

<b>A CRITICAL CHRONOLOGY OF EUROPEAN MIGRATION POLICIES</b>						
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Updated: 30 January 2014**						
<b>A- LEGAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK</b>				<b>B- EVENTS</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>A1- TREATIES, AGREEMENTS, PROGRAMMES, CONVENTIONS</b>	<b>A2- DIRECTIVES, REGULATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, MEETINGS, JUDGMENTS</b>	<b>A3- SCOPE, SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>B1- DECLARATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>B2- EVENTS</b>
1951	[Geneva Convention]		[Refugees]			
1957	Rome Treaty		- Creation of six-country EEC - Freedom of movement for workers			
1967	[NY Protocol]		[Extension of the right of asylum]			
1985	Schengen Agreement between 5 member states		- Internal “Schengen” Area of free movement - Adjournment of external borders controls			
1986	Single European Act		Free movement of “people” – this term implicitly refers only to European citizens		At the same time, exponential rise in the association of crime with «illegal» immigration	Setting up of working groups to prevent the opening of borders from affecting internal security
1990	Dublin Convention		Establishing that a single European state is responsible for an asylum application (to avoid “asylum shopping”)			
1990	Schengen Convention		Implementation of the 1985 agreement		Total suppression of border controls is announced for 1993 [cf. 1993]	
March 1991	First EU-3rd country readmission agreement		The Schengen area countries sign a readmission agreement with Poland [see June 2007, etc.]			

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\*\*Main sources: migreurop.org; gisti.org; echanges-partenariat.org; statewatch.org; picum.org; openly accessible mailing list [migreurop@rezo.net](mailto:migreurop@rezo.net) – English (UK) translation: Yasha MACCANICO, Marie MARTIN. Authorized reproduction with reference mentioned

Dec 1991		Meeting of the interior ministers of the Community's (the future UE) 12 member state			There [A2], the disparity of practices in the field of asylum is already regretted: only harmonisation will make it possible to prevent «the policy of a member state from negatively affecting that of others» [cf. Dec. 2009]	The problem of «harmonisation» reflects the concern to tackle an urgent migration «threat». It will be replaced by the goal of «communitarisation» set in Amsterdam [cf. June 1997]
1992	Maastricht Treaty: establishment of the European Community		First step towards (art. 7A) a space without internal borders, ensuring the free movement of goods, capitals and people			The thorny issue of foreigners in the EU who live there remains
1992		Resolutions to harmonise asylum and immigration policies	- On «safe countries» - On notions of «manifestly unfounded» [asylum] applications and «deliberate fraud» against asylum - Restricting family reunion and the entry of workers			
1993		The EU postpones the total suppression of border controls			The Commission justifies this [A2] through the wish to «reconcile the requirements of the mobility of [European] people with the need to control international crime and to reduce immigration»	
				1 June 1993	The French interior minister, Charles Pasqua, announces: «The goal that we set ourselves, considering the seriousness of the economic situation, is to head towards zero immigration» [below, see Jan. to Sep 2000, B1]	

June 1994		Resolution «on limitations of admission of third-country nationals for employment»	Implementation of the «Community preference» in employment, unless there are contrasting sectorial needs or economic junctures		It is recalled that the context of unemployment leads EU member states to set aside a policy of «active immigration»	
1995	Schengen Convention		Entry into force			
1996		Decision on «internal asylum»	Keeping refugees in «safe regions» of their own countries			
1997	Dublin Convention (follow-up)		It applies to 12 member states			
June 1997	Amsterdam Treaty (implementation: 1999-2004)	Amsterdam European Council	The immigration and asylum bloc switches from inter-governmental cooperation to developing common EU policies over five years			
1999	Amsterdam Treaty comes into force	Tampere European Council for the implementation of common EU policies over five years [see col. A3]	- Setting common norms by 2004 on: -- asylum -- the movement of people -- the integration of migrants - (The 2 <sup>nd</sup> goal will soon become dominant: that is, border controls)			
				Sep 1999		Creation of the centre of Sangatte (France, Pas-de-Calais). This camp will serve as a point of passage for between 63,000 and 80,000 people in exile, first Kosovans, then Kurds, Iraqis, Afghans, etc., towards UK
				Jan-Mar 2000	This conclusion [B2] is the signal drawn from several statements in favour of a revival of immigration. Italian and Irish authorities voice their opinion in this direction [and cf. July and Sep 2000]	A draft ILO report and then a study by the Population Department of the UN estimate Europe's need for migrants at 70 million during the first 50 years of the century

June 2000	Cotonou Agreement between the UE and 79 ACP (Africa Caribbean Pacific) countries		As a provider of development aid, the EU imposes the principle of a readmission clause applying to their nationals on ACP countries, and envisages extending it to migrants who have passed through their territory	June 2000	The EU heads of state pretend to be moved [B2], to the point that commentators criticise their «crocodile tears». Later, an NGO will say: «The state and smugglers are objectively allies»	- 58 Chinese who died of asphyxia are discovered in Dover (GB) in a lorry that came from the Netherlands - In ten years, the number of deaths at the border increased from a few dozen to several hundreds per year
				July 2000	European Commissioner Vitorino pleads for a Directive to set «minimum standards for a managed migration» and calls for «new legal procedures to allow migrants to enter Europe»	
Sep 2000		Proposal by the Commission for a Directive on asylum «Procedures»	It will take over 5 years for the rights of asylum seekers to be set (cf. Dec. 2005) on an increasingly restrictive basis	Sep 2000	Commission President Romano Prodi calls to stop setting immigration policies «with emotions as a starting point», and explains: «We need immigrants, but they will have to be chosen, controlled and bound to a place», ( <i>scelti, controllati e collocati</i> ). It is the birth of the slogan of «chosen immigration» [cf. Feb. 2006; 10-12 June 2009]	
				Feb 2001		The East Sea, carrying around 910 «illegals» runs aground on a beach near Fréjus (France)
2001		Failure to agree an «Employment» Directive	Member states fail to define a common policy for the admission of migrant workers		Some states will repeatedly recall that the policy to allow the entry of foreign workers must fall within the competency of each country's sovereignty	

June 2001		Directive aimed at carriers travelling by air, sea and land	Heavy financial penalties are introduced against carriers that transport people whose documents are not in order towards the EU			
				[11 Sep 2001]	From now on, terrorism and migrations will be closely linked in public discourse	[Attacks in New York]
14-15 Dec 2001		Laeken European Council	The Council asks the Commission to work out arrangements for cooperation between services responsible for external border control and to examine the conditions for common mechanisms of border controls	16 Dec 2001	The Commission declares that the fight against terrorism has become a priority: as a result of this, the legislative process on European migration policy must be reviewed	
				Feb 2002		The interior ministers decide to establish a European border guard force. Its duties and intervention capability will soon be deemed insufficient (see Oct. 2004)
June 2002		Seville European Council (summit)	Sets two main goals: - absolute priority for the plan to fight illegal immigration - from now on, development aid will depend on the goodwill that countries of emigration will display in stopping departures towards Europe and in readmitting their nationals	June 2002  26 June 2002	- Certain member states, including the UK and Spain, call for sanctions against countries that pose a migration threat. France and Germany oppose this - Title from the French newspaper <i>Le Monde</i> : «The 15 will not punish the countries of <i>illegal emigration</i> »	[Reminder on the notion of « <i>illegal emigration</i> »: the 1948 Universal Declaration on human rights and other international texts such as the 1966 International Covenant on civil and political rights recall that everyone «has the right to leave any country, including his own»]
				Aug 2002	- French minister Sarkozy announces the closure of the camp in Sangatte - French-British negotiations about the fate of the camp's residents	

				Sep 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNHCR launches an operation named «Convention Plus», questioning the Geneva Convention</li> <li>- It is called for the need to «share the burden» of refugees and to keep them as close as possible to their departure points</li> </ul>	
				Nov 2002	Migreurop's goal: learning about and providing critical analysis on the externalisation of policies on migration and the detention of foreigners	Creation of the Migreurop network, which will become a no-profit organisation in November 2005
				5 Nov 2002 6 Dec 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The decision to close the camp in Sangatte is confirmed</li> <li>- Interior minister Sarkozy declares: «We are putting an end to a symbol that encourages illegal immigration worldwide»</li> </ul>	Progressively, those leaving the camp are no longer allowed to return. Definitive closure on Christmas 2002
				Jan 2003		Secret agreement between Switzerland and Senegal, which makes a commitment to accept, receiving indemnity payments, any Africans returned to its territory. The deal will not be struck after news of it is reported
18 Feb 2003	Dublin II Regulation		Only the first country reached by an asylum seeker will be responsible for processing an application		Several NGOs express serious concerns about the undermining of rights resulting from Dublin II [see Sep 2008]	Dublin II entails the return of asylum seekers to the first European country they have crossed [and cf. Jan. 2004]

