assigned](#) as port of disembarkation for the 146 people on board the Open Arms.

- On 4 February 2021, Doctors for Human Rights (MEDU) [released a report on the critical situation at the French-Italian border in the Alps](#), where around 4700 people transited from September to December 2020, including 390 minors. The snow, freezing temperatures and the militarisation of the border result in increased risks and dangers. Systematic pushbacks from France to Italy have been reported and a constant criminalisation of solidarity, including the closure of temporary aid shelters along the route.
- In the framework of further attempting to externalise border controls and increase returns, the Italian defence and security company Leonardo will [provide a drone](#) to the Italian Interior Ministry to patrol migratory routes in the Mediterranean sea, while pushbacks increase and the Italian Coast Guard is failing to publicly share data on search and rescue activities in the Central Mediterranean.

21/12 2020 – 8/2 2021

- A press [conference](#) on “Pushback to Libya: legal action against private companies and the Italian government” organised by the Italian Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (ASGI) and Amnesty International Italy will take place On 12 February 2021,. The conference will discuss the case of five Eritrean citizens who were illegitimately pushed back on 2 July 2018 by the Augusta Offshore vessel “Asso Ventinove” as part of operations coordinated by the Italian authorities stationed in Libya in collaboration of the so-called Libyan coastguard.
- On 7 February 2021, the Italian authorities have assigned Augusta, Sicily, as a [safe port of disembarkation](#) for the 422 people on board the *Ocean Viking*.
- On 4 February 2021, around 99 people [arrived](#) in Lampedusa from Libya. On the same day, Sea-Watch’s aircraft *Moon Bird* [identified](#) around 350 people in distress at sea on five different boats: 25 people in Malta’s Search and Rescue (SAR) zone and 330 in Libyan SAR zone.
- On 2 February 2021, 4 years after the signature of the Italy-Libya memorandum of understanding, six Italian NGOs [called on the Italian Parliament](#) to suspend the bilateral agreements with Libya and to launch a search and rescue operation in the Mediterranean. In 4 years, more than 50 000 people have been pushed back to Libya, 12 000 only in 2020.
- On 27 January 2021, the [UN Human Rights Committee found that Italy](#) had failed to respond to various distress calls and to **protect the right to life** of more than 200 migrants on board of a vessel that sank in 2013. The

Committee [calls on Italy](#) to investigate and prosecute those responsible and to provide effective remedies to the victims' families.

- The Barcelona City Council [will join the Open Arms trial](#) against former Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini as a civil party. The municipality will appear as the accusing party in the proceedings in which Salvini may have to answer for kidnapping and refusing to perform official acts.
- Two asylum seekers in Italy have [received](#) a special residence permit due to serious labour exploitation, after having been victims of a criminal organization that is now on trial.

13/01/2021 – 25/01/2021

- On 13 January 2021, the Interior Minister, Luciana Lamorgese [stated](#) at a parliamentary hearing that Slovenia and Croatia were “safe countries”. This came despite numerous evidence and testimonies of brutal police violence against migrants in those countries. A few days later, the Court of Rome condemned Italy for those *refoulement* procedures.
- On 13 January 2021 again, the Interior Ministry, in a report to the Italian Parliament on the activities of Police Forces in 2019, [stressed](#) the importance of the cooperation with Libya and to limit the rescue NGOs' activities in the Mediterranean in order to “reduce the migratory flow”.
- On 14 January 2021, 26 people (from Iraq), including women and minors, [arrived](#) in the port of Salerno, Italy, inside two containers where they had spent the whole journey from Turkey.
- On 25 January 2021, the rescue vessel Ocean Viking of the NGO SOS Mediterranée [disembarked 373 people](#) rescued in less than 48 hours, among them many infants and unaccompanied minors, in the port of Augusta, Sicily. On the same day, [45 people](#) who fled Libya two days before arrived autonomously in Lampedusa.

21/12 2020 –12/1 2021

- On 31 December 2020, the SAR NGO Open Arms [rescued](#) 169 people, including 12 women, 6 children and 40 teenagers, most of them Eritreans, who had left Sabratha, Libya. On 2 January 2021, Open Arms rescued other 96 people, including 2 women and 17 minors, who had left Zuwarah on 31 December and were left adrift for two days with no water or food. After the 265 rescued people were [disembarked](#) in Italy, the Open Arms' crew was stopped in Porto Empedocle, Sicily, for a mandatory quarantine. The preliminary hearing on the case against former Italian Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, accused of abusing power by preventing Open Arms from anchoring in 2019 and to allow about 100 migrants to disembark, is [adjourned](#) to 20 March

- On 23 December 2020, Alarm Phone (AP) was [alerted](#) that around 65 people, including children, were in distress at sea South of Lampedusa. On 24 December 2020, AP reported that three boats arrived in Lampedusa.
- 13 people who left Libya on 24 December 2020 for Lampedusa [are still missing at sea](#). Alarm Phone transferred the distress call to Italian, Maltese, Libyan authorities and Frontex. It seems that Frontex replied to the call, contrary to its usual practice, and sent two patrolling flights on 26 December 2020. [Alarm Phone](#), [Sea Watch](#) and the [Italian MP Erasmo Palazzotto](#), among others, are calling for immediate action by the Italian and Maltese Coast Guard to find and rescue them.
- On 20 December 2020, 110 migrants, including many women and children, [landed in Locri](#), Calabria, escaping from Turkey.

