



Daily Report

Arrivals and Departures: In Greece, 5,245 refugees and migrants, currently present on the islands of Lesbos (3,550), Chios (1,422) and Samos (273), are to depart to the mainland. On 5 March, 50 Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals were sent to the temporary accommodation facilities in Xanthi in northeastern Greece, pending their return to Turkey.

According to [Eurostats](#), 1.2 million people applied for asylum in the EU in 2015, more than double that of 2014. Afghan, Iraqi and Syrian nationals accounted for more than half of applicants. The largest number of applications were lodged in Germany (441,800), followed by Hungary (174,400) and Sweden (156,100), amongst others.

Condition of People: Some 36,000 refugees and migrants remain in Greece according to Government sources, while the Hellenic Red Cross estimates 50,000 people present in country.

Greek authorities will set up 15 new temporary accommodation facilities by 15 March, with a total capacity for 17,500 people.

Situation at border crossings: The Greek Foreign Ministry delivered a demarche to both the governments of Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia warning that bilateral relations might be affected unless the two states allow entry to the refugees currently present in Greece.

Deaths at Sea: None reported.

Weather Headlines: A very unsettled spell of weather is expected to continue across much of the region through the next week. Waterlogged and muddy ground conditions in northern Greece are expected to persist or deteriorate further as more rain is forecast in the next few days.



Critical Developments

Following the meeting between Turkish Prime Minister and the EU Heads of State or Government on 07 March 2016, the EU Heads of State released [a statement](#) noting these draft proposals:

- to return all new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey into the Greek islands with the costs covered by the EU;
- to resettle, for every Syrian readmitted by Turkey from Greek islands, another Syrian from Turkey to the EU Member States
- to accelerate the implementation of the visa liberalization roadmap with all Member States with a view to lifting the visa requirements for Turkish citizens
- to speed up the disbursement of the initially allocated 3 billion euros
- to prepare for the decision on the opening of new chapters in the accession negotiations
- to work with Turkey in any joint endeavour to improve humanitarian conditions inside Syria which would allow for the local population and refugees to live in areas which will be more safe.

The President of the European Council will take forward these proposals and work to respect European and international law. Leaders will meet again on 18 March for further discussions.

UNHCR's released a [briefing note](#) in reaction noting that:

- UNHCR is not a party to it nor privy to all the details and modalities of implementation regarding statements made.
- UNHCR welcomes the EU's financial contribution to support Turkey and the refugee communities in Turkey.
- UNHCR is concerned about any arrangement that involves the blanket return of all individuals from one country to another without sufficient protection safeguards and recommends that the details of all these safeguards should be clarified before the next meeting of the European Council on 17 March.
- UNHCR welcomes any initiative that promotes regular pathways of admission for refugees in significant numbers from all neighbouring countries in the region to third countries and highlights that Europe's resettlement commitments remain however, very low compared to the needs (i.e. 20,000 places within 2 years on a voluntary basis).
- UNHCR expresses hope that individuals returned to Turkey who have specific resettlement needs, such as family reunification, would be considered for the resettlement/admission programme to the EU and for concrete pledges at the high-level meeting on global responsibility-sharing through legal pathways for admission of Syrian refugees, to take place in Geneva on 30 March



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

22-28 February
2,538
-8% from previous week



7 March (new week)
728
-53% from previous week



29 February - 6 March
1,551
-39% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
March (as of 7 March)
1,359
-29% from previous month