				Feb 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UK proposes to set up transit and screening centres for asylum candidates outside of the EU's territory</li> <li>- UNHCR expresses its interest, then rejects the idea [cf. June 2003]</li> </ul>	This announcement results from a «leak» in <i>The Guardian</i> newspaper on 5/2/2003
2003		Start of the «European Neighbourhood Policy» (ENP)	Co-management of borders with neighbouring countries (especially to the east) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- surveillance</li> <li>- information exchange</li> <li>- training of officers</li> </ul>			
				2003		Start of a dialogue, secret at first and then open, between EU and Libya
Feb 2003		«Reception» Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting of minimum standards for receiving asylum seekers</li> <li>- Countries are free to limit applicants' movements and access to employment</li> </ul>			
June 2003		European Council (summit) in Thessaloniki	Postpones, without clearly rejecting it, the British proposal to set up centres to process asylum applications outside of the EU's borders [cf. Feb. 2003, B1]			
July 2003		Moroccan law termed 02-03 on foreigners	Introduction of a criminal offence of «illegal emigration», among others [cf. June 2002]			Tunisia will follow in Feb 2004 with the 2004-6 organic law. For the case of Algeria, see Sep 2008
				Aug 2003	The German and Italian interior ministers re-launch the British proposal [cf. Feb. and June 2003] and invite the EU to create and manage «immigration platforms», or «processing centres», in order to screen migrants and asylum seekers outside of the EU	

Sep 2003		«Family reunion» Directive	After 3 years of discussion on a project that was initially liberal, some very restrictive rules will frame the right to family life			
Jan 2004		Eurodac Regulation (comes into force)	Unified database (of fingerprints) for the purpose of making the Dublin II Regulation enforceable	Jan 2004	- The UNHCR proposes to create «reception centres» at the EU's internal borders, with a view to «relieving congestion in the asylum systems»	
Feb 2004		European Regulation creating a body of «immigration liaison officers»	These officers from member states will be deployed to «assist» their colleagues in the airports of emigration countries (discovering false documents, identifying future «illegals»)			
				[11 Mar 2004]		[Attacks in Madrid]
4 June 2004	EU-Sri Lanka readmission agreement		- Return of people who have left or passed through this country to travel illegally to Europe - It is the third agreement signed by the Commission after those with Macao (2002) and Hong Kong (2003)			
				July 2004		- Cap Anamur case: 37 African refugees rescued by a German boat off the coast of Africa are initially rejected by Malta and Italy
				July-Aug 2004	Again, the German interior minister re-launches a proposal to create camps to examine asylum applications at the EU's gates	
				July 2004	Libya threatens to flood the EU with Africans present in its territory	



				July 2004	Joint declaration by German and Italian interior ministers on the need for cooperation with Libya	
				Aug 2004	In Tripoli, Berlusconi declares that he is in favour of «reception centres»	Visit to Libya by the Italian PM, Berlusconi
26 Oct 2004		Council Regulation creating «Frontex» (known as «Frontex Regulation») [cf. 25 Oct 2011]	Establishment of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU (Frontex)	Oct 2004		Frontex is tasked with the surveillance of EU borders in cooperation with third countries (operational in October 2005)
				Oct 2004		- In violation of international law, Italy organises collective returns of migrants to Africa - Other collective expulsions will take place in March 2005
Nov 2004	The Hague Programme (implementation: 2005-2010)		- Creating an area of «freedom, justice and security» (FJS) around two approaches: - promoting a common policy - developing the external dimension of immigration and asylum policy - Issues concerning security (S) will be predominant - The principle that the issue of the immigration of workers falls within the competency of each member state is recalled			
2005	The Nice Treaty (2001) comes into force: co-decision principle (EU Commission and Parliament)	From now on, decisions on border controls, asylum and immigration (except for access to employment) will be adopted by qualified majority voting (QMV)				

Jan 2005		The Commission publishes a Green Paper on migrant workers, «on an EU approach to managing economic migrations»			Overall, in spite of efforts by the Commission, member states will ignore the Green Paper. Each member state's sovereignty in the field of immigration linked to employment is reaffirmed	
Apr 2005		The European Parliament severely condemns Italy over its collective expulsions		Mar 2005		New collective expulsions from Italy to Libya, without scrutiny of people's personal situations
				Sep-Oct 2005		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over ten people shot dead during attempts to cross the border fences in Ceuta and Melilla, Spanish enclaves in northern Morocco</li> <li>- Moroccan authorities summon the media, then deport sub-Saharanans to the desert</li> <li>- This event will be the starting point for several roundups in the neighbourhoods and forests where these exiles gather</li> </ul>
				Oct 2005	Senegalese president Wade announces the introduction of a «REVA» programme for the reintegration of migrants refouled from Europe. He will make readmission depend on the payment of financial compensation by the EU	

Dec 2005		Directive on asylum «procedures»	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- States may detain applicants in special facilities</li> <li>- Asylum requests may not result in the right to reside in the country</li> <li>- Exceptional procedures are envisaged: rejection of manifestly unfounded applications, fast-track and priority procedures</li> <li>- Among the criteria for rejection, notions of «safe countries of origin», «first countries of asylum» and «safe third countries» are placed in the spotlight</li> <li>- The right to an effective appeal clashes with the fact that this does not suspend deportation</li> </ul>		Numerous criticisms of the Directive are issued by the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, UNHCR and NGOs	In practice, member states fail to agree on a list of «safe countries»
Dec 2005		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The European Council (EC) approves a «comprehensive approach» on migrations</li> <li>- Spain commits to exchange readmission agreements for the opening of its employment market with quotas for migrants from the concerned countries (Africa Plan 1)</li> </ul>	<p>The EC approach is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- work in partnership with third countries</li> <li>- the fight against illegal immigration</li> <li>- co-development</li> </ul>			
				30 Dec 2005		The Egyptian police opens fire on 2,000 Sudanese refugees crowded outside the UNHCR offices in Cairo
				2006		Frontex coordinates maritime interception operations along the west and north African coasts: Hera (Canary islands) and Nautilus (Malta and Sicily)

				Feb 2006	The French interior minister Sarkozy frames his new draft law under the message of «immigration that is chosen and no longer suffered» [cf. Sep 2000; 10-12 June 2009]	
25 May 2006	EU-Russian Federation readmission agreement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Return of people who have left or passed through the country to travel illegally to Europe</li> <li>- To date, the Commission has only managed to get five third countries to sign: Hong Kong, Macao, Sri Lanka, Albania and Russia</li> </ul>	Mar 2006	Before the French Senate, the European Commissioner Frattini states that the negotiation of readmission agreements is difficult as, in spite of them being theoretically reciprocal, «it is clear that, in practice, they basically serve the Community's interests». He mentions the need for the EU to find some «carrots», that is, «incentives that are powerful enough to obtain the cooperation of the concerned third country»	
May 2006		Conference of the interior ministers of the western Mediterranean (CIMO), termed «5 + 5», in Nice, under Sarkozy's presidency			Minister Sarkozy, presiding the conference, welcomes «efforts by countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean to contain <i>illegal emigration</i> towards Europe»	On the notion of « <i>illegal emigration</i> », see June 2002 [B1, B2]
				June 2006	Headline in <i>Le Soleil</i> newspaper (Dakar, Senegal): «Europe is closing our borders»	
July 2006		1st Euro-African «Migration and Development» conference in Rabat	Adoption of an «action plan» that binds «co-development» to the joint fight against irregular migration			
Nov 2006		African Union-EU summit on migration and development in Tripoli	The Libyan president subordinates his goodwill to control Libya's borders to the EU's economic cooperation			

				May 2007	Commission communication «on circular migration and mobility partnerships between the EU and third countries»	
18 June 2007	EU-Ukraine readmission agreement		- Readmission by this country of people who entered the EU irregularly and travelled through it			In practice, the EU-Ukraine agreement entails the disappearance of the right to asylum, since people are refouled upstream without their situation being examined
				July 2007		Seven Tunisian fishermen who rescued 44 people in distress dock in Italy, where they are imprisoned and prosecuted for «assisting illegal immigration»
Sep-Dec 2006	Senegal signs agreements on migration with France, then Spain		Named «concerted management of flows» or «memoranda of understanding», these agreements followed the readmission of 6,000 Senegalese refouled in 2006 from the Canary islands			
Aug 2007		«RABIT» Regulation ( <i>Rapid Border Intervention Team</i> )	Allows the urgent deployment of border guards from different member states when there is a risk of a «mass influx» of migrants			
				Sep 2007		- Death of three young Chechen girls who got lost in the Polish mountains after crossing them, in the hope of reaching Slovakia - According to an incomplete record by Fortress Europe, around 12,000 foreigners have died at the EU's borders from 1988 to 2008, over 8,200 of them at sea and more than 1,600 in the desert

