**REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA AND REFUGEE CRISIS - between the hammer and the anvil**

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**Abstract**

 The European Union and most of the international community of the refugee problem first seen as a problem in Syria, and later talk about a crisis of Turkey and neighboring countries, but in no time at all it became clear that the refugee issue is a global crisis. which should not be ignored, at least to forget. The war in Syria began in 2011 but due to geopolitical turmoil in the Middle East and the interference of the Islamic State, the situation in the spring of 2013 escalated. This war has become brutal, and the wave of refugees is more intense and more massive. The number of those who wanted Europe from day to day on growing

 European Union and candidate countries in the EU are faced with an unprecedented wave of refugees. Regarding the issue of refugees The European Union has long remained confused and divided. Refugee or migrant crisis showed that the European system for crisis management is nefukcionalen, that is not functioning single system for border management. Past attempts to settle the refugee crisis by the European Commission and the European Council have also drawn lack of coordination, the different approaches and the lack of mutual trust between Member States. On the other hand this attitude to the crisis showed inconsistent policy of the Union and its cynical and unprincipled attitude towards the Western Balkans as well as lack of capacity for leadership in the coordination and management of current problems.

 At the beginning of the crisis the Republic of Macedonia faced a shortage in terms of resources and lack of long-term strategy to deal with these challenges and despite all our past experience. Experience with several such events on our territory as if it were a sufficient reason to build a system of protection and dealing with these challenges. All shares at the beginning of the crisis were prevzemeani on a daily basis without a serious strategy of action.

 Our country was faced with the danger wave of refugees cause serious security and humanitarian crisis, although the trade, environmental and humanitarian and religious political implications daily felt by citizens. On the other hand the lack of concrete will, serious and sincere coordination and cooperation with our southern neighbor, a member of the EU, led Macedonia to monitor the situation directly and post festum, but also to bear the consequences of these developments. This could easily lead to tectonic forces not only in the Western Balkans but also in Europe, including the Republic of Macedonia.

**Reasons for the start of the crisis and the wave of refugees and migrants to Europe?**

 To answer the causes of the crisis and the wave of refugees and migrants who are heading to the old continent it is loud and clear to answer two questions: First, why are the refugees and migrants from Syria traveled to Europe at the beginning of 2015 even though the war began 2011? And secondly: How old continent overnight become a desired destination for Refugees and migrants?

 The answer to these two questions grouped into two sets of reasons. One group are internal or regional developments in the Middle East, and other external causes result of geostrategic interests of certain EU member states. The first group of reasons in place before there are historical reasons that more than 1,300 years old division between Sunnis and Shiites in the territory of the Middle East[[1]](#footnote-1). The second reason this set of reasons is the brutality of the military ISIL or activities of militant Islam, especially after 2013, and the fear, danger and uncertainty that brings war in lives. Internal reasons its place here are the decisions of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, such as: the decision for compulsory recruitment of citizens who are younger than 30 years that the majority of Syrian citizens raising fears of a possible military mobilization. Furthermore there is an impact on the decision to facilitate obtaining a passport and giving an opportunity to all those citizens who are not serving in the army for just $ 300 to defer military service for some time. And the last reason in this set of reasons is inexplicable refusal of the rich neighboring countries (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirati- UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain) financial, material and logistical help in resolving the crisis in Syria and refusal to accept refugees on its territory, especially that mostly works for Muslim refugees.