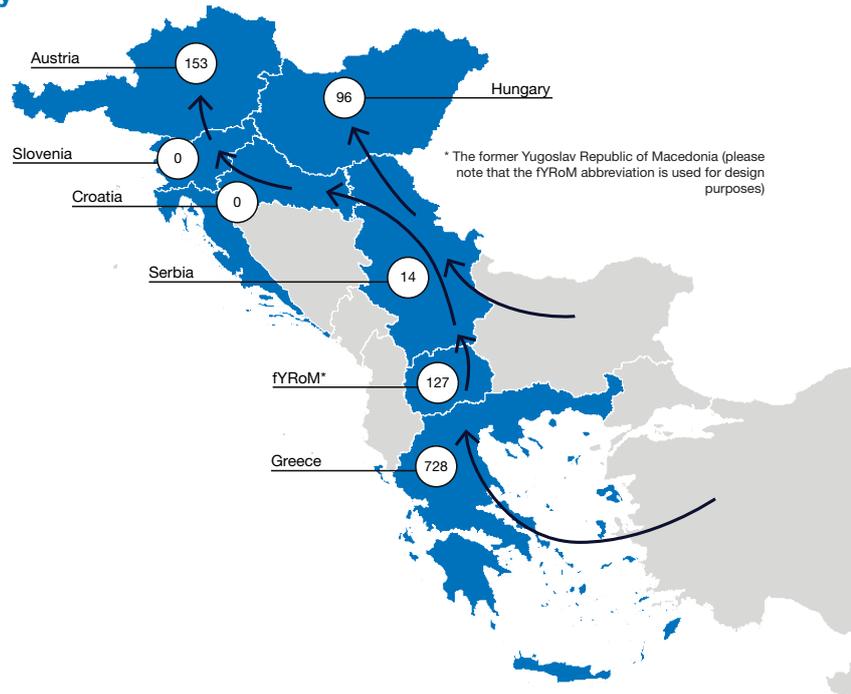
Upcoming meetings/events

- European Parliament Plenary session, Strasbourg, 8 March (attended by UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi).
- Greece-Turkey High-level Cooperation Council, Izmir, 08 March
- Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels, 10-11 March
- EU-Turkey Summit, Brussels, 17-18 March
- High-level meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathways for admission of Syrian refugees, Geneva, 30 March



Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

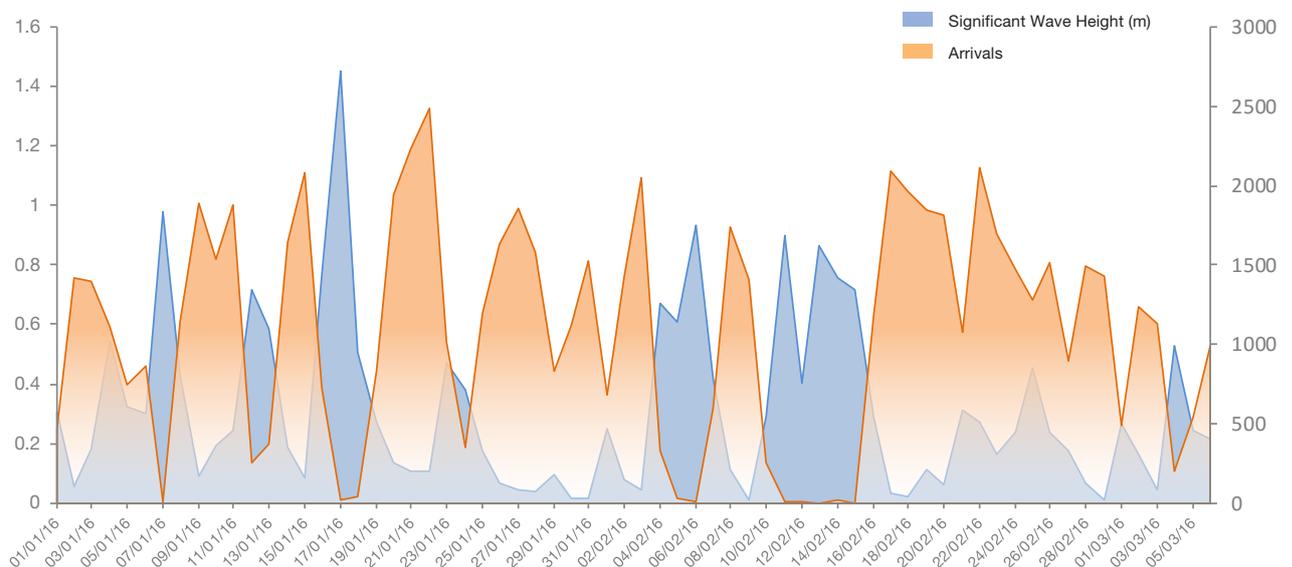
Greece	728
fYRoM*	127
Serbia	14
Croatia	0
Hungary	96
Slovenia	0
Austria	153