				June 2008	Commission Communication on a common immigration policy: principles, actions, instruments	
				21-22 June 2008		An ill Tunisian dies, lacking medical care, in the Vincennes <i>Centre de rétention administrative</i> (CRA), the largest detention centre in France. This tragedy causes a revolt which is harshly put down. The centre is evacuated before it is destroyed by a fire. Ten people will be arrested and charged [cf. 17 March 2010]
30 Aug 2008	Friendship and cooperation treaty between Italy and Libya		Among other things, this treaty decides: - strengthening the joint fight against «illegal» immigration - setting up an electronic border surveillance system for Libyan sea borders, 50% of which Italy would finance (that is, around \$500 million) and the EU would be asked for the remaining 50%		- Through this «historic» treaty, Italy accepts to «pay damages» to Libya for its 30-year colonisation after its troops disembarked in Tripoli in 1911 - Italy commits to pay 5 billion \$ to Libya through investments over 25 years, that is, 250 million € per year - Mr Berlusconi: “In this way we will have more oil and less illegals”	- On the eve, Mr Berlusconi had arrived in Benghazi to express Italy’s regrets for its colonial past - Through the treaty, the company ENI obtains an extension of its contracts in Libya, until 2021 for oil, and until 2047 for gas - The envisaged investments will above all benefit some Italian companies
Sep 2008		Algeria introduces the crime of illegal emigration	This measure seeks to blocks the mass departure of “ <i>harragas</i> ” (migrants)			[On “ <i>illegal emigration</i> ”, see June 2002; July 2003]
Sep 2008		A European Parliament Resolution severely criticises the functioning of the Dublin II system			[see A2]	

Oct 2008	The Council (under a French presidency) adopts the European Pact on immigration and asylum		The Pact calls for the negotiation of readmission agreements to be pursued, «both at a Community and bilateral level»			
Nov 2008		Euro-African migration-development conference in Paris	- Entitled «Rabat II», it continues work undertaken during the 1st conference in July 2006 - The implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and readmission agreements are at the core of discussions		The Commissioner in charge of the EPN states: «Countries (...) in the neighbourhood are interested in the facilitation of visa issuing as well as the prospects of temporary legal migration, but the EU also has some expectations concerning readmission and international protection»	
Dec 2008		«Returns» Directive, referred to as «shameful Directive»	Sets out conditions for the prior detention and removal of foreigners (a general backwards step in the protection of people)			Member states must transpose the Returns Directive into their national legislations by 24 December 2010
	To date, 11 Community readmission agreements have been signed and 5 others were being negotiated [cf. 1 March 2011]			20 Jan 2009	In a letter to the Commission President signed by 82 NGOs from 20 countries, the Migreurop network expresses its concern over the lack of transparency in the negotiation and implementation of Community readmission agreements	In practice, (cf. 18 June 2007), the signing of a readmission agreement entails the end of the right to asylum in some of these countries, especially when the possibility of an immediate <i>refoulement</i> (turning back) exists
				Mar 2009	Italian and European authorities announce the deployment of joint patrols involving Libyan coastguards to put an end to this sort of tragedy	Deadly shipwreck off the Libyan coasts

14 May 2009		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Between collective <i>refoulements</i> and Khadafi's visit to Rome [see 10-12 June 2009], the Italian parliament adopts a law that creates an «offence of ['illegal'] immigration and residence».</li> <li>- The length of detention prior to expulsion increases from 2 to 6 months. Aiding irregular residence becomes liable to incur 3 years in prison</li> </ul>		6 and 10 May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This double operation [cf. B2], is described as an «historic turning point» by interior minister Maroni, although it is not the first one [cf. Oct. 2004 and Mar.-Apr. 2005], and it occurs a month before Khadafi's visit to Rome</li> <li>- Maroni will add that with these expulsions, he is working for the entire EU. Which remains silent, in spite of various complaints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 227 and then 240 migrants are stopped at sea by the Italian navy and refouled to Libya without their situation as regards the right to asylum being examined, that is, illegally</li> <li>- From this date, forced returns by sea become the norm</li> <li>- The number of <i>refouled</i> people will reach 2,000 in September</li> </ul>
				10-12 June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In a speech in Rome, Khadafi calls asylum claims a «widespread lie». As Libya is «the gateway for unwanted immigration» [cf. Feb. 2006 ; Sep 2000], he demands means to stop it</li> <li>- He calls on Europe to convert to Islam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President Khadafi is received with great pomp in Italy by the PM Berlusconi. The welcome by the parliament and press is cooler</li> <li>- Observers estimate that only between 5 and 7% of foreign immigration reaches Italy from the shores of Libya or Tunisia</li> </ul>
18 June 2009		«Employers' sanction» Directive	Establishes minimum standards and measures to sanction employers of irregular third-country nationals. In particular, employees are guaranteed they will receive the equivalent of their unpaid wage and will access support from a third party (trade-union; NGO)	June 2009	On occasion of the presentation of its «Africa Plan 2009-2012», Spain evokes the need to control migrations and announces the delivery to Mauritania of a military aircraft to strengthen coastal surveillance, which will be an addition to previous gifts (4 patrol boats and a helicopter)	



				Aug. 2009	Italy calls upon EU countries to provide a joint response to the problems of illegal immigration. «We must consider it a European problem. The EU has made plenty of declarations (...) but it has still not said what must happen when a group of migrants reaches Europe's borders», Italian minister Franco Frattini said	Discovery of a dinghy that was adrift to the south of Sicily with five Eritreans on board. They had left the Libyan coast in late July and told how they had helplessly watched the death of 73 fellow travellers who starved or died of thirst during the three weeks that they spent wandering between Africa and Europe
				30 Sep 2009	The <i>Association malienne des expulsés</i> (AME, Association of Expelled Malians) in Bamako reports the ill-treatment of their compatriots in Libyan prisons	- Libya expels 153 Malians. - Two other waves of expulsions will take place on 9/12/2009 (149) and 3/5/2010 (150)
				Oct. 2009		An Italian firm wins a call for tenders worth 300 million € to electronically secure Libya's immense southern border with Sudan, Chad and Niger. The funding, over three years, will be Italian and European
				15 Oct [B2]  30 Oct [B1] 2009	- The Brussels Summit evokes «the possibility of regularly chartering flights for joint returns financed by the Frontex agency» - President Sarkozy greets the news: «Considerable progress has been made (...) We must go further, I want European border guards»	- The UK and France organise a joint flight to Kabul to expel 24 + 3 Afghan refugees who have been denied asylum - Another joint flight with the same destination will be organised in mid-December (21 + 9 Afghans)

				Dec. 2009	Commissioner Jacques Barrot declares: «The European objective is to have a common procedure for processing asylum claims by 2012. The disparities in our legislations are a source of encouragement» [cf. Dec. 1991]	
				Jan. 2010	It is announced that the EU is negotiating a review of article 13 of the Cotonou agreements [cf. June 2000]: an ACP country will now have to prove that an expellable person is not its national, otherwise the expulsion will be lawful. In this way, readmission agreements could be avoided	[- The Israeli PM Netanyahu agrees to the construction of a wall along the Egyptian border to stop refugees, particularly those coming from the Horn of Africa - Amnesty claims that 28 people were shot dead by the Egyptian police in this desert in 2008, and 20 more in 2009. The real figures are supposedly higher]
				17 Mar 2010	«It is a highly political ruling, which follows the prosecution's arguments very closely» [cf. B2], states a lawyer who announces that she will file an appeal	[cf. 21-22 June 2008] In France, the trial of the Vincennes detainees who were charged ends with long prison sentences (from 3 years to 8 months)
May 2010	Greece-Turkey Agreement		Return to Turkey of irregular migrants			Frontex claims that Greece is the leading European country for irregular entries into the European area
June 2010	EU-Georgia Agreement		- Simplified visa issuing - Readmission by this country of people residing irregularly in European territory			
				1 July 2010	The UNHCR demands greater coherence in the different EU countries' asylum policies	

