



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

## PICUM Newsletter October 2006

*Finalized on 9 October 2006*

This newsletter focuses on news items and policy developments concerning the basic social rights of undocumented migrants in Europe. It is currently available in Word format and on the PICUM website ([www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org)) in the following languages: English, German, Dutch, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. You are invited to distribute this newsletter widely.

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### **1. Death at the Border**

- In a series of reports in the Turkish press, Greece is being accused of not doing enough to help stop the flow of undocumented migrants. Turkish authorities alleged that the Greek Coast Guard abandoned 40 would-be migrants off the coast of Turkey early on 26 September. Six of the migrants were found drowned and another three are reported missing. Turkish media have also reported a video tape showing the Greek Coast Guard abandoning undocumented migrants at sea near Turkey on two past occasions. The spokesman of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. George Koumoutsakos, made the following statement on the matter: 'The effective confrontation of the phenomenon of illegal migration is of particular concern to the European Union. Within this framework, Greece has still greater responsibility for the guarding of its external borders, which

coincide with the borders of the EU and the Schengen area". "Greece expects Turkey to effectively cooperate on this issue with the consistent implementation of the Greek-Turkish Readmission Protocol and the signing the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement" continued Koumoutsakos. (*Kathimerini, Apogevmatini, Mesimvrini, Eleftherotypia, Avgi, Eleftheri Ora* – 27 & 28 September)  
Also see: <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=1434352006>

- A boat carrying undocumented migrants sank in bad weather off the coast of southern Greece on 10 October and about 40 people were missing, Greece's defense ministry said. The migrants were using a wooden boat that sank and some of the people were washed up alive on a nearby island. <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=2548413>
- Twenty migrants drowned on 5 October while trying to reach the Canary Islands, survivors told Spanish police. The survivors - seven adults and four children - said they were picked up by a merchant ship after their boat broke up on the high seas before dawn on 5 October. They said they were then brought to a port on the Gran Canaria. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/5410342.stm>
- One of the 57 undocumented migrants who arrived on 16 September in the Los Crisitanos port in Tenerife (Spain) in a wooden boat died of heart failure, reported Europa Press. According to sources from the Spanish Police Confederation (CEP) on the island, the victim had felt unwell after arrival in the port and had repeatedly asked for medical assistance during the afternoon of 16 September. Nonetheless, he was not transferred to a medical center nor given medical attention in the police holding facilities. Although a doctor finally arrived in the holding facility at 10:00 p.m., he died from heart failure one hour later. [http://www.kaosenlared.net/noticia.php?id\\_noticia=23666](http://www.kaosenlared.net/noticia.php?id_noticia=23666)
- A boat sunk off the coast of the Italian island of Lampedusa on 24 September, resulting in the death of two undocumented migrants, a woman and a child. 21 undocumented migrants were rescued, reported coast guards in Palermo. (Source: AP, 24 September 2006)

## **2. News from EU Member States + Switzerland + U.S.A.**

### **General**

- On 7 October, the International Day of Action on Migrant Rights, activities took place in various cities across Europe and in Africa, forming the Third International Day of Action on Migration. This action results from the Migration Assembly which took place at the European Social Forum in Athens in June 2006. It builds up on the appeal launched by various organisations during the World Social Forum in Bamako, Mali, in January and will lead to a major European Assembly on Migrant Rights and Regularisation in 2007. For more information, see: <http://www.irr.org.uk/2006/october/ha000006.html> and [NCADC News Service at http://www.ncadc.org.uk/](http://www.ncadc.org.uk/)

### **France**

- Rights groups have accused France of carrying out targeted arrests of foreign migrants to fill chartered deportation flights to China and Romania, in possible breach of European rights law. Police squads have deployed across the Paris subway system in recent months, systematically checking the identity of foreign-looking individuals, as part of a government drive to step up expulsions of undocumented migrants. <http://www.enar-eu.org/en/wmail/index.shtml>

- France and Senegal signed an immigration agreement on 20 September, aimed at stemming trafficking in human beings and encouraging more academic, business and cultural exchanges between the two countries. France and Senegal agreed to work together on returning undocumented migrants back to their country of origin and on patrolling Senegal's coastal border. In return, visas will be made more readily available to students, academics, businessmen and artists traveling between the two countries. Dakar newspapers have shown great scepticism about the French-Senegalese agreement, arguing that it could be considered as a part of the "select immigration" policy, involving taking in skilled immigrants but rejecting the unskilled. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/28507246-4c32-11db-90d2-0000779e2340.html> and <http://www.lemonde.fr/web/depeches/0,14-0,39-28289314@7-37,0.html> and [http://permanent.nouvelobs.com/etranger/20060923.FAP3708.html?idfx=RSS\\_international](http://permanent.nouvelobs.com/etranger/20060923.FAP3708.html?idfx=RSS_international)
- A demonstration was held on 9 September to demand shelter, regularization and education for the 1,000 people who had been evacuated by force from an abandoned university residence in Cachan (a southern suburb of Paris) where they had been living for the past three years (see PICUM Newsletter September 2006). The evacuation had been ordered by a judicial decree in 2004, but had not been carried out due to political reasons as well as resistance from the inhabitants. A petition to support their cause can be signed at: <http://www.1000decachan.info/> (<http://www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-nr-115/index.html#2973> and <http://www.squatcachan.ras.eu.org/>). Other demonstrations were held on 27 and 30 September in Paris to protest against the expulsion and discrimination of migrants. For more info see: [http://www.gisti.org/doc/actions/2006/resf/09-2730\\_80pcent.html](http://www.gisti.org/doc/actions/2006/resf/09-2730_80pcent.html)
- Following to the Sarkozy Edict of 13 June, at least 25,000 to 30,000 requests for residence permits were presented to the prefectures in France. The Edict of Sarkozy was the response on a broad mobilization of schools, neighbours and other groups of the network "Education without borders" with the aim to prevent deportation of plentiful families at the end of the school year (see PICUM Newsletter June 2006). (<http://www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-nr-115/index.html#2973>)