Wave Height vs Arrivals to Lesbos

The graph highlights the historical correlation (from 1st January 2016 until present) between the average wave heights around Lesbos and number of registered arrivals to the island. The data shows a clear negative correlation: as the sea states become rougher, with increasing wave heights, the number of people travelling to Lesbos decreases. As sea states and wave heights reduce, the number of people travelling to Lesbos increases.

Applying this same negative correlation to forecast wave data allows us to make a forecast prediction on the number of people moving from Turkey to the Greek islands, giving a trend on whether these numbers will increase or decrease.





Social Media

In the build-up to the meeting between Turkey and the European Council in Brussels yesterday, social media activity surrounding the subject of Turkey's involvement in finding a solution to the refugee and migrant crisis rose dramatically. Although the number of tweets was significantly low, exposure of #Turquie reached a monthly all-time high of 19,871 on 05 March.

The spike in activity could have also been heavily influenced by the takeover of Turkey's high-circulation daily newspaper, Zaman. The newspaper is now under government control amid ongoing issues of freedom of media within the country.

Social media activity of #Turquie was observed in countries such as: Morocco (6.45%), Algeria (3.23%), Tunisia (3.23%), Iraq (3.23%), and Afghanistan (3.23%). #Turquie trended today on Twitter, accumulating almost 13,000 tweets.

Twitter Activity:

The [Italian Coastguard](#) (@guardiacostiera on Twitter) announced that they rescued 13 refugees and migrants off the coast of the Greek island of Samos.

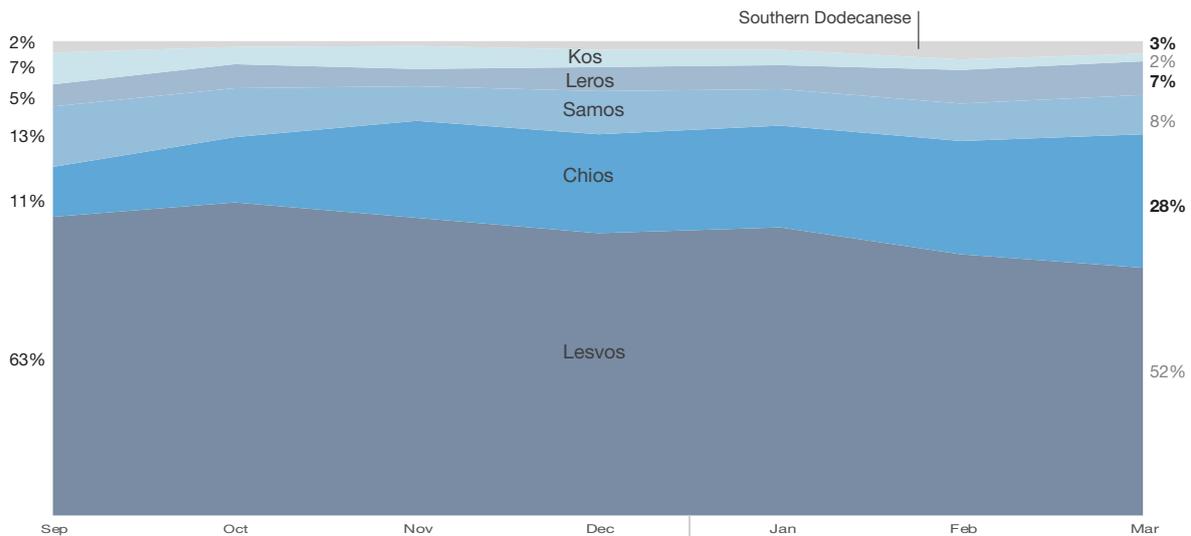
In relation to agreements made during the EU-Turkey meeting, [Alexander Betts](#) tweeted: "Unanswered [questions]: 1) what screening process? 2) how will refugees in Greece be relocated? 3) what will happen to those sent back to Turkey?"