				1 July 2010	The UNHCR demands that Dublin II should not be applied «when a state faces particular pressures that its asylum system cannot manage»	
				28 July 2010	President Sarkozy publicly rails against «the conduct of some people among <i>gens du voyage</i> (Travellers) and Roma»	It is the starting point for a campaign to dismantle camps and enact mass expulsions of Romanian and Bulgarian Roma people
				Aug 2010	«Children should not become a means of obtaining a residence visa for their parents. (...) European countries have adopted far harsher measures against illegals», the Israeli government comments [B2]	[Israel expels 400 African and Asian children]
				28 Sep 2010	The operation [see B2], costing an estimated 100,000 €, is the first in a long series: 40 Frontex charter flights are scheduled for 2011	The first flight entirely chartered by Frontex leaves Warsaw, with 56 Georgians expelled from four EU countries on board
7 Oct 2010	EU-Pakistan readmission agreement		Readmission by this country of people residing irregularly in European territory			Discussions with Pakistan had started in 2000
7 Oct 2010	The EU signs a cooperation agreement with Libya		- Fighting illegal immigration and strengthening ( <i>sic</i> ) the rights of refugees - 50 million € are allocated by the EU to Libya for this purpose		- Commissioner Malström welcomes this agreement - She estimates that 1.5 million «illegals» are waiting in Libya to travel to Europe	Mrs Malström's estimate is incompatible with that produced by Frontex [cf. 25 Oct. 2010]
				25 Oct 2010	Frontex claims that over three-quarters of the 40,977 people intercepted at the EU's borders during the first semester of 2010 entered through Greece, coming primarily from Turkey	Information surfaces about Greece demanding the intervention of a RABIT unit [cf. Aug. 2007] at its eastern border to tackle an influx of migrants in transit through Turkey

				Nov 2010	The UNHCR office in Athens deplores the «humanitarian» crisis affecting migrants, particularly in camps. It notes that the Greek government claims it no longer controls the situation, neither on land, nor on the islands of the Aegean Sea	- 170 Frontex border guards from all the EU countries are at work on the Greek-Turkish border in the framework of the RABIT operation [cf. 25 Oct. 2010], for the purpose of catching, identifying and returning migrants - Commissioner Malström and French minister Besson travel there
29 Nov 2010		The Europe-Africa summit opens in Tripoli (Libya), attended by 80 officials from both continents			- Khadafi ups the stakes: he demands «at least 5 billion € per year» from the EU to stop illegal immigration, otherwise «Libya will no longer act as Europe's border guard» - This is how he details the threat: «Perhaps, tomorrow the future of Europe will be black and no longer white and Christian, because there are millions who want to go there»; he concludes that «we do not know what will happen, what the reaction of white and Christian Europeans will be when faced by this influx of hungry and uneducated Africans»	- The press does not report any reaction by African participants to the racism of the Libyan leader's remarks
1 Jan 2011	EU-Turkey readmission agreement		This country will take back the «illegals» who have passed through its territory		Turkey will declare that its signature depends on a liberalisation of the regime for visas to enter the EU	In relation to Greece, this is a strategy of refolement rather than readmission [cf. May 2010]

				Jan 2011		The «Grand Chamber» of the European Court on Human Rights condemns Belgium for having expelled an Afghan refugee to Greece in application of Dublin II
				11-14 Feb 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Italian interior minister Maroni announces that these «illegals» [B2] will be repatriated</li> <li>- He will demand to be able to deploy Italian soldiers on the Tunisian coasts</li> <li>- The government declares a «state of humanitarian emergency» and asks for Frontex patrols</li> </ul>	- Around 5,000 people land in Lampedusa, arriving from Tunisia 4 weeks after the fall of dictator Ben Ali. The Italian authorities start by refusing to open the reception centre, closed since 1999. Migrants are sent to Sicily and the mainland
				20-21 Feb 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Libya threatens not to cooperate in the fight against «irregular» immigration any longer if the EU continues to «encourage» demonstrators</li> <li>- The president of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) deems that the agreements between the EU and Libya «must be respected regardless of the regime»</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Widespread popular revolt in Libya</li> <li>- Start of the Frontex HERMES operation between Tunisia and Italy. Its goals: to intercept boats in the high sea off Sicily; in Lampedusa, to identify the migrants' home countries; to assist Italy in organising their return; to identify «smugglers'» networks</li> </ul>
1 Mar 2011	To date, the Commission has signed 13 readmission agreements and 4 or 5 are being discussed		Agreements signed with: Macao, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia, Moldova, Pakistan, Georgia			The negotiation of agreements is underway with: China, Morocco, Turkey, Algeria and, probably, Cape Verde

11 Mar 2011		Extraordinary meeting of the European Council on the situation in the Mediterranean		3-12 Mar 2011	<p>- Around 100 organisations from Europe, Africa and Turkey issue an «Appeal for a humanitarian intervention by the European Union in the Mediterranean»</p> <p>- To avoid an influx of refugees into the EU, Sarkozy wants some «humanitarian zones» in these countries</p>	Since February 2011, first dozens, and then hundreds of thousands of refugees from many nationalities coming from Libya gather at the borders with Egypt, Tunisia, Chad and Niger (see 23 August 2011)
				29 Mar 2011	Mustapha Abdel Jalil, chief of the Libyan National Transition Council (NTC), assures before RAI channel that the NTC would fight against illegal migration if it were in power, and that it would respect the agreements signed with Italy aiming at stopping irregular entries into Libya.	
				8 May 2011	According to some witnesses [B2], the boat was left adrift by NATO forces operating along Libyan coasts	<i>The Guardian</i> reports the death of 61 migrants on a boat adrift brought to the Libyan coasts by the sea. 10 survived and are brought to prison, amongst which 2 will die
				June to July 2011		Raids and numerous destruction operations of shelters by the Greek police, followed by deportations, in Igoumenitsa and Patras camps

16 June 2011 [A1, A3] and 18 June 2011 [A2]	An agreement is signed between the Italian government and the Libyan NTC on a common management of migration flows [see A3]	Italian decree-law extending the maximum length of detention to 18 months, in line with what is authorised by the “shameful directive” [see Dec.2008 and May 2009]	The agreement [A1] allows the deportation of irregular migrants arriving from Libya as well as support for the country to set up preventive patrols	18 June 2011	- Doctors Without Borders (MSF) considers that this decision [A2] is dangerous for the mental and physical health of detainees and asks for the closures of both camps where living conditions are terrible - In parallel to the Libyan-Italian agreement, the interior minister Maroni proposes that migrants are blocked before their departure from Libya	- A 12m long vessel, which had departed from Libya, is disembarking 235 people near Ragusa (Sicily) - 159 refugees had already arrived the same day in Pantelleria, an island in the SW of Sicily - Migrants in revolt at the Identification and Expulsion Centre (CIE) against this law [A2] which results in turning these centres into prisons
23-24 June 2011		A European Council decides of an important increase in the means and the powers of Frontex, provided the Parliament gives its approval	Especially, it is suggested that Frontex may be given the responsibility of “Schengen” internal borders in the eventuality of an unforeseen influx of migrants in an EU member state		“Beyond our disagreements remains a high degree of political consensus towards reinforced controls of our common borders with Frontex”, a Commissioner says	This position is expressed in the context of an argument between the French and the Italian authorities, for the latter had issued temporary residence permits to Tunisians in exile and en route to France
				July 2011	Migreurop launches a call for a flotilla in the Mediterranean [cf. Sep 2011]	Since January, 489 cases of individual rebellions and 83 collective actions, including suicides and escapes, have been counted [see 4 September 2011]
				1 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2011	- Gabriel del Grande (Fortress Europe) notes that these figures [B2] are certainly underestimated - He analyses the high mortality rate as being the result of the many people fleeing Libya using unsafe boats [see 23 August 2011]	To date, Fortress Europe is confirming the death at sea of: 5,962 people in the canal of Sicily since 1994, including 1,674 over the first seven months of 2011. Throughout the months, based on the departures from Libya, the evolution has been tremendous. Known mortality at sea at the departure from Tunisia is 1/130 and 1/11 from Libya

				5 Aug 2011	<p>- According to different media, a NATO vessel was reported as close as 27 miles from the boat adrift [B2]</p> <p>- the Italian government is asking for an investigation about the possible refusal by NATO to rescue the boat</p>	<p>Italian border guards rescue about 400 persons on board of a boat adrift which had departed from Libya 6 days earlier. The boat was drifting 90 miles off the coast of Lampedusa. According to the rescued, dozens of migrants died from hunger, thirst and exhaustion during the crossing and some corpses are reported to have been thrown in the sea</p>
				19 Aug 2011		<p>A Frontex flight deporting Africans from Oslo via Dublin is forbidden landing in Kinshasa (DRC) and must go back</p>
				23 Aug 2011	<p>Numerous and concordant reports of the violence many Black people are the victims of in Libya: chased and persecuted by the rebels for being “mercenaries” of the fallen regime, forcibly embarked on decaying boats by pro-Gaddafi militias</p>	<p>The International Organisation of Migration (IOM) has counted almost 670,000 departures from Libya to date, including 211,000 to Egypt, 286,000 to Tunisia, 127,000 to Niger and Chad, and 28,000 to Italy or Malta</p>
				4 Sep 2011		<p>- Revolts and riots reported in many Italian camps [see 18 June 2011], including in Pozzallo (8/7 and 23/8), Lampedusa (8/7), Trapani (20/7), Rome (30/7), Bari (1/8), Pantelleria (17/8), Bologna (24/8); and in Malta (16/8)</p> <p>- But also in Australia and on Christmas Island for a long time (more recently on 10/06 and 20/07), in France (Lyon, 28/07), in Fylakio (Greece, 3/09) – non exhaustive list</p>



				Sep 2011	NGOs and international networks from seven European and African countries announce the creation of <i>Boats 4 People</i> : it is aimed to set up a flotilla in the Mediterranean to put an end to deaths at the EU's maritime borders, control immigration control, and reinforce Euro-African solidarity	<i>Boats 4 People's</i> sailing journey will start in early July from Rosignano (Italy) to Sicily, then off to Monastir; Ksibet el Mediouni (Tunisia) and finally Lampedusa. Meetings and events are to be organised at each stop between 2 and 19 July [cf. 2 July 2012]
25 Oct 2011		Amendment of Frontex regulation [cf. 26 Oct 2004], after the Council of the EU and the European Parliament reached a compromise [cf. March 2012]	- Reinforcement and widening of Frontex's role and operational capacities : the agency will now be able to acquire its own equipment - Reinforcement of fundamental rights provisions and full recognition of the non-refoulement principle [cf. 23 Feb. and March 2012]			
15 Dec 2011	Renewal of Italy-Libya's friendship treaty [cf. 30 August 2008; see also April 2012]		Cooperation between both countries in the fight against irregular migrations is maintained according to the terms of agreements between Berlusconi and Gaddafi			
23 Feb 2012		Grand Chamber Judgment from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), at unanimity of the 17 judges on collective expulsions	The Court condemns Italy for intercepting a group of refugees at sea and for immediately pushing them back to a third country. This decision condemns Italy-Libya bilateral agreements indirectly [cf.16 June 2011, A1 and A3]		The Member of the European Parliament H�el�ene Flautre welcomes this decision: «Albeit late, this decision is a clear warning to Member states: illegal practices of refoulement with the complicity of dictatorial regimes are now over.»	In May 2009, about two hundred people had left Libya on three boats off to Italy. The Italian army had intercepted them in Malta's maritime zone, and handed them over to the Libyan authorities [cf. 6 and 10 May 2009]

				March 2012	The European Ombudsman, informed of Frontex's abusive practices by several NGOs which emphasized the « growing concern of civil society », launches an enquiry on this Agency[cf. 25 Oct 2011]	
				27 March 2012	The Greek government announces the construction of 30 closed reception centres for irregular migrants, with a capacity of 1,000 each	
				28-29 March 2012	The <i>Guardian's</i> advance coverage of the report entitled [cf. B2] «Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: who is responsible?» It is revealed that NATO authorities refused to cooperate with the Council of Europe's investigators	A report by the Dutch politician Tineke Strik is presented to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). It lists a «catalogue of failures» which resulted in NATO not rescuing a boat in distress with 71 people on board a year earlier off Lampedusa's shores[cf. 8 May 2011]
3 April 2012	Secret agreement Italy-Libya [see 18 June 2012]		Reinforcing cooperation to fight illegal migration from Libyan to Italian coasts with the same means as before 2012			
				11 April 2012		Four Ethiopians who survived in March 2011 [cf. 28-29 March 2012] lodge a complaint, especially targeting the French authorities, for «failure to assist people in distress». They are supported by nine NGOs

				May 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refugees from the Choucha camp (Tunisia) call the international community and the UNHCR to re-examine asylum applications, and to implement a resettlement programme.</li> <li>- The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights considers that the camp is a « prison for migrants »</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It has been over a year that dozens of thousands of people who escaped war in Libya are sheltered in Choucha, including isolated minors</li> <li>- To date, several thousands of refugees and asylum seekers are still encamped in very bad conditions, waiting for a hypothetical departure</li> <li>- Since 2004, Tunisian law sanctions irregular stay and «illegal emigration» [cf. June 2002, B2]</li> </ul>
11 May 2012	The EU signs a cooperation agreement with Irak		Among other things, allows the readmission of Iraqis present illegally in EU and resolves to open negotiations for a readmission agreement applicable to Iraqis, third countries nationals and stateless			Irak never signed the Geneva Convention on refugees. In 2011, according to Eurostat, the Iraqis formed the 2 <sup>nd</sup> national group of persons having the benefit of an international protection from EU
				31 May 2012	The Commission decides to sanction countries which do not implement the «employers' sanction» directive [cf. 18 June 2009]	The directive should have been so but still is not transposed into national law in Finland, Portugal and Slovenia
7 June 2012		[The Jerusalem court dismisses the appeal lodged by human rights organisations and authorises the deportation of 1,500 south-Sudanese]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[- This decision puts an end to the so-called «collective protection» policy which so far prevented removals to unstable countries</li> <li>- Thousands of people are targeted by this measure, among which natives of Horn of Africa or Ivory Coast]</li> </ul>	June 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[- The Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai tells: «These illegals should be put in detention centres and sent back to their country, because they come and take Israelis' jobs and one should protect the Jewish character of the State of Israel.»</li> <li>- «Anyone that penetrates Israel's border should be shot», says Aryeh Eldad, MP]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[- Racist attacks grow in scale in Israel, and especially target Sudanese and Eritreans.</li> <li>- The 240 km fence at the Egyptian border is planned to be completed by the end of the year</li> <li>- Ongoing construction of a detention center in the Negev desert, with a capacity of 11,000 «illegals» upon completion]</li> </ul>

				9 June 2012	Front page of the Moroccan newspaper Assabah: « African migrants involved in war crimes»	- Raids and attacks on Sub-Saharan migrants gain increased since November 2011 in Moroccan urban centres - Negotiations with the EU towards a readmission agreement are still pending
18 June 2012	Agreement between Italy and Libya on illegal immigration is being publicized [B2]		Includes cooperation in training Libyan police and customs officers; assistance in strengthening controls of Libya's borders and coastal patrols; facilitation of voluntary returns to be coordinated by IOM; creation of a «health center» in Kufra, southern Libya in the desert	18 June 2012	- The newspaper describes the agreement as «the facsimile of what was signed with the dictator» - Amnesty International says it vainly attempted to obtain a copy in vain for 2½ months and expresses its deep concern	- <i>La Stampa</i> publicises the agreement between Italy and Libya providing a cooperation on illegal migration [see 3 April 2012] - the IOM (International Organisation for Migration) is an international agency specialised in assisting states to manage “voluntary” returns of irregular migrants
				20 June 2012	The FIDH denounces the «hounding of migrants» and the «clean-up of illegals», as well as ill-treatments in the camps, xenophobia, forced labour and the lack of legal protection they are being facing	The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) presents some preliminary findings of an investigation mission held in Libya from 7 to 15 June 2012, notably in detention camps for migrants
				2 July 2012		The <i>Oloferne</i> schooner sets sail from Cecina off to Sicily and Tunisia [see Sep 2011]
				5 July 2012	- It was reported that the sea patrol was flagging both Italian and Libyan flags [B2] - Witnesses assert that large scale push back operations of that kind, with no examination of individual asylum claims, are frequent	- 76 Eritrean refugees intercepted on 29 June by an Italia-Libya sea patrol are taken to Tripoli (Libya) and detained in an immigration detention center still in construction - They are at risk of being deported to the country which they fled
				13 July 2012	<i>UNITED for Intercultural Action, European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees</i> publishes a list of 16,264 documented deaths at the borders of « Fortress Europe » between January 1993 and June 2012 (including name, country of origin, and cause of death)	

				17 July 2012	<p>- Spanish delegate El Barkani announces that a helicopter will now ensure the surveillance of the wall between Melilla [cf. Sept-Oct 2005] and Morocco and says:</p> <p>- “I can see that the Kingdom of Morocco is a very good collaborator and I was informed that they deport immigrants [<i>sic</i>] from the area”</p>	<p>- In June, hundreds of people attempted, sometimes successfully, to cross the 12 km long and 6 m high triple fence</p> <p>- In Melilla and Ceuta respectively, partly funded by European funds, the cost was 33 and 30 million Euros, i. e. 3 to 4 million Euros per km</p>
				20 July 2012	The mayor of Athens announces that a detention centre will be built in his town	In Greece, the refugee recognition rate is close to 0%
				4 August 2012	<p>The police’s spokesperson explained that [B2]:</p> <p>- “Athens must reclaim the state of law and its quality of life”</p> <p>- It is a “need for national survival”</p> <p>“The message we want to send is that Greece cannot provide employment and residence”</p>	<p>- <i>Xenios Zeus</i> operation in Greece : the police is clamping down on undocumented migrants in Athens, 1,500 arrest</p> <p>- The operation coincides with the visit by the « troika » experts (EU-CEB-IMF) who believe that the improvement of Greece’s financial situation is partly conditioned upon the management of immigration.</p>

