

Beat: Politics

MORE THAN 60 EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN LEADERS ARE MEETING IN MALTA

UN SAYS 800 000 MIGRANTS IN EUROPE

PARIS - VALLETTA, 12.11.2015, 09:36 Time

USPA NEWS - European Union and African leaders gathered in Malta to discuss measures to stem the flow of people into Europe. The meeting in the Maltese capital Valletta was planned after about 800 died in a migrant boat sinking off Libya in April....

European Union and African leaders gathered in Malta to discuss measures to stem the flow of people into Europe. The meeting in the Maltese capital Valletta was planned after about 800 died in a migrant boat sinking off Libya in April. The United Nations says nearly 800,000 migrants have arrived in Europe by sea so far in 2015, while some 3,440 have died or gone missing making the journey.

It took the Luxembourg authorities two months to settle their newcomers. None of those lingering in Greece wanted to move to the European's wealthiest country in per capita terms, second globally only to Qatar. Luxembourg currently chairs the European's rotating presidency. Jean-Claude Juncker, its prime minister from 1995 to 2013, is head of the European commission and one of the architects of the new quota system. So Luxembourg officials were keen to be seen to be doing their bit. (The Guardian)

The question of where migrants end up in Europe is an important one for European and African leaders seeking to map a migrant strategy during the two-day summit starting Wednesday, especially on the issue of mechanisms to repatriate migrants Europe says don't qualify for asylum.

But the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees notes that in Malta, all individuals, including asylum seekers, who arrive without permission from immigration authorities may be detained for as long as 12 months or 18 months if the asylum application is rejected.

Some 150,000 people from African countries such as Eritrea, Nigeria and Somalia have made the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean from Africa so far this year, arriving mainly in Italy and Malta...At the two-day Malta summit, European leaders are expected to offer countries in Africa billions of euros in exchange for help with the migrant crisis... The European Commission is setting up a €1.8bn "trust fund" for Africa and has urged member states to match that sum. However, there are doubts about whether they will do so...The aim is to tackle the economic and security problems that cause people to flee, and persuade African countries to take back more failed asylum seekers.(BBC)

Ruby BIRD

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Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-6260/more-than-60-european-and-african-leaders-are-meeting-in-malta.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Ruby BIRD (Journalist/photographer/Director)

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