

Asylum applications in the EU+ up by 10 % in the first half of 2019 from the same period in 2018

Applications from Latin America reached a new peak.

Preliminary analyses reveal that **in the first half of 2019 some 337 200 applications for asylum were lodged in the EU+, a 10 % increase from the same period a year earlier.** In contrast to this upward trend, **in June 2019 applications fell to the lowest level of the year,** but there were fewer working days.

Citizens of Syria, Afghanistan and Venezuela continued to lodge the most applications, with only Syrians seeking asylum in reduced numbers. Importantly, **applicants from several Latin-American countries have already lodged the same (or higher) number of applications as in the whole of 2018.** These citizenships are all exempt of visa requirements when entering the Schengen area, now accounting for more than one in four applications in the EU+.

The output of first-instance authorities remained at lower levels: some 277 700 decisions were issued at first instance, in line with the previous semester. As a result, the number of cases awaiting a decision at first instance remained stable throughout the past twelve months, and amounted to 439 000 at the end of June.

Some 95 300 first-instance decisions issued so far in 2019 have granted EU-regulated forms of protection (70 % refugee status and 30 % subsidiary protection) which amounts to a recognition rate of 34 %. Citizens from Yemen and Syria had the highest rate (86 %) whereas Moldovans (0.3 %) and North Macedonians had the lowest (1 %).

For more information and an interactive data visualisation, please visit the [Latest Asylum Trends](#) page.

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Daily News 12 / 08 / 2019

Déclaration conjointe des commissaires Mimica, Thyssen, Navracsics et Gabriel à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de la jeunesse 2019

La Commission s'associe à la célébration de la Journée internationale de la

jeunesse, dont le thème de cette année, « Transformer l'éducation », met en lumière les efforts déployés pour rendre l'éducation plus inclusive et plus accessible à tous les jeunes. M. Neven **Mimica**, commissaire chargé de la coopération internationale et du développement, M^{me} Marianne **Thyssen**, commissaire chargée de l'emploi, des affaires sociales, des compétences et de la mobilité des travailleurs, M. Tibor **Navracsics**, commissaire chargé de l'éducation, de la culture, de la jeunesse et des sports, et M^{me} Mariya **Gabriel**, commissaire chargée de l'économie et de la société numériques, ont fait la déclaration suivante: « *Nous célébrons aujourd'hui la Journée internationale de la jeunesse. À cette occasion, il est important de se rappeler que trop de jeunes vivent dans des zones de guerre, ne sont pas scolarisés et sont confrontés à la pauvreté, à l'exclusion sociale, à des soins de santé de mauvaise qualité, à l'inégalité entre les hommes et les femmes et aux conséquences du changement climatique. Apporter des solutions efficaces à ces problèmes, assurer une paix durable et édifier des sociétés cohésives et résilientes dans lesquelles les jeunes peuvent s'épanouir constituent des priorités pour l'Union européenne. Pour y parvenir, l'Union est déterminée à mettre en œuvre le programme de développement durable des Nations unies à l'horizon 2030 et à intégrer les 17 objectifs de développement durable dans ses politiques. En collaboration avec les États membres et de nombreuses autres parties prenantes, l'Union européenne permet à des millions de jeunes, au sein et en dehors de l'Union, de prendre leur destin en main.* » La déclaration complète est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand – Tél: +32 229 62253; Carlos Martin Ruiz de Gordejuela – Tél: +32 229 65322; Marietta Grammenou – Tél: +32 229 83583).

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission (ex-Top News)

[Joint statement by Commissioners Mimica, Thyssen, Navracsics, and Gabriel on the occasion of International Youth Day 2019](#)

The European Commission joins the celebration of this year's International Youth Day, the theme of which is "Transforming Education", highlighting efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible for all youth. Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne **Thyssen**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor **Navracsics**, and Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya **Gabriel** said:

"Today we are celebrating International Youth Day. This is an important occasion to reflect upon the fact that too many young people live in war zones, are out of school and are affected by poverty, social exclusion, poor health care, gender inequality and the impacts of climate change.

Providing effective solutions to these challenges, achieving sustainable peace and building cohesive and resilient societies in which young people can thrive, are priorities for the European Union. For this purpose, the EU is committed to implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals across its policies.

Working with Member States and many other stakeholders, the EU is empowering millions of young people, within and outside the EU. Erasmus+ has been bringing young people together, enabling them to learn and engage in society, as well as fostering excellence and innovation in education institutions. Two new initiatives launched by this Commission have opened up fresh opportunities: DiscoverEU enables young people to travel and explore Europe's rich cultural heritage, while the European Solidarity Corps gives them the chance to volunteer and work in projects that support communities and people around Europe. The European Education Area that we are building will further boost excellence and inclusion, benefiting young Europeans from all backgrounds, and strengthening a sense of a shared European identity.

Likewise, young people are at the heart of EU policies, such as the Digital Single Market. Many initiatives, for example the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition, have helped increase training in digital skills, modernising education at the same time. Through our Strategy for a Better Internet for Children we are making children's online wellbeing a top priority, striving to eliminate online risks, such as cyberbullying, grooming, privacy concerns, disinformation, and violent or disturbing content. These objectives are also at the centre of the Digital Education Action Plan, which offers a set of concrete measures and initiatives to help EU Member States to meet the challenges of education in the digital age.

Moreover, youth is at the heart of our policies, both within and outside our borders. In our development programmes, the EU focuses on addressing the needs of young people in areas such as education, skills development and job creation, while aiming at engaging youth in wider aspects of society. For example, initiatives like the Young Leaders Programme and the EU-AU Youth Plug-in Initiative provide them with their rightful seat at the decision-making table. We will also continue supporting young people as champions of peace-building and countering violent extremism in their communities, including through the 'One Young World Peace Ambassadors' initiative.

Investing in the potential of young people is an investment in our society. What gives us hope is that we are not alone in addressing their challenges; we must continue and widen our efforts."

Background

12 August was first designated [International Youth Day](#) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, and serves as an annual celebration of the role of

young people as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth. This year's theme "Transforming Education" highlights efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible for all youth, including efforts by young people themselves.

The EU supports Member States' cooperation in the field of education, making it easier for young people to benefit from mobility and for teachers to gain experience and share knowledge by working across Europe. In 2017 the EU invested a record €2.8 billion in the [Erasmus+](#) programme, in which more than 3.7 million people have participated since 2014. The Commission proposes a stronger youth focus in the EU's next long-term budget 2021-2027 with its plan to double the Erasmus+ budget to €30 billion.

Erasmus+ is open to many individuals and organisations, although eligibility varies from one action to another and from one country to another. Countries (EU Member States and non-Member States) that can take part are divided into programme countries (can fully participate in all the actions of the Erasmus+ programme) and partner countries (can participate in certain actions of the programme, subject to specific criteria or conditions). A [list of all countries](#) and the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#), which contains more detailed information on eligible countries, are available online.

For More Information

[Erasmus +](#)

[DiscoverEU](#)

[European Solidarity Corps](#)

[EU Youth Strategy](#)

[European Education Area](#)

[Digital Single Market](#)

[Africa – Europe Alliance](#)

[EU-AU Youth Plug-in Initiative](#)

[One Young World Peace Ambassadors](#)

[Young Leaders Programme](#)

[Daily News 09 / 08 / 2019](#)

European Heritage Days 2019: Europeans and tourists can participate in over

70,000 cultural events across the continent

The 2019 [European Heritage Days \(#EHDs\)](#), a joint initiative of the European Commission and the Council of Europe since 1999, and supported by the [Creative Europe Programme](#) are taking place across Europe from August to October. This year's theme is "[Arts and Entertainment](#)". Involving over 70,000 events, the European Heritage Days are the largest participatory cultural happening on the continent. They will showcase the value of our common heritage, highlighting the need to conserve it for current and future generations. Activities include, for example, festivals, exhibitions, craft workshops, conferences and tours. From street shows to concert halls, traditional theatres and museums to cinema and social media, the Europe's entertainment heritage will play out on local, national and European stages, for visitors and guests from Europe and abroad. It will also explore the role of new digital technologies in heritage and its conservation for the future. Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor **Navracsics**, said: *"The European Heritage Days are a great opportunity for European citizens to connect with their cultural heritage. They are an important element of the European Framework for Action that I presented last December to ensure that the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage has an impact in the long term. As heritage is so fundamental to our societies and to linking our past with our future, it needs to have its place at the heart of citizens' daily lives. The European Heritage Days have an important role in bringing it right there."* European Heritage Days bring citizens together and highlight the European dimension of cultural heritage in the 50 signatory States of the [European Cultural Convention](#). More information can be found [here](#). (For more information: Christian Spahr – Tel.: +32 2 295 00 55; Joseph Waldstein – Tel.: +32 229 56184)