The second group of so-called external causes consists primarily of international neglect rump conditions under which for five years lived Syrian refugees in camps in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, as well as economic, geopolitical and humanistic marketing motives of some members EU, notably the Federal Republic of Germany and the UK. German government at the beginning of September 2015 clearly stated that it would accept all Syrians in Germany to seek asylum. Behind the German ,,welcome" for refugees there previously made a study of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany with the conclusion that Germany in the years that remain, can not be held to fill jobs in certain professions by natural growth of the population own. So unfavorable demographic situation of Germany and the need for young human resources were the main reason for the German call. Additionally it should be taken into account and the continuing reduction of the influx of cheap labor that came to Germany from the central-eastern European countries Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary, which from 2007 onwards increasingly prefer the UK. Its place in this group of reasons ,,is rolling back" of Germany by countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Almost all Central Eastern European countries against previously serious partnership with Germany joined the US-British coalition in the Iraq war. Due to good economic and political relations with Russia, the Germans publicly opposed the expansion of NATO to Russia's borders, while on the other hand was supported by central-eastern European countries.

One of the major influential analysts and experts on the situation in Europe and Germany say that this group of causes includes marketing motives and objectives of Germany,, reikarnacija "or more precisely,, humanization" of the person and work of Angela Merkel. Namely in resolving the Greek debt crisis in Greece and the citizens of European states, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel saw the remorseless predators who want to capitalize on the misfortunes. German,, welcome "among other things was intended to be a lesson to the public, especially those who deny Germany in the future to try to Germany to watch the neo-Nazi state, where humanity, humanity and compassion are forgotten.

To all this should follow up and call that sent British Prime Minister David Cameron during his surprise visit to a refugee camp in Jordan in mid-September 2015. He publicly stated that Britain receives on its territory 20,000 Syrians.

All these enumerated reasons were sufficient signal to start flowing ,,river" refugees and migrants to the European continent[[2]](#footnote-2).

**Ad hoc solutions to the crisis, inconsistent and unprincipled behavior of the EU to the Western Balkans?**

Facing the unprecedented wave of refugees[[3]](#footnote-3) more than countries of the European Union and the candidate countries for EU membership remained confused and divided. Some EU member states show good faith, humanity and solidarity, while other countries such as Hungary, expressed xenophobia. At the same time between a number of EU countries growing distrust of sincere intent to resolve this situation and different ideas to solve crisis.

All in all refugee-migrant crisis pitted the unwillingness of the EU to deal with such challenges, the lack of capacity for coordinating, managing and resolving the crisis.For these reasons and instant solutions were brought to work to see unprincipled and cynical about the EU to the Western Balkans.

During the crisis during 2015 and the first quarter of 2016 the European Commission was carrying an ad hoc or disposable solutions that were implemented in practice by the Member States. Some member states faced with the absence of adequate proposals and solutions EC launched themselves create their own systems of defense against refugees and migrants. Hungary and its Prime Minister Viktor Orban of 15 September 2015 introduced its own system to control the Hungarian border. At the same time the Hungarian government and Parliament have proposed and adopted changes and amendments to the Criminal law, they decided to involve the army in security and border control and first raised 2.5 meter wire fence along its border. The governments of Austria, Slovenia and Croatia in trying to prevent the uncontrolled influx of refugees and migrants have followed the example of Hungary and set up wire fences along its external borders and strengthened controls at border crossings and pursued organized transport of refugees through their territory. The measures taken by the Federal Republic of Germany (think of the decision to impose controls on the border with Austria), temporarily suspend the Schengen agreement on free movement in Europe[[4]](#footnote-4). This was questioned its continued application even before some EU countries did not comply with the provisions of the Dublin Agreement (Regulation).[[5]](#footnote-5)

 The main feature of the decisions that were adopted by the European Commission and the European Council were short ,,breath", and that the ground does not give noticeable results. Decisions were questioned immediately after their adoption by those who were supposed to observe and implement in practice. Different seeing things and different approaches showed disunity in the European Commission. Decision of the Commission, during the first half of September 2015, the distribution of quotas for the admission of refugees (mechanism for allocation of refugees from the Middle East to the EU member states) was taken up with being outvoted. Dissatisfaction with this decision publicly expressed the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary. Slovak Prime Minister initiated a proceeding to challenge this decision before the Court of Justice because of a serious breach of EU regulations. His procedure was followed and the Hungarian authorities were considering and introducing a referendum on any future quotas imposed by the majority in the EC. What I was especially irritated these four EU countries is outvoting the European Commission, which on their part was marked ,,dictatorship" of Brussels and Germany's Angela Merkel.

