

This monthly press review covers Eurafrican migration control, migration and displacement in African countries and news on the European border regime. In case there is a news item, report, or campaign you would like to flag for in next month's review please write us to: migr-contr@ffm-online.org or on Twitter [@MigControl](https://twitter.com/MigControl)

NEW ON MIGRATION-CONTROL.INFO

Blog On the racist events in Tunisia – Background and Overview by the Migration Control Info Project Editorial Team: “In recent weeks, Black people in Tunisia face a repressive wave of arbitrary arrests and police and state violence as well as attacks by civil groups. Targeting people coming from Central and West African countries, the already existing racism in the country has escalated. We collected material to give an overview on the current situation and its background.” Also available in [French](#).

Blog and EU Doc Migration Movements in, to and from the Horn of Africa: Internal EU-Document: Migration-control.info has received an internal paper on the Horn of Africa – Migratory situation, published 30.03.2023, handed over by the Swedish Presidency to the Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP). We publish it on our blog because we think that such data is important not only for EU bureaucrats, but also for independent researchers and no-border-activists.

Blog and EU Doc Schengen Data: In preparation of the Schengen Council meeting, the internal “Schengen Barometer+” was shared with EU-delegations. It contains information by Frontex, Europol, eu-Lisa, among others, about developments in the Schengen area.

Blog The experience of Sudanese migrants in Libya by Maimoon Sheikh: In his article, Maimoon Sheik sheds light on the experiences of Sudanese migrants in Libya, abuses by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard, arbitrary deportations and the role of the UNHCR, among other things. Maimoons article is the second part of our series on migration movements into, in, and out of Sudan. The series is a collaborative effort by Sudan Uprising Germany and the migration-control.info project. Also available in [Arabic](#) and [German](#).

SPECIAL: TUNISIA

On the occasion of the ongoing authoritarian state transformation in Tunisia, we publish a special in this month's issue on the events in Tunisia and their impact on the population, especially on those having moved to and moving from Tunisia. We especially shed light on the organization of those camping in front of the UNHCR, denouncing the racist violence in Tunisia, demanding their immediate evacuation. *"In Tunisia we suffer & die from Racism. We have been neglected by the UN agencies. Betrayed by the international community. But we will fight for our dignity"*, state the Refugees in Tunisia on Twitter.

What is the political situation in Tunisia?

30.03.23: Guardian: Why is Tunisia in crisis and why do sub-Saharan people want to leave? [Background Report]: "Tunisia is in the grip of several overlapping crises. Its economy is struggling and its increasingly authoritarian president, Kais Saied, who has consolidated power since a constitutional coup in 2018, has launched a wide-ranging crackdown on his political opponents and undocumented people from other parts of Africa."

See also 27.03.23: faz: Die Angst, dass Tunesien kollabiert (The fear that Tunisia will collapse); 21.03.23: New Lines Magazine: Tunisia's President Gives Life to a Zionism Conspiracy Theory; 08.03.23: The Conversation: Tunisia's President Is Targeting Migrants to Divert Attention From Serious Domestic Problems - a Classic Tactic; 06.03.23: The Guardian: Tunisia's authoritarian descent takes new turn with migrant crackdown.

05.03.23: Al-Monitor: Sub-Saharans in Tunisia fear for their lives following Saied's racist comments: "Henda Chnaoui, a Tunisian feminist activist and member of the Anti-Fascism Front, believes that Saied's actions are effectively being endorsed by European states, pointing to a meeting between the Italian ambassador in Tunis, Fabrizio Saggio, and Tunisian Foreign Minister Nabil Ammar to discuss various issues, including 'the common fight against irregular immigration'."

See also 04.03.23: NZZ: Tunesiens Präsident hetzt gegen Migranten - nun mehren sich die Übergriffe (Tunisia's president incites against migrants - now the attacks increase); 03.03.23: Al Jazeera: Sub-Saharan Africans recount Tunisia 'hell' amid crackdown; 02.03.23: NYT: Tunisia's President Vilifies Migrants From Sub-Saharan Africa; 02.03.23: DW: Tunesien: Hetze gegen Migranten aus Subsahara-Afrika (Tunisia: agitation against migrants from sub-Saharan Africa); 09.03.23: Press Release Amnesty NY: Africa: President's Racist Speech Incites a Wave of Violence Against Black Africans.

What are the consequences and implications of these policies?

