

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN FRANCE

07/06/2022 - 07/03/2023

13/02/2023 – 07/03/2023

- As the UK government is reportedly planning to announce tighter immigration legislation in the upcoming weeks, more migrants [are crossing](#) the Channel from France. On February 21, around 50 people were brought ashore at the UK port of Dover in Kent on Tuesday, following the arrival of a group of 69 migrants on February 15. On February 14, five separate small boats arrived carrying a total of 204 people.

26/01/2023 – 13/02/2023

- France's new immigration bill [was presented](#) to the Council of Ministers on February 1st. The text includes [several measures](#) to facilitate expulsions and deportations of foreigners deemed as a threat to public order. The bill also aims at reducing the time taken to process applications and at simplifying administrative immigration litigation, by reducing the number of possible appeal procedures from twelve to four.

05/10/2022 – 02/11/2022

- The organisation Border Forensic and Tous Migrants [filed](#) an application before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on 20 October 2022 concerning the death of Blessing Matthew, a 21-years-old Nigerian woman who was found dead in a river close to the alpine town of Briançon. According to reconstructions, her death took place after she was stopped by the French gendarmes and the organisations believe the latter's behaviour have endangered blessing and eventually led to her to fall into the river. Despite trying to shed on light on this case domestically, there was no effective investigation. Therefore, the team decided to file the case with the ECHR.
- The French company Corsica Linea [used](#) boats to deport Algerians from the port of Marseille back to Algeria.

21/09/2022 – 05/10/2022

- The Paris Court of Appeal [decided](#) to reopen the investigation into the “left-to-die” boat and in the possible responsibility of France for the death of 63 of the people in April 2011 off the coast of Libya. This decision comes after two of the nine survivors, with the support of different organisations, kept fighting for more than ten years to shed light on the incident.

19/07/2022 – 21/09/2022

- On September 14, in the city of Calais, large stones were [placed](#) on the sides of some streets where about 100 asylum-seekers used to live. EUR 45,000 were spent to install these rocks. Previously, rocks had also been placed in other parts of the city, always in areas where asylum-seekers used to live or in areas used by migrants-solidarity groups.
- 38 asylum-seekers were [relocated](#) from Italy to France in the end of August. These were the first people to be relocated via the temporary solidarity mechanisms that was agreed by the EU Council in June 2022.
- French NGOs are [accusing](#) the government of creating a hostile environment that pushes people to take the sea. Especially on the coast, in Calais and Dunkirk, but also in Paris where asylum-seekers sleep on the streets while waiting for answers to their asylum claims in France.

28/06/2022-19/07/2022

- Europol arrested [39 people](#) involved in a smuggling network to smuggle migrants from France to the UK.

07/06/2022 – 27/06/2022

- At the French-Italian border, there is an [outpost](#) of the French border police in Italian soil where intercepted migrants are taken before they cross into France. Here, the French police gives migrants a document saying they have been refused entry into France but CSOs warn that this practice is illegal.
- In May 2022, the maritime gendarmerie of Pas-de-Calais endangered a boat carrying [19 people](#) across the Channel. The boat from the gendarmerie turned around the migrants’ boat multiple times, generating waves and causing water to enter in the migrants’ boat. Then, they proceeded to intercept the boat and bring it back to France.
- Human Rights Observers published its annual report from 2021 on Calais and Grande-Synthe. The report is available [here](#).