 The second disagreement and divergence due to different approaches to solving the crisis occurred at a mini-summit in Brussels which took place at the end of the month October 2015. This hastily convened mini-summit attended Western Balkans (Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania), but not attended by all EU member states. It remained unclear why the summit was called by Turkey that day come thousands of refugees. Also not invited were Italy and France although their external borders are constant impact of refugees and migrants from the Middle East. EU leaders and representatives of Balkan countries agreed to adopt an Action Plan of 17 points for cooperation in dealing with the wave of refugees and migrants passing through the Balkans[[6]](#footnote-6).

 The adopted Action Plan was challenged from many EU members still in its very start. Greece which participated in its adoption did not even try to plan in practice openly and with impunity obstruct its implementation on the ground, especially the solutions that addressed the action of FRONTEX border between Greece and Macedonia.

Later a full analysis of the Action Plan showed that the intention of some members of the EU was to perform ,,selecting" refugees and migrants in particular on the border between Greece and R. Macedonia. The goal was to see in advance that in the future will be able to get asylum in Germany and European countries, which will be deported back to the country from where they came. But hastily adopted an ambitious plan due to lack of cooperation between Greece, an EU member, is little revived the field. Refugees remain uncontrolled and unregistered comes on the border of the Republic of Macedonia.

Meanwhile countries of the Visegrad Group (Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic) are increasingly diverged from Brussels. The line of divergence on the issue of how to resolve the crisis are becoming deeper and more visible. Faced with the inefficiency of the European Commission Visegrad initiative Austria conference in Vienna at the end of the month February 2016. On this conference Austria did not invite the EU and Greece. Agreed in a conference in Vienna, which was attended by most member states were swiftly put into practice. The next day Austria unilaterally closed its border to refugees and migrants from Afghanistan, and decided to omit only the citizens of Iraq and Syria and within the quotas that determine herself without consultations with the EU Acted in the same way and the other members of the Visegrad group, while R. Maedonija and R. Serbia fully closed their borders.

This decision of the Visegrad Group, the EU faced the serious challenge. The question whether the EU will continue with daily politics and instant solutions or bring new solution acceptable to all stakeholders. For a short time after all improvisation EU on 17 and 18 March 2016 concluded a treaty with Turkey. Turkey lifted high price for its future cooperation with the EU regarding the resolution of the refugee crisis[[7]](#footnote-7). Although the wave of refugees had to be fully stopped in the early morning hours of March 20, 2016, that wave is still not fully stop. Still come in various destinations refugees and migrants not only from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan but also the countries of southern Africa. Estimates of European leaders speak of more than 500,000 people who are stationed on the coasts of Libya and who at any moment can go to the Italian and French coast.

Additional problems have become refugees and migrants, the number more than 10,000, all the time were stationed in the town Idomeni the territory of Greece. At the end of May 2016 the police managed most of them to set up in the camps and to unblock the border. The total number of refugees and migrants who are still in Greece is currently estimated at about 30,000 for that at this point the EU, Greece and Turkey still have no concrete solution.

**As the Republic of Macedonia was dealing with the refugee crisis migration?**

 In the largest refugee-migrant crisis since the Second World War, Macedonia is found in a very difficult and specific situation. Our state was the so-called ,,Balkan route" where waves of refugees and migrants coming from EU member state (think Greece), through our territory (territory of a state which is not an EU member), or should leave to leave the EU.