Detention 23.03.23: The New Arab: 'It is a prison': migrants in El-Ouardia centre say they were forced to sign repatriation papers: "In Tunisia, migrants trapped in a migrants centre controlled by the interior ministry said they were forced to sign repatriation papers under "emotional and physical abuse," as the authorities double

down on their anti-migration policy following president Saied's infamously xenophobic speech."

See also 10.03.23: France24: **"On te crache dessus, on t'insulte" : dans les coulisses du très fermé centre pour migrants d'El Ouardia à Tunis (We spit on you, we insult you": in the backstage of the very closed center for migrants of El Ouardia in Tunis).**

What resistance is there?

04.03.23: Tagesschau: **Tausende demonstrieren gegen Präsident Saied (Thousands demonstrate against President Saied)**: In Tunisia, after a wave of arrests of opposition members, the largest protest rally to date against President Kais Saied has taken place. Thousands of demonstrators answered the call of the UGTT trade union to demonstrate against Saied's political course and the deteriorating situation in the country.

See also Al Jazeera: 05.03.23: **Tunisian opposition defies protest ban, rallies against president**; 01.03.23: Statewatch and Fédération des Tunisiens Citoyens des deux Rives (FTCR): **Statement against the racist and securitarian drift in Tunisia: Call for action and solidarity.**

What have been the consequences for those affected by the violence?

30.03.23: The Guardian: **Tunisian morgue overflows as more people attempt risky sea crossing**: "Attempts to cross the sea from the coast around Sfax have increased sharply in recent weeks amid a wave of racist violence sparked by an incendiary speech by the Tunisian president, Kais Saied, who claimed that irregular migration from other parts of Africa was part of an international conspiracy to change Tunisia's demographic character."

See also 25.03.23: CNN: **Sicilian island sees record-high migrant arrivals by boat**; 24.03.23: Reuters: **At least 34 migrants missing after fifth boat sinks off Tunisia in two days**; 09.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Fourteen people drown when Italy-bound boat sinks off Tunisia**; 24.03.23: Alarmphone Sahara: **Tunisia is no longer safe for African Migrants**; 30.03.23: SZ: **Flucht aus der Hauptstadt der Migranten (Escape from the capital of migrants)**: Report on Sfax.

29.03.29: taz: **Evakuiert aus Tunis nach Westafrika (Evacuated from Tunis to West Africa)**: Due to the persecution of blacks in Tunisia, numerous governments are flying out their compatriots. Violence has been escalating there since the end of February. Guinea was the first country to evacuate persecuted compatriots from Tunisia. Other countries followed: Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal. In total, several thousand people have been brought home from Tunisia.

See also 17.03.23: Comment on Tunisian Racism by Haythem Guesmi; Al Jazeera: **It was not Saied who introduced anti-Black racism to Tunisia**; 04.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Sub-Saharan Africans desperate to leave Tunisia after attacks.**

12.03.23: The New Arab: **Is Tunisia still a safe refuge for opponents of the Algerian regime?**: “For Algerian dissidents fleeing, Tunisia is no longer the welcoming land and protector it was once thought to be. Especially after the recent hateful speech made by Saied targeting sub-Saharan migrants, claiming there was a “plot” to “change Tunisia’s demographic makeup.” This led to a wave of attacks, including violent abuse directed towards black people in the country.

*See also taz: 10.03.23: **Migrant:innen in Tunesien: Ohne Perspektive (Migrants in Tunisia: Without Perspectives)**.*

What are the reactions from abroad?

30.03.23: ECFR: **Autumn of the patriarch: How to help Tunisians defend their democracy** [Background Report]: “Europeans’ options for immediate action are relatively few, despite being Tunisia’s largest trading partners, the largest foreign supporters of the Tunisian state, and the target of Tunisian flight of people and capital.”

06.03.23: Al Jazeera: **African Union postpones Tunisia meeting after racist attacks:** “The African Union has postponed a conference that was due to take place in Tunisia this month [March], Bloomberg reports, after criticism over a government crackdown and racial attacks against sub-Saharan nationals. [...] The AU Commission said it had called Tunisia’s representative for an urgent meeting to register “deep shock and concern at the form and substance” of the remarks on behalf of the continent-wide bloc.”