Current statistics for: #Turquie

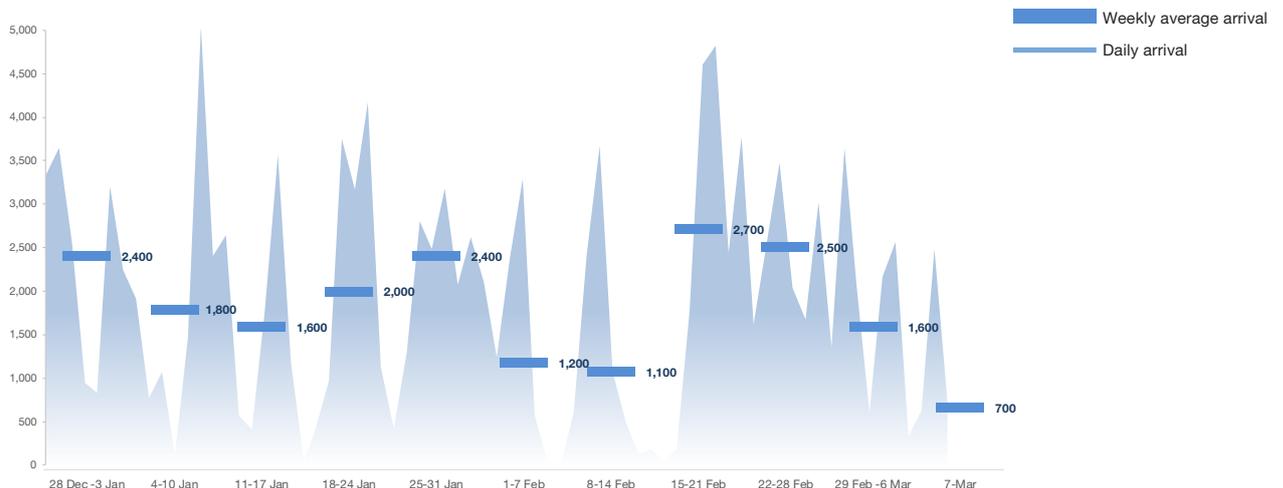
- 38 retweets per hour
- Over 16,000 impressions per hour
- 41.94% of posts using #Turquie originated from France with 88.9% of activity being in French. Another 29.03% of posts originated from Turkey.