 In the past 25 years of independence and declaring the independence and sovereignty of the Republic. Macedonia has repeatedly faced serious challenges to deal with such crises[[8]](#footnote-8). In this fifth in a row and Migrant refugee crisis that happened to our country during the year 2015/2016 approximately 1,000,000 refugees and migrants used the territory of the Republic of Macedonia in order to reach the ,,promised" countries in western and northern Europe. Although this refugee-migrant crisis for our country was, and is primarily a transit character, the citizens of Macedonia daily were directly and indirectly confronted with negative consequences for economic and security.

Macedonian state and political leadership seeking to resolve this serious security, economic and humanitarian challenge while wandering in seeking the idea of ​​salvation and solution to the crisis. Being between the ,,hammer and anvil" (from one side we are faced with the fear of the consequences of the crisis, and on the other side we were faced with the demands and instant solutions to tackle the crisis coming from EC countries). Macedonian top officials at the lack of a clear strategy for dealing with the crisis initially tried to meet the demands coming from Germany, to then accept the proposals and measures that came from Austria and the Visegrad Group in completely closed the border Greece for all refugees and migrants.

 Faced with the unprecedented influx of refugees and migrants, the Assembly of Republic of Macedonia in August 19, 2015 of part of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia declared an emergency crisis[[9]](#footnote-9). From today's perspective the impression that the state leadership of the Republic Macedonia measure proposed and adopted late. The lack of a strategy for tackling the crisis factors relevant institutions and brought a series of misjudgments and overdue measures which adversely affected not only our image but also the internal situation in the country. Inadequate, untimely and bad judgment and wrong policy in the period from November 2014 to July 2015 contributed to occur 30 accidents despite the railways on Corridor 10. In the same period, hundreds of refugees and illegal migrants were detained in the reception center for foreigners Skopje municipality of Gazi Baba, where a few months spent in the most inhumane conditions. Because 300% overcrowding Center NGO's from home and abroad have accused the Republic of Macedonia for torturing these people. Shortly afterwards in the same center had forced housing of refugees prosecution and the police wanted to put in the role of witnesses in criminal proceedings against traffickers and perpetrators of acts of hatred. Thus, Macedonia became the only country in the world to detain witnesses and victims of crimes. And for this reckless and shortsighted move again our country was again accused of violating the right to life, the right to security and freedom of movement, rather than to provide protection and humane treatment and prevent discrimination.

Part of inconsistent decisions of the European Commission, the Republic of Macedonia faced by seeking to build refugee camps along the Balkan corridor. This request publicly announced German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. It's about hypocritical and unprincipled behavior towards the Western Balkan countries including the Republic of Macedonia. Our country has two ,,daily transport centers" for refugees on a daily basis for a few hours could stay for up to 2,000 refugees (1,500 in Gevgelija in the south and 500 in northern Tabanovce). Macedonian state leadership of the European unprincipled reacted very principle and is willing to build refugee camps on its territory. After the conference the Visegrad Group in Vienna Macedonia completely closed its southern border for refugees and migrants. This closure resulted in violent and aggressive regarding refugees and migrants to the Macedonian police and army to protect the border. Aggressive and violent attitude was encouraged and supported by the Greek nationalist forces but certainly was allowed to neglect the acquiescence of the Greek authorities. This situation has contributed on several occasions to come to physical clashes between refugees and migrants with members of the Macedonian security forces. Life of members of the Macedonian security forces, territorial integrity and sovereignty were seriously questioned. These developments contributed to the Republic of Macedonia in the eyes of international and world public to be shown in a bad light and disturbed image. Tragic in the whole situation is that the R. Macedonia without any guilt fell victim to militant and aggressive refugees and migrants, and its security forces have been unfairly accused of inhumanity in defense of their country. It is unfortunate that our diplomacy and all state officials failed to score and clearly say that we were put in a position that Macedonia is not a member of the EU to defend Europe from the European Union!.