				16 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[- The Australian government announces it will reinstate <i>Pacific Solution</i> in a spirit of “humanity and justice” towards migrants</li> <li>- The government goes on : “All Australians are expecting the Parliament to solve this issue”</li> <li>- The UN and the UNHCR disagree softly]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[- The <i>Pacific Solution</i> consisted in outsourcing to neighbouring countries (Nauru, Papua, Malaysia) the management of detention centres where Australia was sending immigrants and undesirable asylum-seekers, or in deporting them to Christmas Island</li> <li>- These centres were built in 2001 and closed in 2007 (2011 for the <i>Malaysian Solution</i>)]</li> </ul>
				27 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The mission [B2] will include training on rescue operations at sea, ship boarding and controlling (no mention of « immigrants » in official statements)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Maltese sea patrol boat reaches Tripoli (Libya) with 46 military officers aboard from the Maritime Squadron arrives in Tripoli (Libya), in order to establish “mutually positive military relations”</li> </ul>
				August 2012 29 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- French Interior Minister announces the deportation of 7,000 non-French Roma by the end of September</li> <li>- The UN is concerned about the way these people are treated. UN special Rapporteurs on the human rights of migrants and on racism protest against deportations and highlight that collective expulsions are prohibited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eviction of Roma from several settlements across many cities in France</li> <li>- Similar operations were conducted in Summer 2010 under former government [cf. 28 Jul 2010]</li> <li>- Collective expulsions are prohibited under international law [cf. Apr 2005]. They are here disguised in the form of “voluntary returns”</li> </ul>

				August 2012	The UNHCR publishes a report where it is established that Serbia is no longer a “safe country” because of the political and human rights situation and because of the risk for asylum-seekers to be deported [cf. 1992 ; Dec 2005 ; Apr 2012 ; Dec 2012-Jan 2013]	-In April 2012, UNHCR called EU Member States to stop removing to Hungary [cf. 18 Feb 2003] asylum-seekers who had transited through Serbia (and were removed there because Serbia was considered as a “safe country”) - Serbia hosts one of the largest displaced communities in Europe
				6 Sept 2012		At least 58 “stowaways” die at sea in a shipwreck off Turkish shores. 45 are rescued
				8 Sept 2012	Following this event [B2], the media emphasise that “40% of the island’s inhabitant are reported to be undocumented migrants”	Shipwreck off Mayotte: 36 people die or are reported missing, 3 are rescued
				11 Sept 2012	“Such violence belongs in the past” [B2]: Gadem and CMSM (migrant rights organisations) denounce the resurgence of abusive practices abandoned for years”	Increase in violence against migrants in Morocco : raids, attacks, collective expulsions involving both Moroccan and Spanish authorities in Ceuta and Melilla enclaves
26 Sept 2012	Convention signed between the EU and Mauritania		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“ - To gain better statistical knowledge on the people who enter and exit Mauritanian territory</li> <li>- To fight against trafficking in human beings</li> <li>- To ensure the protection of the weak and respect for international refugee law”</li> </ul>		<p>“Border management and the protection of the territory are intrinsically linked with counter-terrorism activities, a connection which makes full sense in the current context”, according to an EU diplomat [A1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To this end, the EU decides to provide eight million Euros to support Mauritania’s “migration strategy” [A1, A3]</li> <li>- Since 2011, over 60 check-points have been established at the border with the EU’s financial and technical support</li> </ul>

2 Oct 2012		A “fundamental rights officer” is appointed by Frontex, as required in the agency’s new mandate adopted by Member States and the European Parliament in October 2011 [cf. 25 Oct2011]	Ensure that Frontex operations (e.g. interceptions at sea or during joint returns in countries of origin) are carried out in full respect of international standards, in particular the right to access international protection			This amendment was adopted [A2] to address the EP’s concern regarding the absence of control of Frontex operations
11 Oct 2012		First meeting of the EU-funded Euromed Migration III project on “Mainstreaming Migration Knowledge into Policy Making”	The project is articulated around four areas: - horizontal crosscutting (including migration profiles) - combating irregular migration - legal migration - migration and development		[A3] “Migration profiles are aimed at contributing to policy development, reinforcing policy coherence, bringing together the different strands of migration policy”	- The meeting [A2] was attended by 29 from Southern partners including Algeria, Egypt, Jordania, Lebanon, The Palestinian Authority, Morocco and Tunisia - Delegates included Frontex and IOM officials
				16 Oct 2012	UNHCR announces the closure of Choucha camp and the cessation of its support to refugees there	About 2,000 people still live in Choucha camp, Tunisia [cf. May 2012], including 1,200 people awaiting relocation and 800 who were not recognised as refugees
				17 Oct 2012	- The EU ambassador expresses his concern about the migrant “issue” in Morocco - Spanish media report the failed attempt by 81 Sub-Saharan to enter Ceuta, stopped by the Moroccan law enforcement authorities	- The same day, 14 Sub-Saharan and one Algerian national are removed - According to estimates by the <i>Guardia civil</i> in Ceuta, the royal gendarmerie operating at the border stopped 1,696 illegal immigrants [ <i>sic</i> ] to enter the city this year



				18 Oct 2012	<p>Their demands include [B2]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to be informed about ones situation</li> <li>- to be able to contact the outside world and NGOs</li> <li>- to access health care</li> <li>- the respect of children</li> <li>- the end of mental, physical and sexual abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 73 persons are on hunger strike across four detention centres in Poland</li> <li>- It is the first time that such events are made public; they used to be kept off the public eye and punished with isolation and physical abuse</li> </ul>
Oct 2012		Six EU countries ask the Commission to reintroduce visa obligations for nationals from the Western Balkans countries enjoying free travel in the EU	This measure aims to stop a “massive influx” of asylum-seekers whose “unfounded” claim should be examined individually [cf. Dec 2012-Jan 2013]	25 Oct 2012	The EU warns Western Balkans countries against the reintroduction of visa regimes, which would oblige these countries to stop discriminating Roma and better integrate them	Targeted countries [A2]: Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Albania and Macedonia. Requesting countries: Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands
				16 Nov 2012	Lampedusa’s new mayor, Giusi Nicolini, expresses her shame in front of the banalisation of what she calls a “manslaughter” [B2] and her outrage regarding the silence of the EU, which has just been awarded the Nobel peace prize. She is ironically asking how far the municipal cemetery should extend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Between May and 3 November, 21 corpses reached the island’s shores</li> <li>- On 3 November, yet another shipwreck: 76 survivors, 11 drowned, 28 missing people</li> <li>- On 6 September, 56 persons were rescued after a shipwreck ; the number of missing persons is unknown (between 24 and 74 according to various estimates)</li> </ul>
				19 Nov 2012	People targeted by this decision [B2] report that they have been pressured into signing “voluntary return”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raid in a reception center for asylum-seekers in Norstorf Horst (near Hamburg): 50 people arrested and removed to Serbia by coach</li> <li>- Others are removed by plane to Macedonia</li> </ul>

				26 Nov 2012	A Tunisian official states: “We consider these people as irregular and encourage them to participate in the IOM voluntary return programme” [cf. 18 June 2012]	- People in exile with no refugee status [cf. 16 Oct 2012] are not provided any support any more in Choucha (health care, safety) - They are now « illegal » under Tunisian law, and blocked in a camp where they do not belong any more and which is about to be closed
13 Dec 2012		The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) unanimously condemns France	Claim: expeditious and slapdash justice in French Guyana, no access to a fair remedy before removing a third-country national			The claimant [A2], a Brazilian, was removed before he could defend his case and lodge an appeal
17 Dec 2012		The EP’s LIBE (Civil Liberties, Justice and Home affairs) Committee (agrees that law enforcement authorities may access Eurodac	In line with the favourable opinion of the Council of the EU, this vote aims to allow law enforcement authorities of Member States and Europol to access to Eurodac –the database which centralises fingerprints		The text [A2] aims to reinforce the fight against crime and terrorism, and mixes these issues with asylum and illegal immigration	- Eurodac centralises data on asylum-seekers and undocumented migrants ; the Court of Justice of the EU decided that being in an irregular situation was not a crime <i>per se</i>
				22 Dec 2012	Mauritania declares it will not accept “Morocco’s rubbish”	Almost 50 Sub-Saharan are forcibly removed and pushed back to the border by Moroccan authorities, but Mauritania refuses to let them in
				24 Dec 2012	[M. Netanyahu says he is “in contact with several African governments” in view of “repatriating dozens of millions of stowaways”]	[The 250 km long anti-immigrants fence along the Israel-Egypt border is nearly completed]