*See also 01.04.23: MEMO: **Italy: Interior minister plans to control Tunisia coasts to prevent illegal migration**; 29.03.23: Tagesschau: **Melonis rechte Regierung unter Druck (Meloni’s right-wing government under pressure)**; 27.03.23; Asharq Al-Awsat: **France, Italy to Support Tunisia Control Irregular Migration**; 20.03.23: euobserver: **EU fears Tunisia turmoil will spark migrant boat departures**; 19.03.23: Reuters: **Italy pushing IMF to help Tunisia and avoid instability, minister says**; 15.03.23: rfi: **Une résolution déposée au Parlement européen sur la situation en Tunisie (A resolution tabled in the European Parliament on the situation in Tunisia)**; 13.03.23: The Guardian: **As the disturbing scenes in Tunisia show, anti-migrant sentiments have gone global.***

ALL AFRICA

25.03.23: Tagesspiegel: **Wut-Frühling in Afrika: Die Jugend des Kontinents begehrt gegen die Eliten auf (Anger Spring in Africa: The Continent’s Youth Revolt Against the Elites)** [Background Report]: Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria and Tunisia: Geographically, they are far apart, spread all over Africa. And yet they have much in common: All four states are considered stable democracies and comparatively strong economically. Almost 350 million people live there. And the four countries have something else in common: In each of them, the population is resentful of its own government.

*See also 21.03.23: taz: **Von Nairobi bis Pretoria macht die Straße mobil (From Nairobi to Pretoria, the street is on the move)**.*

EAST AFRICA

Somalia 20.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Somalia drought may have killed 43,000 in 2022, half under 5: UN**: “Somalia’s ongoing record drought may have killed as many as 43,000 people last year, and half of them were children under the age of five, according to a report released by the government and United Nations agencies. The research released on Monday [March 20] marked the first attempt to estimate countrywide deaths in a crisis that experts warn is more severe than the country’s last major drought in 2017 and 2018.”

NORTH AFRICA

Algeria/Niger 28.03.23: taz: **In die Wüste gekarrt und ausgesetzt (Carted into the desert and abandoned)**: “The numbers are unprecedented, the conditions in northern Niger near the Algerian border more violent than ever. Between January and the end of March 2023, Algerian authorities abandoned more than 10,200 refugees and migrants in the desert at the border with Niger as part of collective deportations, reports the activist network Alarme Phone Sahara (APS).”

See also 22.03.2023: medico international: **Endstation Wüste: Migration in der Sahelzone: Weil die EU Druck macht, stranden im nigrischen Agadez immer mehr Menschen** (End of the line desert: Migration in the Sahel: Because the EU is exerting pressure, more and more people are stranded in Agadez, Niger) [Background Report]; all Africa: 16.03.23: **Niger - MSF Denounces Appalling Conditions for Migrants Abandoned in Assamaka**.

Egypt 22.03.23: AP News: **World Bank approves \$7 billion loan to support Egypt reforms**: “The World Bank said Wednesday [22.03.2023] it approved a \$7 billion loan to support Egypt’s push to empower the private sector and enhance its efforts to combat the impacts of climate change.”

Sudan 26.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Sudan’s military leader Burhan backs democratic transition**: “Sudan’s military leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has reiterated that the army will be brought under a new civilian-led government as talks on military reforms began on Sunday as part of a prolonged transition to civilian rule. ‘During our history, the armed forces have supported dictatorial governments, and we want to put an end to that,’ al-Burhan, a career soldier during former President Omar al-Bashir’s three-decade rule, said in a speech to soldiers on Sunday [March 26].”

See also Reuters: 19.03.23: **Analysis: Sudan paramilitary leader jostles for role ahead of civilian handover**.

Sudan 19.03.23: NYT: **A ‘New Cold War’ Looms in Africa as U.S. Pushes Against Russian Gains**: “Russia has also obtained a powerful partner in General Hamdan of Sudan, whose paramilitary forces have received weapons and training from Wagner, and who travels widely across the region. Last week, he flew to Eritrea, one of a handful of countries that consistently votes in favor of Russia at the United Nations.”

WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso 30.03.23: North Africa Post: **Burkina Faso re-establishes ties with North Korea, purchase of military equipment in sight**: “Olivia Roumba, Burkina Faso’s top diplomat announced Wednesday the resumption of diplomat ties with North Korea as Ouagadougou seeks Pyongyang’s military support in order to address insecurity at home caused by terrorist groups.”