09/12 – 21/12 2020

- On 18 December 2020, the Italian Senate [approved](#) the new Immigration Decree which abrogated the so-called “Security Decrees”, from the former Interior Minister Salvini. Among the main changes: reducing the time needed to obtain citizenship, introduction of a new legal permit for “special protection” ; penal fines for SAR NGOs (before was only administrative); reduction of detention time in CIEs from 180 to 90 days and slightly improved measures for reception and integration.
- The experience aboard a [refugee quarantine boat](#) in Sicily, told by psychologists of the Italian Red Cross. Numerous appeals have been voiced against the use of quarantine boats which raise numerous concerns: it increases the infection risks instead of reducing it; it is discriminatory and non-transparent and reduces the access to asylum; and, it is extremely expensive as it costs 4-5 times more than reception on the territory – funds that could be spent to increase protection and integration. Italian media [reported](#) that another minor had died following evacuation from a quarantine boat on 14 September. Despite the fact that the 17-year-old from Somalia suffered from tuberculosis, he was kept on one of these boats.
- Increased [arrivals](#) on the island of Lampedusa, with around 300 people disembarked in one day on 15 December 2020 from three different boats. Among them, around 60 women and many children, coming mainly from Tunisia.

24/11 – 08/12 2020

- On 4 December 2020, Italian Defence Minister [met](#) his GNA Libyan counterpart in Rome to sign a military agreement aimed at further

strengthening cooperation on border controls and migration management.

12/11 – 23/11 2020

- Increased systematic pushbacks from Italy to Slovenia have been [documented](#), with 1,321 people returned to Slovenia in 2020. These pushbacks triggered further chain refoulements to Croatia and Bosnia.

15/10 – 26/10 2020

- The association [ASGI denounced](#) the recent practice of using **quarantine boats** to precede direct expulsions of many Tunisian migrants. It is reported that numerous Tunisians have been transferred from the quarantine boats directly to repatriation centres and then **deported to Tunisia**, without having the possibility to apply for international protection. It is [reported](#) that an **unaccompanied minor** has been transferred to a repatriation centre from a quarantine boat.
- The Ministry of Interior [decided to stop transfers](#) of migrants from reception centres across Italy to the quarantine boats, following numerous appeals by civil society organisations who had denounced this unlawful practice. Following [a parliamentary question](#) from the MP Erasmo Palazzotto, the Minister of Interior Luciana Lamorgese [declared that](#) 25 additional facilities (or a capacity of 2700 places) would be made available on land across the territory in order to quarantine migrants and asylum seekers who tested positive to COVID-19.
- However, numerous **minors** are still onboard the quarantine boats and civil society associations [asked](#) the government not to keep minors at sea for the quarantine period.
- In a continued attempt to criminalise solidarity, five search and rescue boats have been detained in the last five months, including MSF's *Sea-Watch 4* [MSF reported](#).
- On 16 October 2020, 60 asylum seekers have been **relocated to Germany** in the framework of the [voluntary relocation mechanism](#) under the Malta Declaration of September 2019. The relocation operations are covered by the European Commission's DG HOME and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Since September 2019, 1,139 asylum seekers have been relocated to other EU Member States under the Malta Declaration.
- Italy publishes the [decree to allow seasonal workers to enter Italy for work](#), amounting to 18,000 people. 6,000 places are reserved for agricultural seasonal workers; 12,850 places are reserved for non-seasonal and self-employed work of which 6,000 are reserved for non-seasonal employment

in the road haulage, construction and tourism-hotel sectors for citizens of countries that have signed or are about to sign **cooperation agreements on migration** with Italy. Countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine are excluded from the decree, while Pakistan has been added.

- The Ministry of the Interior intends to use a [drone](#) to oversee the Mediterranean for 12 months, for a total of a EUR 8.8 million contract. This aims to “extend the surveillance of the external maritime borders” and “combat illegal immigration”. The reference to search and rescue operations to save people’s lives is not even mentioned. Meanwhile, the Government continues to deny access to the records of the Italy-Libya cooperation.
- The Italian newspaper *Avvenire* [reports](#) that Turkey took over the control and training of the so-called Libyan Coast Guards and its patrol boats, given by Italy. Between 2017 and 2018, Italy financially supported the Libyan Coast Guards at a level of EUR 1,8 million. Now, Tripoli and Ankara will decide together when to intercept migrants at sea and when to let them reach the Italian coasts.