Distribution of monthly arrivals to each Greek island September to 6 March



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 28 December to 7 March





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia

Key locations crossed by refugees

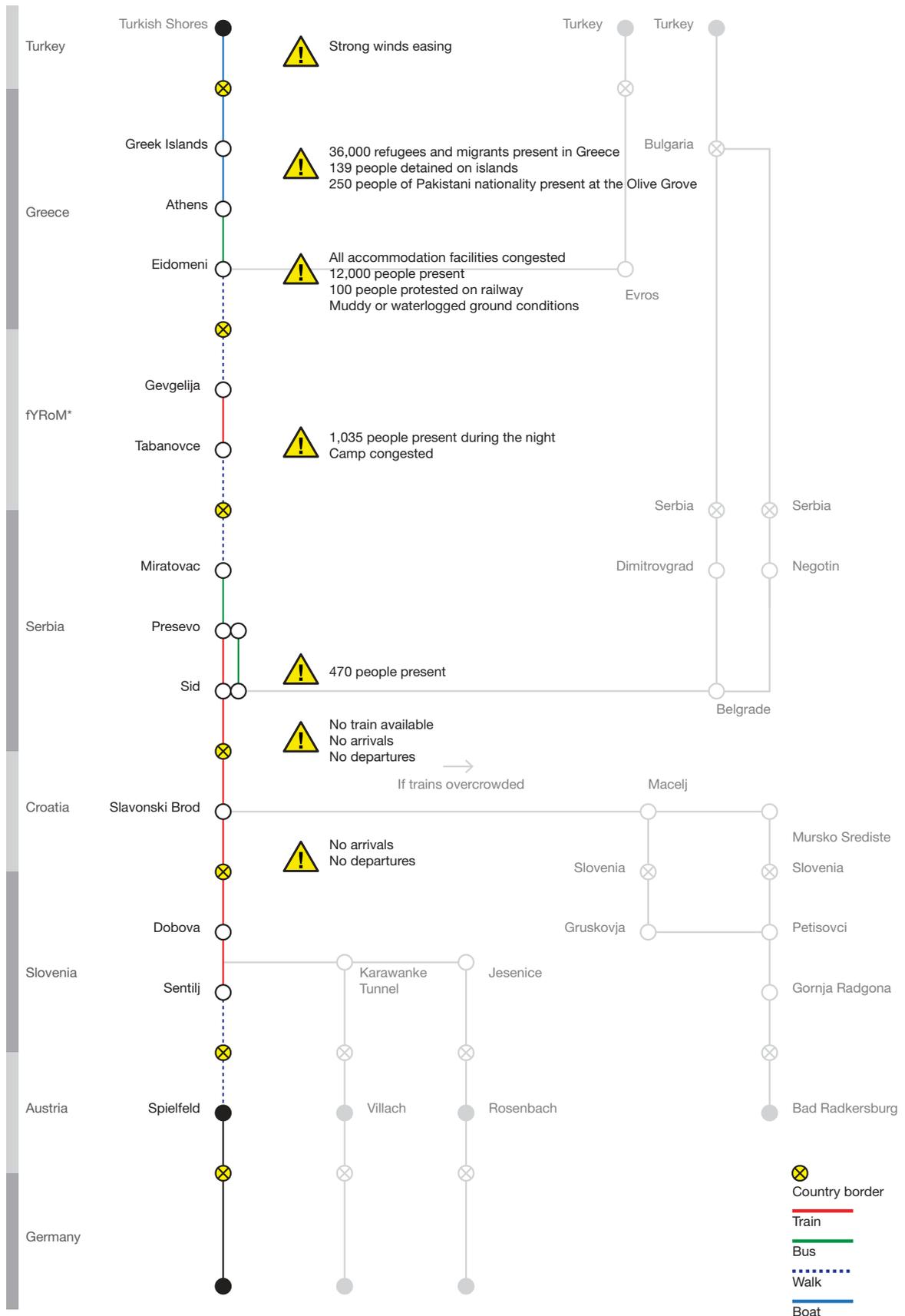


Weather Assessment

- Heavy showers or longer spells of rain are expected to develop across eastern Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia on Wednesday night, persisting through much of Thursday. With already near-saturated soil from previous rain in parts of northern Greece, any additional rainfall is likely to maintain these poor ground conditions with a risk of localised flooding. Further rain is likely to affect much of the region this weekend.
- Across the Aegean, sea conditions are expected to improve as strong southerly winds ease on Tuesday. Through the remainder of the week, spells of stronger winds are expected and, based on past event analysis, is likely to moderate the number of arrivals to the Greek Islands.
- Next week, unsettled conditions are expected to persist, maintaining the threat of rain for many parts of the region. This will be accompanied by a gradual fall in temperatures with overnight temperatures falling close to freezing in places inland.



Situation Overview



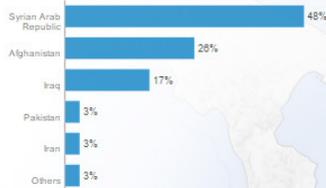


Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

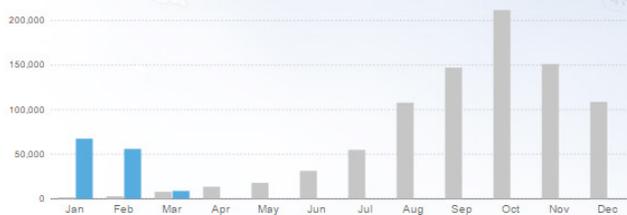
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent 100% of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



132,177 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

91% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries



Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



*Serbia (AND KOSOVO: S/RES/1244 (1999))
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

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Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals

