

A CRITICAL CHRONOLOGY OF EUROPEAN MIGRATION POLICIES***ALAIN MORICE (CNRS-Université Paris-Diderot), Migreurop member****Updated: 14 March 2011****

A- LEGAL FRAMEWORK				B- EVENTS		
DATE	A1- TREATIES, AGREEMENTS, PROGRAMMES, CONVENTIONS	A2- DIRECTIVES, REGULATIONS, RESOLUTIONS (MEETINGS)	A3- SCOPE, SUBJECT	DATE	B1- DECLARATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS	B2- EVENTS
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		(follows 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.]			

**Main sources: migreurop.org; gisti.org – English (UK); translation: Yasha Maccanico **Free reproduction if references are included (Title, Author, Date when it was updated)*

Dec. 1991		Meeting of the interior ministers of the Community's (the future UE) 12 member states			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		Provides for (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 2nd 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, first Kosovans, then Kurds, Iraqis, Afghans, etc., towards Great Britain
				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]
				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	- UNHCR launches an operation named «Convention Plus», questioning the Geneva Convention - It is called for the need to «share the burden» of refugees and to keep them as close as possible to their departure points	
				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	- The decision to close the camp in Sangatte is announced - Interior minister Sarkozy declares: «We are putting an end to a symbol that encourages illegal immigration worldwide»	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	- The UK proposes to set up transit and screening centres for asylum candidates outside of the EU's territory - UNHCR expresses its interest, then rejects the idea [see June 2003]	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: - surveillance - information exchange - training of officers			
				2003		Start of a dialogue, secret at first and then open, between EU and Libya
Feb 2003		«Reception» Directive	- Setting of minimum standards for receiving asylum seekers - Countries are free to limit applicants' movements and access to employment			
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			
				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	- 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»)			
				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 humanitarian 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
				Oct. 2004		Creation of the Frontex agency, tasked with the surveillance of EU borders in cooperation with third countries (it will be operational in May 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		- Over ten people shot dead during attempts to cross the border fences in Ceuta and Melilla, Spanish enclaves in northern Morocco - Moroccan authorities summon the media, then deport sub-Saharanans to the desert - This event will be the starting point for several roundups in the neighbourhoods and forests where these exiles gather
				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»	- States may detain applicants in special facilities - Asylum requests may not result in the right to reside in the country - Exceptional procedures are envisaged: rejection of manifestly unfounded applications, fast-track and priority procedures - Among the criteria for rejection, notions of «safe countries of origin», «first countries of asylum» and «safe third countries» are placed in the spotlight - The right to an effective appeal clashes with the fact that this does not suspend deportation		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		- The European Council (EC) approves a «comprehensive approach» on migrations - Spain commits to exchange readmission agreements for the opening of its employment market with contract quotas for migrants from the concerned countries	The EC approach is based on: - work in partnership with third countries - the fight against illegal immigration - co-development			
				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		- Return of people who have left or passed through the country to travel illegally to Europe - To date, the Commission has only managed to get five third countries to sign: Hong Kong, Macao, Sri Lanka, Albania and Russia	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, 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>)	Provides for 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 envisages: - 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 «illegal emigration», see June 2002, B2; July 2003; May 2006, B1
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»	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		- 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». - The length of detention prior to expulsion increases from 2 to 6 months. Aiding irregular residence becomes liable to incur 3 years in prison		6 and 10 May 2009	- 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 - Maroni will add that with these expulsions, he is working for the entire EU. Which remains silent, in spite of various complaints.	- 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 - From this date, forced returns by sea become the norm - The number of <i>refouled</i> people will reach 2,000 in September
				10-12 June 2009	- 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 - He calls on Europe to convert to Islam	- President Khadafi is received with great pomp in Italy by the PM Berlusconi. The welcome by the parliament and press is cooler - Observers estimate that only between 5 and 7% of foreign immigration reaches Italy from the shores of Libya or Tunisia
				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	UNHCR demands greater coherence in the different EU countries' asylum policies	

				1 July 2010	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	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 refoulement 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	- The Italian interior minister Maroni announces that these «illegals» will be repatriated - He will demand to be able to deploy Italian soldiers on the Tunisian coasts - The government declares a «state of humanitarian emergency» and asks for Frontex patrols	- 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	- Libya threatens not to cooperate in the fight against «irregular» immigration any longer if the EU continues to «encourage» demonstrators. - 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»	- Widespread popular revolt in Libya - 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
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

				3-12 Mar. 2011	- Around 100 organisations from Europe, Africa and Turkey issue an «Appeal for a humanitarian intervention by the European Union in the Mediterranean» - To avoid an influx of refugees into the EU, Sarkozy wants some «humanitarian zones» in these countries	Since February 2011, first dozens, and then hundreds of thousands of refugees from many nationalities coming from Libya gather at the borders with Egypt and Tunisia
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