Burkina Faso 06.03.23: Jeune Afrique: **Au Burkina Faso, un couvre-feu d’un mois instauré dans plusieurs provinces (Burkina Faso imposes month-long curfew in several provinces)**: A curfew was instituted throughout the northern region of Burkina Faso and in two other provinces to combat jihadists who regularly strike these areas. “During this period, the movement of people, four- and two-wheeled vehicles, tricycles and bicycles is formally prohibited. This measure aims to facilitate the actions of the armed forces in this border region of Mali.

See also 03.02.23: Modern War Institute: **The Wagner Group’s Growing Shadow in the Sahel: What Does It Mean for Counterterrorism in the Region?**; 01.03.23: Africanews: **Burkina Faso: Protest for “more security” after deadly attack in east.**

Mali 24.03.23: France 24: **Mali questions ‘credibility’ of UN rights report claiming steep rise in civilian killings**: “MINUSMA said 1,277 people were killed in Mali in 2022, more than double the previous year’s total of 584. It also attributed 35 percent of human rights violations to security forces, which were “sometimes accompanied by foreign military personnel”. These figures do not include violations committed in Moura, where in late March 2022 there was what Human Rights Watch has described as a massacre of 300 civilians by Malian soldiers associated with foreign fighters”.

Mali 10.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Mali postpones constitutional referendum**: “The referendum is a milestone on the road to elections promised for February. With its postponement, the military will miss the first deadline on a timetable it drew up to return Mali to civilian rule.”

Mali/Burkina Faso 07.03.23: Foreign Policy: **Ethnic Killings by West African Armies Are Undermining Regional Security**: “Across central Mali and Burkina Faso, national militaries, their new foreign partners, and local ethnic militias are again committing mass atrocities against Fulani civilians in the name of the fight against jihadis. According to data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, more than half of the civilians killed by the military or ethnic militias in Burkina Faso and Mali last year were Fulani—despite the fact that they make up around 10 and 14 percent of each country, respectively.”

Niger 29.03.23: Al Jazeera: **German government to deploy troops to Niger as part of EU mission**: “The German government on Wednesday paved the way for its troops’ participation in a European Union military mission in Niger, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters after the cabinet decision. Germany intends to deploy up to 60 soldiers to Niger as part of an EU operation designed to support the government in Niamey in the build-up of its forces.”

See also 28.03.23: ECFR: **The roots of peace: Why Europeans should help re-establish support for local dialogue in the Sahel**; 25.03.23: France 24: **Niger's army entered Mali in hunt for 'terrorists': ministry**; 15.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Blinken making 'historic' trip to Niger as forces shift in Sahel**; 13.03.23: North Africa Post: **US special forces train West African armies in annual Flintlock counterterrorism drills**.

Sahel 14.03.23: Anadolu: **Nouakchott : le G5 Sahel se penche sur les implications du retrait du Mali (Nouakchott: G5 Sahel discusses implications of Mali's withdrawal)**: The G5 Sahel member states took stock on Tuesday (March 14) of the implications of Mali's withdrawal from this institutional framework for coordinating and monitoring regional cooperation on development and security policies. This is what emerged from the meeting at expert level organized ahead of the conference of ministers (foreign affairs and economy) of the organization, to be held March 20 in Nouakchott. "The repercussions of Mali's withdrawal from this gathering will be the focus of discussions during the two-day expert meetings," said the organization's Executive Secretary, Eric Tiaré. On May 16, 2022, Mali's ruling military council announced Bamako's withdrawal from the African G5 Sahel and its military counterterrorism force, in protest at its refusal to assume the presidency of the regional organization.

Sahel 17.03.23: The North Africa Journal: **Sahel's children are facing extreme dangers, desperately need humanitarian help**: "Ten million children in west Africa's central Sahel region are now in "extreme jeopardy" and desperately need humanitarian help due to worsening violence, the United Nations warned Friday. The number of children in dire need of aid in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger is twice as many as in 2020, the children's agency UNICEF said. Meanwhile a further four million children are at risk in neighbouring countries as battles between armed groups and security forces spill across the borders."

Senegal 15.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Thousands of Senegal opposition supporters begin 3-day protest**: "About 5,000 supporters of Senegalese opposition leader Ousmane Sonko gathered in the capital, Dakar, on Tuesday for a three-day protest to show support for the aspiring presidential candidate, who faces a libel case set to resume this week."

SUBSAHARAN AFRICA

DRC 10.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Civilians pay heavy price of worsening conflict in east DRC: UN**: Escalating violence forced nearly 300,000 people to flee Rutshuru and Masisi territories of North Kivu province last month, UNHCR says.

South Sudan 30.03.23: Al Jazeera: **S Sudan president appoints defence minister, breaching peace deal**: "South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has appointed a member of his own party as defence minister, according to a decree read on state media, breaching a peace deal in which the role should be selected by the party of First Vice President and opposition leader, Riek Machar. Defence Minister Angelina Teny, who is also Machar's wife, was fired alongside the interior minister this month, reigniting longstanding disagreements over how the two war veterans share power. The

impasse is likely to cause paralysis in the implementation of the peace deal, which is meant to culminate in a national election at the end of 2024”.

WEST ASIA

Iran/Iraq 19.03.23: Al Jazeera: **Iraq and Iran sign deal to tighten border security**: “Iraq and Iran have signed a border security agreement, a move Iraqi officials say is aimed primarily at tightening the frontier with Iraq’s Kurdish region, where Tehran says Kurdish armed groups pose a threat to its security.”

EUROPE

Belgium 22.03.23: Gettingthevoiceout: **Collective deportation of 34 persons subject to the Dublin Regulation by military flight**: “A military flight deported this 17/03/2023 thirty four people of different nationalities to Croatia, a country known for its very violent treatment (torture, sexual assaults...) towards people in migration. The abuses of the Croatian state are pointed out by many reports and international organizations. The European Court of Human Rights has also condemned Croatia on those grounds. We had not previously heard of expulsions by ‘military’ flight organized by the Foreign Office.”

See also 13.03.23: Statewatch: **European interior ministers agreed new deportation scheme in secret**.

Bulgaria 20.03.23: bulgaria.bordermonitoring: **Another Refugee Dies on the Streets of Bulgaria**: “Ten refugees from Afghanistan were injured and one died after their car overturned near the Aldomirovo swamp in the Dragoman region. The driver ignored a police sign of the border police and crushed against a concrete block. Six migrants were taken to the ISUL hospital, four to the „Pirogov“ hospital and another four to the UMBAL „St. Anna“ hospital. In the last days several drivers were stopped, who carried refugees from Syria and Afghanistan.”

Germany/Ghana 13.03.23: Der Spiegel: **Kehrtwende in der deutschen Migrationspolitik (U-turn in German migration policy)**: The German government wants to attract African workers in a targeted manner. A visit to the German Migration Center in Ghana.

Greece 20.03.23: taz: **Menschenrechte von Migrant:innen: Helfer:innen kriminalisiert (Human rights of migrants: Helpers criminalized)**: A UN report confirms: In Greece, migrant workers are systematically threatened. Since 2020, Athens has been relying on illegal pushbacks.

See also 09.03.23: Solomon: **The Great Robbery: during illegal pushbacks in Greece, refugees are robbed by border guards**.

Italy 13.03.23: taz: **Unglück mit Ansage vor der libyschen Küste (Disaster with announcement off the Libyan coast)**: The rescue control center in Rome limited itself for the time being to informing the Libyan coast guard, which in turn remained

inactive. In the meantime, Alarm Phone provided images from a reconnaissance plane, which also went through the media and showed the full drama of the situation of the boat tossed back and forth by high waves. Only then did Italy take action, but by no means ordering Coast Guard rescue units out, instead instructing some merchant ships to sail to the later site of the accident.

See also 17.03.23: Domani: **Non sono i salvataggi in mare ma l'altezza delle onde a influenzare le partenze dei migranti** (It is not sea rescues but wave heights that influence migrant departures); 12.03.23: Alarmphone: **30 people die due to non-assistance by the Italian authorities**; 04.03.23: taz: **Alltägliches Massaker im Mittelmeer** (Everyday massacre in the Mediterranean); 01.03.23: Euractiv: **Frontex warned Italy of possible 'large number of people' before shipwreck**.

Italy 26.03.23: The Guardian: **Italian authorities detain Banksy-funded migrant rescue boat**: "Over the weekend, Italian authorities instructed the Louise Michel to head to the seaport of Trapani, after it had performed a first rescue operation on Saturday [March 22], according to an Italian coastguard press release issued on Sunday afternoon. Owing to the high number of calls from people in distress, the crew decided to perform another rescue, resulting in a violation of the new protocols introduced by Italy's far-right government."

