

## **MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN CYPRUS**

**28/06/2022 - 07/03/2023**

### **13/02/2023 – 07/03/2023**

- [According to Le Monde](#), Cyprus represents a dead end for migrants seeking asylum in Europe. After arriving in the Republic and applying for asylum there, migrants are left to wait for years in a limbo as Cypriot services are currently overwhelmed. Citing the UNHCR, Le Monde reports that asylum requests are currently being revised one by one, with 568 applications granted in 2022 against a total of 21,565 filed applications.

### **26/01/2023 – 13/02/2023**

- Presidential elections [were held](#) in Cyprus on 5 February 2023. Since no candidate received a majority of the vote, a runoff was held on 12 February. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Christodoulides, running as an independent, [emerged as](#) the winner against Andreas Mavroyiannis, a veteran career diplomat backed by the leftist Akel party. During the electoral campaign both leading candidates [have promised](#) to act on irregular migration with pledges to deter asylum seekers, do more on returns, enhance border controls and get more help from the European institutions.

### **15/12/2022-26/01/2023**

- Cyprus and Austria will [submit](#) a proposal for cooperation on migration and relocation next week.
- In mid-December 2022, [48 asylum seekers](#) were relocated from Cyprus to Germany as part of the new EU solidarity mechanism.

### **25/11/2022 – 13/12/2022**

- Cyprus Interior Ministry [said](#) that the country is ranks first among EU Members States in the number of repatriations relative to the size of its population. According to the Ministry, so far this year, Cyprus repatriate 7,000 people – 70% of those who arrived in the country irregularly.

### **03/08/2022 – 21/09/2022**

- The European Commission announced in the beginning of August that it will set aside EUR 171 million for new projects to support the reception, asylum process and repatriation of migrants in Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Poland. In Cyprus, this [funding](#) will be used to construct new “accommodation and pre-departures centres” in Larnaka.

### **19/07/2022- 03/08/2022**

- After being pushed back to Lebanon in September 2020, 2 Syrian refugees are bringing Cyprus to the [European Court of Human Rights](#) to end this illegal pushback policy. EuroMed Rights and its Cypriot and Lebanese members were directly involved in presenting this case.

### **28/06/2022-19/07/2022**

- On 6th of July, [49 people](#) were in urgent distress close to Cyprus. Water was coming in the boat, and they had been without food for three days. Cyprus authorities first performed a rescue operation but then illegally pushed back the people to Lebanon, including 17 of them who were previously sent to the hospital.