

On the Move – Latest migration news

GOOD NEWS - MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE EUROMED

07/06/2022 – 27/06/2022

- On 14th of June, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) issued a ruling that [stopped](#) the deportation of seven asylum-seekers from the UK to Rwanda. The ECHR ruled on one of the seven cases, and other lawyers used the ECHR ruling to make successful last-minute applications for the other six people. The ruling of the ECHR was about the case of a 54-year-old Iraqi asylum-seeker who arrived to the UK via the Channel crossing. Next month, a court hearing will examine the legality of the UK-Rwanda deal.

05/04/2022-10/05/2022

- On 4 May 2022, the European Parliament (EP) [voted](#) against the budget discharge of Frontex due to its lack of investigation into human rights violations against asylum-seekers in Greece. This decision comes after a recent publication by the EP Committee on Budgetary Control [stating](#) that “the agency’s inability to fulfil the conditions laid down in Parliament’s previous discharge report, but also the conclusions of the Office Anti-Fraud Commission (OLAF) regarding acts of harassment, misconduct and pushbacks of migrants involving Frontex(...) nothing has been done regarding reports of fundamental rights violations in Greece and that the operations of returning migrants by Hungary have continued in 2020, despite a judgment of the Court of justice of the EU deeming them incompatible with European law”. This decision follows Fabrice Leggeri’s [resignation](#) from his CEO position at Frontex, after the disclosure of some findings from an investigation into misconduct at the agency related to pushbacks and human rights violations. Even if the [problems](#) of the agency will remain despite Leggeri’s resignations – given that Frontex is one of the most funded EU agencies – the Parliament’s decision signals a strong political message for a radical transformation of the agency.

08/02/2022 – 22/02/2022

- A judge in Ceuta ordered that [14 Moroccan minors](#) who were expelled at Ceuta’s borders should be repatriated to **Spain** because their rights were violated. The boys were part of a big group of almost 2,000 minors who attempted to enter Ceuta in May 2021 and were expelled to Morocco. The

judge found that *“the action did not comply with the legal procedure, that the fundamental right to physical and moral integrity of minors was violated and demands that the necessary measures be adopted for the return of minors”*.

25/01/2022 – 08/01/2022

- A court in Agrigento, Sicily, [archived](#) the case on the rescue ship Mare Jonio, from the NGO Mediterranean Rescue. According to the judge ruling on the case of a rescue operation carried out on 9 May 2019, the ship was properly equipped to perform SAR operations since Italian law does not require any specific certification to perform SAR activities. Moreover, the crew acted according to international law when rescuing 30 people in the Libyan SAR zone who were at risk of capsizing.
- SOS Méditerranée’s ship Ocean Viking was [released](#) after being detained for two weeks. It is heading back to the Central Mediterranean.

11/01/2022 – 25/01/2022

- The Brussels Court of First Instance [condemned](#) the reception agency Fedasil and the Belgian State for their failures in the reception of asylum-seekers. The reception system has reached saturation, and authorities refused to register many asylum-seekers, thus breaching international obligations. The Court sentences the Belgian state to a penalty of 5,000 EUR per day, as long as it refuses to register the application for asylum of at least one person. The same penalty is addressed to the Fedasil agency if it does not provide a reception place. This sentence is the result of the actions taken by ten organisations, which demanded a legal action to the court. [Here](#) is the call of the signatories’ organisations.

14/12/2021-11/01/2022

- On 22 December 2021, all the accusations against Sea Watch’s captain [Carola Rackete](#) were dropped. Previously, the Court of Cassation had declared the arrest of Carola Rackete illegal; last May 2021, the accusation of resisting public officials and attacking a military ship were also dropped. Now, the request to archive all the accusations against Carola Rackete was officially accepted, proving how her conduct was in line with international and Italian law.
- The [Court of Cassation](#) in Italy expressed a historic judgment on the case of two migrants accused of resisting public officials and opposing their refoulement to Libya. The migrants were part of a group of people who was rescued three years ago by the private vessel Vos Thalassa and once on board, protested against their deportation back to Libya. In 2020, the Court of Palermo condemned the two migrants to three and a half years in prison and a EUR 52.000 fee. However, last 17 December 2021, the Court of

Cassation overruled this judgment and declared that the migrants had the right to oppose their refoulement to the Libyan detention camps.

- The Administrative Court of Syros [ruled](#) unlawful the measure to prohibit the exit of an Afghan asylum-seeker from the new closed centre in Samos. The Afghan asylum-seeker was represented by the Greek Refugee Council which argued that the deprivation of the applicant's liberty is against Greek and EU law.

16/11/2021 – 29/11/2021

- The Catalan NGO Open Arms announced that it has a new rescue vessel called [Open Arms Uno](#).
- On Thursday the 18th of November 2021, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on the [M.H. and Others v. Croatia](#) case against a pushback on the Croatia-Serbia border. The case refers to the death of Madina Hussiny, a six-year-old girl who was killed by a train on the border with Serbia after Croatian authorities expelled her and her family. The Court established that Madina Hussiny and her family were expelled without having the possibility to file for asylum, thereby performing a collective expulsion that is illegal under international law.

25/10/2021-15/11/2021

- On the 11th of November, [Sea Watch 4](#) has left the port of Burriana in Spain and is navigating towards the Central Mediterranean on its third Search and Rescue mission.
- On the 12th of November, Médecins Sans Frontières's vessel [Geo Barents](#) started its 5th Search and Rescue mission in the Central Mediterranean.
- On the 14th of November, Open Arms' vessel [Astral](#) has left the port of Badalona in Spain and is navigating towards the Central Mediterranean.

5/10/2021 – 25/10/2021

- A public prosecutor's office in Sicily, Italy, has asked to dismiss the case against the humanitarian rescue ship [Mare Jonio](#). The German NGO [Sea Watch 3](#) has been acquitted too. The Italian Court of Cassation ruled about the failure to grant international protection to a migrant who deserved to be protected like anyone who survived the prison camps in Libya.

6/09/2021 – 22/09/2021

- The rescue vessel [GeoBarents](#) from Doctors without Borders (MSF) is back in the Search and Rescue zone again to save lives in the Central Mediterranean.

19/08/2021 – 6/09/2021

- On 23 August 2021, the search and rescue vessel Astral of the NGO Open Arms [set sail](#) to the Central Mediterranean to save lives at sea. Following the [rescue of more than 200 people](#) in distress at sea, on 3 September 2021, the Astral concluded its 84th mission and arrived in the port of Siracusa, Sicily.

21/06/2021 – 05/07/2021

- On 28 June 2021, the search and rescue vessel [Ocean Viking](#) from the NGO SOS Méditerranée left the port of Marseille, France, for other rescue missions in the Central Mediterranean.