Italy 28.03.23: taz: **Lampedusa ist wieder am Limit – Meloni ist nervös** (Lampedusa is again at the limit – Meloni is nervous): On Monday night (March 27), a ship with 650 people from Syria, Pakistan, Egypt and Bangladesh arrived at the Calabrian port of Roccella Ionica. From Friday to Sunday (March 24–26), about 6,000 people arrived from Libya, but mainly from Tunisia, on Italy's coasts, with Lampedusa in the lead.

See also 28.03.23: SZ: **Immer mehr Flüchtlinge sind auf dem Mittelmeer unterwegs** (More and more refugees are on the Mediterranean Sea) [Background Report]; 17.03.23: L'Essenziale: **Chi sono davvero gli scafisti** (Who the boat people really are) [Background Report]; 11.03.23: Al Jazeera: **More than 1,000 refugees brought ashore in Italy rescues**; 11.03.22: Essenziale: **Il decreto del governo Meloni sull'immigrazione** (Meloni government's decree on immigration).

UK 18.03.23: Al Jazeera: **UK's Braverman to discuss controversial migration deal in Rwanda**: "The United Kingdom's interior minister, Suella Braverman, has arrived in Rwanda to discuss an agreement in which the UK will relocate undocumented refugees and migrants there as she doubles down on a plan that has been mired in legal challenges and controversy."

See also 17.03.23: Al Jazeera: **'Demonising refugees': UK plan to stop boat migration draws fire**; 17.03.23: ECRE: **A Multimillion Euro Agreement Concluded Between France & UK to "Break Illegal Migration"**; 10.03.23: Al Jazeera: **UK to fund France detention site as leaders agree migration deal**.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU 23.03.23: schengenvisa.info: **EU Launches New Pilot Migration Projects With Romania & Bulgaria**: "The European Commission has announced that it launched two new pilot projects in order to better manage the migration situation in Romania and Bulgaria and tighten border controls. The European Union executive will support Bulgaria financially as part of efforts to strengthen border management at the country's external border with Turkey, SchengenVisaInfo.com reports."

See also 21.03.23: Euractiv: **EU Commission wants to tighten controls at external borders**.

EU/Libya 27.03.23: Der Spiegel: **EU hat in Libyen Beihilfe zu Straftaten geleistet (EU aided and abetted crimes in Libya)**: In the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission, "the experts document widespread human rights violations against the civilian population and especially against migrants. In the detention centres under the control of the coast guard and other state institutions, people would be tortured, blackmailed, raped and murdered, others would be sold like slaves and partly sexually exploited - a crime against humanity". Further, the investigator Chaloka Beyani said "The EU must be aware that crimes against humanity have been committed in this context."

EU/Libya 26.03.23: AP: **Group says Libyan coast guard fired shots over rescue ship**: "Libya's coast guard fired warning shots over a humanitarian vessel as it attempted to rescue a rubber boat carrying migrants off Libya's coast, a sea rescue group said."

EU/E5 Member States 10.03.23: ERCE: **Med 5 Urge Returns and Relocation**: Shortly after a deadly shipwreck off Crotone, the Southern 'Med 5' member states of Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Spain and Italy met in Valetta ahead of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, of 9-10 March to agree on a common position. Reportedly, the consensus between the southern member states is a need to make returns of rejected asylum applicants and other third-country nationals who have no legal right to remain in the EU a key pillar of the Union's migration policy.

EU/Morocco 02.03.23: EU Commission: **EU launches new cooperation programmes with Morocco worth €624 million green transition, migration and reforms**: "Addressing irregular migration- A €152 million comprehensive programme on migration will strengthen Morocco's border management actions in the fight against smuggling networks, the National Strategy of Morocco on Immigration and Asylum, as well as the voluntary return and the reintegration of migrants to their countries of origin, in accordance with international standards in terms of Human rights."

FRONTEX 04.03.23: taz: **Alltäglicher Massaker im Mittelmeer (Everyday massacre in the Mediterranean)**: There is no talk of accidents here. The Eagle 1 reconnaissance aircraft patrolling over the sea area on behalf of the EU border protection agency Frontex had spotted the ship in the open sea at 10 p.m. on February 25. However, it did not inform the Italian Coast Guard, only the Guardia di Finanza financial and customs police. The shipwreck occurred four hours later, at 2 a.m. Sunday (February 26), according to the EU Commission. The Italian Coast Guard, however, received the first emergency information only at 4:30 am.