Since the Republic of Macedonia closed its border and the concluded contract EU-Turkey, our country is found in yet another awkward situation. The persons who are not entitled to international protection and who are migrants and not refugees of war should be returned to the countries from which they came. But since R. Macedonia is not part of the agreement between the EU and Turkey migrants found on our territory can not be returned to Turkey as stipulated in the contract. Now R. Macedonia has pressed the EU to give asylum to refugees located on its territory because it is required by international rules on which our country has given its approval and signature. All these people who are entitled to international protection should be granted asylum in Macedonia and the country should take care to provide conditions for a decent life, among other things, to allow classes to learn the language and to the open labor market for not long be borne by the Macedonian budget[[10]](#footnote-10).

Besides giving asylum to Macedonian authorities are available and other two options. The first concerns the possibility of these persons to register in a voluntary return program which is supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and refers to voluntary return to countries of origin. The second option is the return of migrants to the country from which they entered with us, in this case Greece. But this requires the consent of the Greek side. As is known, the cooperation between Macedonian and Greek authorities is not good and is not satisfactory. Greece is swamped by migrants and craps is hard to believe that he would agree to take back people who are stranded on our border. the problem is even greater because the EU does is preparation to speak on this topic because the agreement EU-Turkey hard and slow to realize in practice.

**Conclusion**

 In this refugee crisis Migrant Macedonia found between the ,,hammer and the anvil”. On the one hand, as a candidate for EU membership had to cooperate to monitor instant plans and instructions coming from the EU, on the other side, despite our maximum sacrifice to tackle the crisis we have become a victim and collateral damage. European leaders did not matter that Macedonia faces a fragile interethnic relations between delicate ethnic and religious balance and still make efforts to build a civil society. Despite the fact that the state more than a year shakes largest political, legal, economic, social and security crisis from the moment of declaration of independence and sovereignty, the EU opted for a promise that he would give money problem to shift and decided on the territory of other states, as far away from the EU Member States. Our country was faced with the danger wave of refugees cause serious security and humanitarian crisis, although the trade, environmental and humanitarian and religious-political implications daily felt the citizens of our country.

 In an effort to solve this greatest crisis of post-war European areas the EU and its institutions and leaders showed multiple and unacceptable shortcomings. The area came dysfunctional system for dealing with refugee-migrant crisis and no single European system for management of EU borders. EU institutions have shown that lack the capacity for coordination and management of current problems and impermissible coordination. The majority of EU member states had their own view and a different approach to the problem. Certainly one of the reasons for the slow dealing with the crisis lies in the lack of mutual trust between Member States. Each EU member states insisted as possible to enterprises damage from the crisis, and to obtain greater benefit from the union.

These gaps and inconsistencies in the EU cleared the area and the reluctance of the Republic of Macedonia to tackle the crisis. Previous experiences showed that anything we learned from the past. Republic of Macedonia faced the disadvantage both in terms of resources and in terms of lack of strategy to deal with such challenges. Inability and lack of coordination and cooperation with the southern EU states, further lead Macedonia to monitor the situation directly and post festum, but also to bear the consequences of these developments.

Instead of being aggressive and convincing in the delivery of the publication of our arguments and the consequences suffered by defending Europe from refugees and migrants and diplomatic try to argue for coverage of our spent so far 25 million euros to resolve the crisis, our state leadership and diplomacy They chose an aggressive verbal and insufficiently reasoned policy. Policy of targeting the EU which unfortunately we backfire. The EU's response was quick, fierce and argumetiran and the cover had been insult is the message that they do not give money to the bank accounts of government.!?

The participation of Macedonia in dealing with the crisis, according to a public statement by President Mr. Ivanov Macedonia has cost more than 25 million euros from the state budget. As the first head of state he has repeatedly sharply criticized Germany and the EU that in terms of the security aspect of the migrant crisis, Macedonia has not received a single euro a financial aid[[11]](#footnote-11). But by the official Brussels more precisely by the European Commission make clear that the Republic of Macedonia, as a non-member of the European Union and allocated 50 million euros in aid from the Union to deal with the refugee crisis, taking into detail explaining how, what and who is assigned these funds[[12]](#footnote-12).