Aides d'Etat : La Commission autorise l'extension du port français de Port-La-Nouvelle

La Commission européenne a autorisé, en vertu des règles de l'UE relatives aux aides d'Etat, un projet français d'extension du port méditerranéen de Port-La-Nouvelle. Ce projet prévoit la construction de digues et d'un quai permettant la manutention de colis lourds, financé conjointement par la région Occitanie, le département de l'Aude et l'agglomération du Grand Narbonne. La Commission a conclu que le financement des digues, d'un montant d'environ €158 millions, ne constitue pas une aide d'Etat parce que cette infrastructure ne bénéficiera pas uniquement aux activités économiques du port mais protégera tout le littoral contre les aléas climatiques et les marées. Quant au quai, il servira, dans un premier temps, notamment pour la construction et la maintenance de deux fermes pilotes d'éoliennes flottantes qui seront implantées à proximité immédiate du port et ont été approuvées par la Commission le [25 février 2019](#). La construction du quai contribue ainsi aux objectifs français et européens en matière de production d'énergies renouvelables. Elle favorisera également la création d'emplois dans le bassin de Narbonne, dont le taux de chômage figure parmi les plus élevés en France. Les aides publiques d'un montant d'environ €53 millions octroyées au projet ne dépassent pas ce qui est nécessaire pour atteindre ces objectifs. En outre, en raison de la nature locale du marché des colis lourds qui est

caractérisé par la proximité entre le port de débarquement et le destinataire, les volumes traités par Port-La-Nouvelle demeureront très modestes. La Commission a dès lors conclu que le projet n'induera pas une distorsion induite de la concurrence dans le marché intérieur. Plus d'informations sont disponibles sur le site web de la Direction Générale de la [Concurrence](#) de la Commission dans le [registre](#) des aides d'Etat, sous le numéro SA.50771. (Pour plus d'informations : Anna-Kaisa Itkonen – Tél.: +32 229 56186; Giulia Astuti – Tél.: +32 229 55344)

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission (ex-Top News)

[ECB publishes indicative calendars for the Eurosystem's regular tender operations and reserve maintenance periods in 2020](#)



PRESS RELEASE

9 August 2019

- ECB publishes indicative tender calendar for 2020
- ECB publishes indicative reserve maintenance period calendar for 2020

The European Central Bank (ECB) has today published the indicative calendars for the Eurosystem's regular tender operations and reserve maintenance periods in 2020.

The indicative calendar for the Eurosystem's regular tender operations includes only main refinancing operations (MROs) and three-month longer-term refinancing operations (three-month LTROs). It does not include any supplementary or ad hoc operations which may be carried out in 2020. The calendar can be downloaded from the ECB's website.

The indicative calendar for the Eurosystem's reserve maintenance periods takes into account the calendar for Governing Council meetings in 2020, as well as the calendar for regular tender operations.

Indicative calendar for reserve maintenance periods in 2020

MP	Relevant Governing Council meeting	Start of maintenance period	End of maintenance period	Reserve base data for credit institutions reporting monthly	Reserve base data for credit institutions reporting quarterly	Length of the maintenance period (days)
1	23 January 2020	29 January 2020	17 March 2020	November 2019	September 2019	49
2	12 March 2020	18 March 2020	5 May 2020	January 2020	December 2019	49
3	30 April 2020	6 May 2020	9 June 2020	March 2020	December 2019	35
4	4 June 2020	10 June 2020	21 July 2020	April 2020	March 2020	42
5	16 July 2020	22 July 2020	15 September 2020	May 2020	March 2020	56
6	10 September 2020	16 September 2020	3 November 2020	July 2020	June 2020	49
7	29 October 2020	4 November 2020	15 December 2020	September 2020	June 2020	42
8	10 December 2020	16 December 2020	2 February 2021	October 2020	September 2020	49

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Events

Tender calendar

[Media contacts](#)