				Dec 2012- Jan 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Massive ideological, legislative and penal onslaught in the Balkans (Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia) and in Greece</li> <li>- against irregular migrants and asylum-seekers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– against “bogus” asylum-seekers arriving in the EU, especially Germany</li> <li>– Kosovo introduces visa obligations for the nationals of 86 countries</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
				30 Jan 2013	The UNHCR, in agreement with the IOM and the Tunisian government, declares that it wants to incite rejected asylum-seekers in Choucha to return to their country of origin	700 to 800 persons, including around 300 statutory refugees, will face water and electricity cuts [cf. 26 Nov 2012]. Makeshift shelters will soon start decaying
				4 Feb 2013	The AP news agency announces it will no longer use the term “illegal immigrants” which is deemed inappropriate: only acts, not people, can be illegal	
				28 Feb 2013	According to MEP H. Flautre [cf. 23 Feb 2012], these proposals are far from “smart”: they will establish a super surveillance system [...], that is useless, costly and deleterious [...].” She calls it a “Big Brother technology”	The Commission proposes a “smart border” package that includes a proposal for the fingerprinting of third-country nationals and the storage of their fingerprints each time they enter and exit the EU. It also foresees priority measures for “ <i>bona fide</i> ” passengers
				12 Mar 2013	MSF criticises the concerning consequences of the EU’s policy on the physical and mental health of migrants	Médecins sans frontières (MSF – Doctors without borders) stops providing social and medical support to migrants in Morocco, 6 years after their local office was open

				20-28 Mar 2013	It aims to monitor Frontex's activities [cf. Oct 2004]. Slogan: "Europe is at war against an imaginary enemy"	The inter-organization <i>Frontexit</i> campaign, initiated by Migreurop, is launched in Brussels, Nouakchott, and at the World Social Forum held in Tunis
				March to June 2013	Various sources report an increase in the violence against migrants in Greece, perpetrated by both public and private actors. The webmedia <i>Rue 89</i> notes that the EU will increase the budget of its best "border guard"	
				[13 April 2013]	[In 2004, Yemen's government protested against the adopted route , leading to the freezing of the work. According to Riyadh, the reinforcement of security all along the border "has become an urgent issue for the kingdom after the start of the revolution in Yemen in 2011",to prevent illegal immigration, trafficking and smuggling]	[Saudi Arabia proceeds with the construction of a security fence at the Yemen border, as reported by <i>Arab News</i> . The three-metre high sand and stone barrier is equipped with electronic sensors along 1,800 km. The project started in 2003 and was interrupted one year later due to protests from the Yemen government regarding the border demarcation, although an agreement was reached on this aspect in 2000, as highlighted by the website]

				18 April 2013	Closeye aims, in coordination with existing systems (Sive, Frontex), to “quickly alert on what is happening without waiting for migrant flows and for the mafia to reach the Spanish coasts”	Launch of <i>Closeye</i> , a border surveillance project at the Western Mediterranean borders using high technologies (including drones and satellites). The global budget amounts to €12,2 M, including €9 M from the EU. The project brings together many entities, both public and private, from Spain, Portugal and Italy
				24 May [B1] 3 June 2013 [B2]	Outsourcing 1: The Greek Minister of Public Order announces that the government plans to hire a private company for the security management of Greek camps	Outsourcing 2: France and other states hire private companies to manage part of the visa requests, including the collection of biometric data, as revealed by <i>Basta !</i> magazine
				3 June 2013	[Law practitioners are wondering: would deportees be at risk once removed, in breach of the 1951 Convention? Tally Kritzman-Amir argues that Israel is responsible for the respect of those people's rights]	[According to the AP agency, Israel is negotiating the removal of thousands of "illegal" migrants with a non-identified state (allegedly from East Africa). No information is given on what Israel is giving in return. - and cf. Jan 2013. Persecutions faced by the Sub-Saharan community are growing in the country]
				9 June 2013	[According to Professor Amael Cattaruzza, "The border market is expanding worldwide". It is a "booming" market that also attracts European investors]	[The US weapons majors reply to call for proposals aiming to the militarization of the Mexican border. US\$ 1 billion is available for the building of surveillance towers]

				15-16 June 2013		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over 900 migrants try to reach Italy by sea</li> <li>- One vessel carrying 95 people sinks</li> <li>- Survivors cling to the cage of a tuna fishing boat ; the crew cuts the cable leading to the drowning of seven persons</li> </ul>
				20 June 2013	The decision is justified by the fact that the city is[B2 ] "both a cross-roads and a departure point" and that organized "networks" of migrants have been unveiled	Niger is the new target of the externalization process: the army launches a vast "securitization" operation of the Agadez region against "clandestine immigration"(sic) to Libya
11 June 2013		Adoption by the EP of the recast of the "Asylum" package after 4 years of discussion within the EU	The new "asylum" includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Reception" Directive [cf. Feb 2003]</li> <li>- "Procedure" Directive [cf. Dec 2005]</li> <li>- Dublin Regulation [cf. Feb 2003]</li> <li>- Eurodac Regulation [cf. Jan 2004]</li> </ul>		The European Association for Human Rights (AEDH) expresses concern at the persistence of a "sovereign spirit" which especially translates into the maintenance of "accelerated procedures" and of arbitrary detention	The package seem to include better reception and procedure safeguards. Member States will have to transpose both directives in national law within two years; however, the directives still gives them some margin for interpretation to Member States
				8 July 2013	- Pope Francis visits Lampedusa to "mourn" the death of hundred of Northern Africans who died in their attempt to cross the Mediterranean in seek of a better life. He denounces the world's "indifference" to their fate	- MP L. Boldrini (UNHCR's ex-spokesperson) calls for "the reinforcement of sea rescue operations of migrants" and emphasises that "the law must clearly state that helping, rescuing is both a legal and an ethical obligation"

(Update: 9 July 2013 - 30 January 2014)

Date	A1	A2	A3	Date	B1	B2
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				<p>July to Dec 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On 25/09, Commissioner Malmström warns EU member states that <i>pushbacks</i> [B2] are illegal and calls for more solidarity, as only 5 of them are in charge of 70% of asylum applications</li> <li>- A report by the NGO Pro Asyl, dated 7/11, denounces the repeated occurrence of <i>pushbacks</i> against hundreds of people - many of whom escaping war in Syria - from the Greek islands in the Aegean sea to Turkey</li> <li>- On 12/11, the UNHCR reacts and calls for the suspension of the removal of Syrians. The UN agency has many times noted the “mysterious disappearance” of migrants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Pushbacks</i> refer to collective refoulement practices without any individual examination of a potential asylum claim. These practices started in Italy ten years ago [cf. Oct 2004, B2 ;] were condemned by the ECHR [cf. 23 Feb 2012]. Besides, removal in a country where a refugee may be in danger is prohibited</li> <li>- On 20/7, Australia inaugurates the <i>Real Solution</i>, based on the removal of immigrants to Papua New Guinea where their situation shall be examined in the likely prospect of the removal in the country of origin. The first vessel concerned by the measure thus sees 74 refugees from Sri Lanka, Iran and Afghanistan being brought back to a Papuan detention centre</li> <li>- <i>Pushbacks</i> by Greece are a direct answer to the EU's demands</li> </ul>
				<p>17 July-Aug 2013</p> <p>“We don't care if you die”: This is what detainees report the guards replied to them in Amygdaleza (Greece) [B2] when they complained about the lack of air conditioning in the containers where they were left detained in the sun</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eritreans demonstrate in Lampedusa against their fingerprinting (17/7) [cf. Jan 2004 ; 17 Dec 2012]</li> <li>- Reports of riots in removal/detention centres in Greece to complain about a power cut (12/8) ; in the north-east of Italy at the Gradisca d'Isonzo centre against mistreatment and the brutal retaliation measures taken after two evasion attempts (12/8) ; in Austria, 32 refugees are on hunger strike (25/12)</li> </ul>
				<p>July 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Morocco : upsurge in number of raids, violent attacks and removal operations against Sub-Saharan people</li> <li>- Opening in Rabat of a Bureau for Refugees and Stateless Persons on 25/9. UNHCR Representative Nassif welcomes this move</li> <li>- On 3/1/2014, the kingdom announces the launch of a regularisation campaigns for undocumented migrants. However, eligibility criteria may leave many aside (life in Morocco for at least five years, being employed for two years or being able to prove two years of cohabitation with a Moroccan spouse) a concern shared by some human rights organisations like the Gadem</li> </ul>	
				<p>18 Jul 2013</p> <p>In Choucha, the Tunisian government announces that recognised refugees will be granted leave to remain</p>	<p>The situation remains dire for the others [cf. 16 Oct 2012; 26 Nov 2012]. As of 30/1/2014, recognised refugees are still waiting for this promise to be fulfilled</p>