Our national leadership and diplomacy do not ask the EU response to two questions: First: How did Turkey for its cooperation with the EU and resolving the crisis received 6 billion, visa and other benefits, although everyone was clear that refugees and migrants intentionally missed by the security forces of Turkey in the EU and the Western Balkans. Second, as Greece just redirect refugees on its territory of another and does not show gram humanity received financial assistance from the EU amounting to nearly one billion euros?. It remains open and unanswered question regarding the amount of resources allocated to the Republic of Macedonia by the European Commission to tackle the crisis as opposed to the claims of the President of the Republic of Macedonia.

Anyway The Republic of Macedonia played very well undoubtedly positive role in dealing with the biggest crisis that swept Europe in the last seventy years.

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2. Ph.D Jove Kekenovski ,,Refugee crisis as a challenge for the EU and the Republic of Macedonia", International Conference ,,Post-Communism versus post-democracy: experiences in the region and Macedonia", organized by the Macedonian Politicological Society, November 2015,
3. Ph.D Jove Kekenovski, Republic Macedonia against the refugee crisis and the lack of coordination, lack of principles and the unpreparedness of the European Union – XI ECPD International Conference “Future of the World between Globalization and Regionalization” October, 2015,
4. Report of the High Commissioner for Refugees United Nations, 2015.
5. Statements and declarations of Amnesty International for Macedonia, 2015,
6. Action plan of 17 points of the European Commission and the leaders of the Western BalkansBrussels, 25 October 2015,
7. Directive 2013/32 / EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for the identification and seizure of international protection (recast) (effective on 21 July 2015).
8. Directive 2013/33 / EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013, on establishing standards for the reception of applicants for international Protection (revised) (effective on 21 July 2015).
9. Regulation (EU) no. 604/2013 of the European parlamentai Council of 27 June 2013, the introduction of criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examination of the application for international protection lodged in one of the countries a member of the third-country national or a stateless person (transformscloves) (effective from 1 January 2014).
10. Directive 2011/95 / EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011, on standards for the qualification of third country nationals or stateless persons for achieving international protection for the unique status of refugees or a person eligible for subsidiary protection and the content approved protection (recast) (effective from 21 December 2013).
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12. Council Directive 2004/83 / EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and on the content of the protection granted.
13. Council Directive 2003/9 / EC of 27 January 2003 on the introduction of minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers.
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15. Council Regulation (EC) no. 2725/2000 of 11 December 2000 concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the Dublin conventions.
16. Amsterdam Treaty, 1999.
17. Schengen Agreement, 14 June 1985.
18. Schengen Convention, 1990
1. A key turning point in the discovery of longstanding problems between Sunnis and Shiites happens when the United States knocked out power Saddam Hussein, the former president of Iraq. Saddam Hussein under the pressure of US military intervention capitulated in 2003. At the time of Saddam in Iraq dominant position in the government has the Sunni minority, and after his overthrow, the government receive Shiites who feel this as a chance to impose their will on the Sunni minority. Also Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but above all his taco Hafez al-Assad with their political party Baath constantly worked on blurring the differences that existed among various Syrian communities, especially between Sunnis and Alawites. Bashar al-Assad is a member of the Alawites who subset of Shiite or religious minority of some 1.7 million members, or about 10-12% of the Syrian population.. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These statements should be attached statements as ministers in the government of Angela Merkel, such as Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere which on several occasions very subtly appealed to the member states of the union to accept quotas for refugees, and refugees through the message quickly to adapt to German standards and values. And German Minister of Labour and Social Policy Andrea Nahles, thinks that refugees need as quickly as possible ,,become our neighbors and fellow"and Ingo Kramer, president of the Association of German Employers (BDA) publicly declares that the German economy needs people seeking asylum and refugees and should quickly be integrated in the labor market in Germany - Source: Deustshe Welle.. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. According to UNHCR statistics, during 2015 972,500 people crossed the Mediterranean and headed for Europe. Additionally there IOM data showing that more than 34 000 people have gone from Turkey and Bulgaria to Greece by road. In the first quarter of 2015 the number of asylum seekers in Europe was increased by 86% compared to the same quarter in 2014. The total number of refugees who sought asylum in the EU in the first quarter in 2015 was 184 800.. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Schengen Agreement 14 June 1985, Schengen Convention 1990. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Dublin Regulation consists of Regulation No 604/2013 or Regulation III Dublin, Dublin II Regulation and the Dublin Convention. Dublin Convention was signed in Dublin, Ireland on June 15, 1990, for the first time entered into force on 1 September 1997. The first twelve signatories include Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. On October 1, 1997 joined Austria and Sweden, and from January 1, 1998 and Finland. While the convention was opened for accession by Member States of the European Union, it was made an exception; it joined Norway and Iceland, and later ie in 2008 and Switzerland and Linhenshtajn. Amend the Dublin Convention have been committed with the Dublin II Regulation adopted in 2003. On 3 December 2008, the European Commission proposed and adopted amendments to the Dublin Regulation II. Dublin Regulation III (No. 604/2013) was adopted in the month of June 2013. The essence of this whole regulation is the principle that asylum seekers should apply for asylum in the first EU country in which he entered. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Plan of 17 points provides: 1. Nominating contact points within 24 hours to allow daily exchanges and coordination to achieve the gradual, controlled and orderly movement of persons along the Western Balkans route; 2. Submitting joint needs assessments for EU support within 24 hours; 3. Discouraging the movement of refugees or migrants to the border of another country of the region without informing neighbouring countries; 4. Increasing the capacity to provide temporary shelter, food, health, water and sanitation to all in need; triggering the [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](http://ec.europa.eu/news/2015/docs/factsheet_the_eu_civil_protection_mechanism.pdf) where necessary; 5. Greece to increase reception capacity to 30,000 places by the end of the year, and to support UNHCR to provide rent subsidies and host family programmes for at least 20,000 more – a pre-condition to make the emergency relocation scheme work; Financial support for Greece and UNHCR is expected; 6. Working with the UNHCR who will support the increase of reception capacities by 50,000 places along the Western Balkans route. 7. Working with International Financial Institutions such as the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Development Bank of the Council of Europe which are ready to support financially efforts of the countries willing to make use of these resources; 8. Ensuring a full capacity to register arrivals, with maximum use of biometric data; 9. Exchanging information on the size of flows and, where requested, on all arriving refugees and migrants on a country's territory; 10. Working with EU Agencies to swiftly put in place this exchange of information; 11. Stepping up national and coordinated efforts to return migrants not in need of international protection, working with Frontex; 12. Working with the European Commission and Frontex to step up practical cooperation on readmission with third countries and intensifying cooperation in particular with Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan; Commission to work to implement existing readmission agreements fully and start work on new readmission agreements with relevant countries; 13. Increase efforts to manage borders, including by: Finalising and implementing the EU-Turkey Action Plan; Making full use of the potential of the EU-Turkey readmission agreement and the visa liberalisation roadmap; Upscaling the Poseidon Sea Joint Operation in Greece; Reinforcing Frontex support at the border between Bulgaria and Turkey, Strengthening border cooperation between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with increased UNHCR engagement; Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania will strengthen the management of the external land border, with Frontex to support registration in Greece; Working together with Frontex to monitor border crossings and support registration and fingerprinting at the Croatian-Serbian border crossing points; Deploying in Slovenia 400 police officers and essential equipment within a week, through bilateral support; Strengthening the Frontex Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network with intensified reporting from all participants; Making use, where appropriate of the [Rapid Border Intervention Team](http://ec.europa.eu/news/2015/docs/factsheet_rabit.pdf) (RABIT) mechanism, which should be duly equipped; 14. Reconfirming the principle of refusing entry to third country nationals who do not confirm a wish to apply for international protection (in line with international and EU refugee law and subject to prior non-refoulement and proportionality checks); 15. Stepping up actions against migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings with support of Europol, Frontex and Interpol; 16. Making use of all available communication tools to inform refugees and migrants about existing rules, as well as about their rights and obligations, notably on the consequences of a refusal to be registered, fingerprinted and of a refusal to seek protection where they are; 17. Monitoring the implementation of these commitments on a weekly basis; Commission to coordinate with national contact points. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The agreement between the EU and Turkey in exchange for reduction of refugee and migranstkiot EU pressure, Turkey should get help 6 billion euros and visa liberalization by the end of June 2016. In the accelerated procedure by the end of March 2016, the EU will pay Turkey earlier promised aid of 3 billion euros are for refugees, within which will be funded and other projects for people under temporary protection. Projects will relate to the area of ​​health and education, the construction of infrastructure, the supply of food and other living expenses of these people. EU has also committed itself to negotiations with Turkey on EU membership, open the chapter no. 33 and the end of June this year. Turkey agreement committing themselves to any Syrian that Greece will return to Turkey, a Syrian Turkey to be translated into the EU, provided it is not economic migrants and in the past had attempted illegal entry into the EU. And the total number can not exceed more than 72,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Macedonia after its independence for the first time with such a challenge met during 1991 when, after the events in Albania about 1,200 people from border regions to the Republic of Macedonia have sought protection and sheltered at oteshevskiot Prespa, Ohrid and Struga region. During 1992 as a state made sure to protect the 35,000 people who fled the crisis and military actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These people were accommodated in seven refugee centers throughout the country and are kept in Macedonia in 1997 when he was allowed a safe and orderly return to their home country. The third challenge for Macedonia happened during the Kosovo crisis of spring 1999. More than 360,000 people, mostly ethnic Albanians sought and received international protection in the country. More than 126,000 people were accommodated in eight collective centers built for that purpose in the Republic of Macedonia, and 234,000 people were sheltered in family homes of citizens across the country. Humanitarian protection for refugees from Kosovo lasted until the middle of September 2003, although by the end of 2000 the number of refugees was reduced to less than 5,500 people. Fourth confronting this situation our country had during the military actions in 2001 when there were 86,954 registered internally displaced persons, and according to UNHCR at that time about 20,000 people left Macedonia and went to Kosovo. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Crisis situation referred to areas of southern and northern borders of the Republic of Macedonia, due to increased volume of import and transit of migrants across the territory. Following the adoption of the measure of Macedonia partially closed and controlled the southern and northern borders to migrants after their number increased to 2 thousand per day. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. According to the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Macedonia from March 8, 2016, after being closed border with Greece and R. Serbia and can't-miss entry and exit of migrants in the Interim Tabanovce transit center accommodated 947 migrants who were not allowed to enter the Republic Serbia (since closed the border). From this temporary transit center returned 180 migrants in Temporary Transit Center Vinojug Gevgelija. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. The written response from President Ivanov March 14, 2016 states: "The state institutions of the Republic of Macedonia, which deal with migrant crisis still have not received any funding or equipment for the registration and supervision of the state border of the European Union . All costs for the security aspect of the crisis borne exclusively Macedonian institutions, the Macedonian army, the Macedonian police, intelligence Macedonian, Macedonian health authorities, municipalities in the south, the north and the Macedonian public enterprises. All funds received by the early migrant crisis humanitarian aid distributed through international organizations, and other resources of non-governmental organizations that field help in dealing with the crisis of the humanitarian aspect " [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <http://vesti.mk/read/news/8368760/3040848/ek-na-makedonija-i-se-dodeleni-50-milioni-evra-pomosh-za-begalcite> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)