REPORTS

03/23: Civil MRCC: **5th issue of Echoes From The Central Mediterranean. No One Is Illegal!**: “Abandoning people at sea as daily practice and policy in Malta. Repression of the Italian government against the civil fleet, while a shipwreck at the coast of Calabria was not prevented and another one was intentionally provoked in international sea. An escalation of racism and violence against black people promoted by the Tunisian president. In three main articles, we try to cover and to contextualize the horrific recent developments in the Central Mediterranean region.”

03/23: UNODC: **Smuggling of migrants in the Sahel**: “Counter-smuggling efforts, in particular the implementation of strict migrant smuggling laws, appear to have contributed to the emergence of new smuggling routes connecting the Niger and Libya, as well as emerging migrant smuggling hubs in southern Algeria. Smuggling routes in the Sahel have become more clandestine and diverse in an attempt to evade increasing controls by the defence and security forces, exposing refugees and migrants to greater risks and Dangers. Even refugees and migrants with valid travel documents may use smugglers to avoid the difficulties, delays and costs associated with legal procedures, and the costs associated with crossing a border or check-point.”

03/23 Fenix: **A bilateral instrumentalisation of asylum seekers: A legal and political analysis of the failures of the EU-Türkiye deal and recommendations from the ground at the Greek borders**: “This report shows how the failure of the EU-Turkey Statement, still proclaimed to be the model for future migration deals, should convince EU states to not put their hopes in similar externalisation agreements.”

03/23 Internazionale: **Le frontiere dell'Unione europea si spostano in Africa (European Union borders move to Africa)**: “[Externalization] is a highly expensive policing device that is ineffective in solving problems, both African and European. In the days following Ylva Johansson's announcement, a number of Senegalese civil society associations organized demonstrations and sit-ins in Dakar against the signing of the agreement with Frontex, which was deemed contrary to national and regional interests. In a political climate already made incandescent by the 2024 presidential elections, Senegal's President Macky Sall – heavily criticized in the past year by national and regional public opinion for his ill-concealed temptation to run again for a third term formally banned by the constitution – preferred to stall and reconsider the initial leaked openings on the agreement with Frontex.”

03/23 Statewatch: **European interior ministers agreed new deportation scheme in secret**: “European interior ministers signed a secret joint statement in February last year that committed EU and Schengen states to increase financial and material support for deportations from the Balkans, increasing the region's role as a migration “buffer zone”, a report published today by Statewatch and the Heinrich Böll Stiftung reveals. The commitments are echoed in the European Commission's recent action plan on the Western Balkans, which promises to “increase EU action to step up returns from Western Balkans partners.” However, the action plan makes no mention of the Regional Return Mechanism or the Return Partnerships that were approved in February.”

03/23: UN Human Rights Council: [Report of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya](#): The present report is the final report by the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, which was requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 50/23. The Mission was established to document, in an independent and impartial manner, alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by all parties in Libya since the beginning of 2016. The Mission found that crimes against humanity were committed against migrants in places of detention under the actual or nominal control of Libya's Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration, the Libyan Coast Guard and the Stability Support Apparatus. These entities received technical, logistical and monetary support from the European Union and its member States for, inter alia, the interception and return of migrants.

03/23 Greek Council of Refugees: [At Europe's Borders: Between Impunity and Criminalization](#): "This report from the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) contributes to an existing body of extensive evidence of the Greek state's illegal pushbacks practice, by providing particularly detailed descriptions of eleven pushback cases at the Evros border region and the Aegean islands, and two cases of pullbacks by the Turkish authorities in Evros. [...] The report also describes how the Greek state intimidates, stigmatizes and criminalizes human rights defenders who support pushback victims."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Discussion 13.04.2023, 14.00 - 16.00 GMT+2, online: [Le droit en Afrique de l'Ouest et la lutte contre le trafic de migrants : la loi nigérienne 2015-036 soumise à la Cour de justice de la CEDEAO](#) (The law in West Africa and the fight against migrant smuggling: Niger's law 2015-036 submitted to the ECOWAS Court of Justice) by POMAF: The event brings together Azizou Chehou, President of the association "Jeunesse Nigérienne au Service du Développement Durable" and Coordinator of Alarme Phone Sahara's activities in Niger, and Isidore Ngueuleu, Senior Human Rights Advisor of OMCT (World Organisation Against Torture) for Africa to exchange about the Nigerian law 2015-036 of 26 May 2015, criminalizing migratory movements, and places and stakes of the complaint against Niger for human rights violations of migrants before the ECOWAS Court of Justice.