				<p>31 Aug 2013</p> <p>15 Nov 2013</p>	<p>- “Last week, 1,300 migrants have disembarked in Sicilia and Lampedusa. It is a worrying signal”, Frontex tells the Italian ANSA news agency in Brussels</p> <p>- EU mediator O’Reilly questions Frontex's responsibility following the Lampedusa tragedy [cf. 4 Oct 2013] and opposes the theory whereby respect for human rights is a Member States' obligation, not Frontex's</p>	<p>- According to Frontex statistics, during the first seven months of 2013, the number of migrants (12,000) in Sicilia increased 175% compared to the same period in 2012 – far from the 2011 figure of 50,000</p> <p>- The agency notes a 300% increase in the migratory pressure faced by Hungary (including 50% made of “secondary arrivals” from Greece, while the remaining part being mainly made of people from Kosovo)</p> <p>- It should be observed that Frontex never refers to refugees or to asylum seekers, but to “migrants”</p>
				<p>8 Sept 2013</p> <p>18 Dec 2013</p>	<p>- The Italian maritime force declares it has saved more than 700 people, mainly Syrians, who were in distress at sea</p> <p>- The EC denounces the “appalling treatments” facing migrants in Lampedusa where dozens of <i>boat people</i>, coming from Africa, and especially Libya, are disembarking each year. It warns Rome that sanctions may be taken after the publication of a video showing migrants being “treated like animals”</p>	<p>- Thus [B1], about 420 refugees add up to the 400 already present in Lampedusa's “Identification and Expulsion Centre”(CIE)</p> <p>- 400 other people are rescued in the straight of Sicily, in the wake of Italy's launch of the <i>Mare nostrum</i> operation on 14/10 to “reinforce its military and humanitarian apparatus in the Mediterranean” that followed the two shipwrecks in October, which were given an important media coverage</p> <p>- 128 others will be rescued by an American vessel upon Malta's request</p>



18-23 July 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The EP and then the EC adopt the Eurosur regulation, in force as of 2/12</li> <li>- Eurosur was planned since 2008</li> </ul>		Eurosur is a European border surveillance system based on high-tech and data sharing mechanisms adopted by the EP and deemed “crucial” to “help detect illegal vessels and entries”	3-4 Oct 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MEP Flautre states : “Lampedusa has turned into Europe's cemetery”</li> <li>- To prevent deaths at sea, Commissioner Malström recommends that Eurosur [A1] should be launched earlier to better monitor the boats, and to invest more in rescue operations in the Mediterranean under Frontex's aegis</li> <li>- On 25/10, the European Council in Brussels agrees to reinforce Frontex's means and welcomes the Eurosur system [A1]. When asked “how to avoid death at sea of refugees?”, it is replied: “By discouraging them from leaving their country”</li> <li>- Some observers, including the Frontex collective [cf. 20-28 March] express their concern that the launch of Eurosur is geared towards the EU's border securitisation rather than saving the migrants' life at sea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The largest shipwreck on the whole period [cf. March 2009, B2 ; August 2009, B2], less than 1/3 nautical mile away from Lampedusa, when a vessel capsized after a fire on board, with 500 refugees on board, mostly from Somalia and Eritrea</li> <li>- Neither the Italian coast guards, or the Frontex agents deployed on the islands, did not see anything. The first assistance was provided by fishermen, thereby risking penal sanctions [cf. Jul 2007]</li> <li>- First estimates report 130 dead, but the death toll keeps rising to 300 and ultimately, on 22/10, to 366</li> <li>- On 11/10, another vessel capsized between Malta and Lampedusa with about 250 passengers on board; it is estimated that dozens of people died or disappeared while others were rescued through a joint operation by Malta and Italy, and by vessels sailing in the area – estimates vary widely depending on the source</li> <li>- On 26/12, shipwreck in the Caribbean sea: 17 dead (allegedly Haitians), 33 rescued and put in detention</li> </ul>
				14 Oct 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frontex informs it uses manned and unmanned “hybrid drones” also called <i>optionally piloted aircrafts</i> (OPA)</li> <li>- Head of Research Beugels calls on (14/10) EU member states to buy OPAs; Frontex announces it is promoting the DA-42 aircraft to different countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Frontex contract has been granted in July to an Austrian firm for the experimentation of the DA-42 aircraft [B1]. Financial cost for two weeks was 118,000 Euros</li> <li>- Spain already experimented drones along its south coast</li> <li>- According to military sources, Algeria is discussing with Russia the acquisition of about thirty drones, and also expresses interest for American equipment (El Watan, 11/1/2014)</li> </ul>
				Oct-Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More and more refugees, especially from Syria, are crossing the Turkish border, according to the Bulgarian authorities. It is estimated that more than 10,000 asylum seekers will transit through the country in the coming months, while capacities in “reception centres” remain insufficient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Algerian prisoners, who have been detained in Bulgarian detention centres for months, including the Busmantzi centre, face inhuman treatment and call the authorities for help.</li> <li>- Syrian refugees arrive in mass in Serbia as winter comes. The two “reception centres” Bogovada and Banja Koviljača are fully occupied. Wild camps and “jungles” are mushrooming. The number of asylum seekers has raised from 50 in 2008 to 4,000 this year</li> </ul>

				5-6 Nov 2013  26 Nov 2013	<p>- Spain announced the reinforcement of a triple fence around Melilla made of razor-sharp barbed wires and fine net-like structure at the most exposed locations</p> <p>- Morocco announces that a wall will be built along its northern border with Algeria; the news is welcome by Spain's delegate in Melilla</p>	<p>- This measure [B1] follows many “massive assaults”, including that of 17/09 where about 300 Sub-Saharan migrants had attempted to climb the fence, 100 of whom did</p> <p>- On 5/11, an African man dies while trying to cross the Melilla fence; four are injured, 40 people are detained by either the <i>guardia civil</i> and the Moroccan gendarmerie</p>
4 Dec 2013		EC Communication on a “task force in the Mediterranean” aimed to clarify the rules on interception and rescue at sea of migrants, and on where to disembark them				This initiative [A2-A3] aims to address criticism against Italy and Frontex after the tragedies on 3/10 and 6/10 [cf. 3 Oct 2013, B1, B2]
10 Dec 2013		The Knesset adopts a new detention system for “illegal” African migrants. They may be detained in Israel for up to one year without any trial			“Would you have placed Nelson Mandela in an open or in a closed detention centre?”, asks MP Zandberg to the Parliament	On 16/9, the Supreme Court had unanimously decided that the law allowing the detention of “illegal” migrants for three years without a trial was unconstitutional because it breached another law on human dignity and liberty
16 Dec 2013	EU-Turkey readmission agreement	Turkey accepts the “return” of undocumented migrants of any origin who would have entered the EU through its territory		4 Dec 2013	<p>- “Today is a historical day. The Turkish people will be able to travel without visa in the European Union within the next three years and a half at the latest”, believes a Turkish diplomat in Brussels, 12 days before the signature of the agreement</p> <p>- Indeed, Turkey had announced it would only sign the agreement if the visa obligation was lifted</p>	Readmission agreements have already been signed on 18/4 and 19/4 with Cape Verde and Armenia
				27 Dec 2013	President of the Agadez Anacko regional council claims that the barracks [B2] have been re-opened a few days later “corruption is endemic here and the central power, which is aware of all that happens, does not do anything to change the situation”	<p>- The daily <i>Libération</i> reveals to the French readership that the Nigerian army discovered 92 bodies (33 women, 7 men and 52 children) in October in the Tenere desert. These people, originating from the Zinder region, were en route to Algeria</p> <p>- The authorities immediately decide to close down the Agadez and Arlit barracks, transit sites for migrants [cf. B1]</p>
21 Jan 2013	The Italian senate abolishes the crime of “illegal immigration”				The North League senators (extreme right) react violently, holding banners stating “No to the abolishment of the crime of illegal immigration”	

				20-21 Jan 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the night, a vessel carrying 25 Afghans and 3 Syrians, capsized off the Farmakosini island. 16 people are rescued by the Greek coast guards. 12 people are reported dead or disappeared, among them women (3) and children (9)</li> <li>- According to survivors, the boat was pulled at a very high speed towards Turkey as part of a <i>push back</i> operation [cf. Jul to Dec 2013, B1, B2 ] and the head vessel was zigzag sailing which caused the shipwreck</li> <li>- The UNHCR calls on the Greek government to account for the accident</li> </ul>	
				22 Jan 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government [B2] promotes its slogan <i>stop the boats</i> and its “sovereign borders” operation [cf. Jul to Dec 2013]</li> <li>- Amnesty International calls for the end of the removal of asylum seekers to detention centres in other countries [cf. 16 August 2012]</li> </ul>	Serious violence by the Australian army against asylum seekers on board the vessel forcibly removing them to Indonesia