## Spain

- One year after the crisis in Ceuta and Melilla (see *PICUM Newsletter October and November 2005*), a commemorative event took place at the Moroccan side of the border fence, close to the Spanish city of Ceuta, on 7 October 2006. The organization APDHA (Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía) was one of the organizers. These serious incidents were also commemorated in Bamako (Mali) during the so-called "Forum For Another Mali", where rejected and repatriated undocumented migrants, NGOs and a number of European and African parliamentarians were present. (Source: <http://www.apdha.org/nosotros/infoapdha/2006/031006.htm> and <http://www.cear.es/verNoticia.php?idNoticia=166>).
- SOS Racismo has stated in its recent entitled "*Report on the Southern border - 1995-2006: Ten years of violations of human rights*" that human rights violations continue to occur in Ceuta, in Melilla and in the Canary Islands. The report (available in Spanish), which is based on the testimonies of 379 repatriated undocumented migrants, has strongly recommended: (i) to improve the conditions of the detention centres in the Canary Islands; (ii) to repeal all expulsion orders of undocumented migrants who have been already relocated in the peninsula; (iii) to guarantee legal assistance and interpretation for undocumented migrants; and (iv) to explore legal ways that allow Africans to lawfully enter Spain. (This report can be downloaded at <http://www.sosracismo.org/reflexions/pdfs/informefronterasur.pdf>).

- Arrivals to the Canary Islands continue to take place. Even if the new comers are mostly Sub-Saharan Africans, a boat with 160 Asian undocumented migrants arrived in Tenerife on 16 September 2006 (Source: <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2006/09/15/espana/1158337008.html>).
- Following the agreement between the Spanish central government and some Spanish regions, five hundred undocumented minors are being currently transferred from the Canary Islands to different centres for minors located in the mainland. The centres for minors in the Canary Islands, with a limited capacity of only three hundred persons, have been hosting nine hundred children so far (For details: <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2006/10/06/espana/1160119531.html>).
- Three civil servants and a member of the Spanish security forces have been accused of having provided residence and work permits to undocumented migrants in exchange for money or sex. Some undocumented migrants have paid up to 6,000 Euros to get the above-mentioned permits. (For details: <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2006/09/27/espana/1159343159.html>).
- The NGO Doctors of the World (Medicos del Mundo) continues to denounce that access to health care for undocumented migrants is far from being entirely guaranteed in Spain. Ramón Esteso, coordinator of the exclusion department, has remarked in this regard that access to the health care card depends to a great extent on the amount of barriers encountered by undocumented migrants when trying to register in the city hall (through the system of “*empadronamiento*”). Moreover, the lack of information on the side of the user as well as the existing cultural and language barriers also hinder the enjoyment of this right by undocumented migrants in Spain. (Source: <http://www.migrar.org/noticias/noticia/?id=402&t=1>).

## Italy

- PICUM member Manfred Bergmann of CADI -Comitato Antirazzista Durban Italia, gave a presentation on “Some Data on Slavery and Mid-Slavery in Italy” at an event organized within the framework of OSCE 2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, held from 2-13 October in Warsaw, Poland. CADI highlighted that amongst the thousands (from 5,000-7,000) seasonal agricultural workers collecting tomatoes in Puglia estimated by various NGOs each summer, it has followed several cases of asylum seekers from Darfur, Erythrea and Ethiopia as well as migrant workers, documented and undocumented, coming from Eastern Europe and Africa. For more information about CADI’s presentation contact: [corsodirittiumani@yahoo.it](mailto:corsodirittiumani@yahoo.it). Journalist Fabrizio Gatti went undercover as a migrant worker in Puglia and made a diary detailing widespread exploitation and abuse of these workers. The recently published diary is entitled “I was a slave in Puglia” (Io schiavo in Puglia) and is available online in English and Italian at: <http://espresso.repubblica.it/dettaglio/lo%20schiavo%20in%20Puglia/1370307&ref=hpsp>
- In Padua, a steel wall, 84m long and 3m high, blocking off a run-down housing estate with a high immigrant population and a reputation for drugs, violence and prostitution, has been built. The wall was erected by the local council and cost 80,000 Euros. The wall was condemned by Giancarlo Galan, the centre-right President of the Veneto Region, as a “policy of despair.” He said that it amounted to an admission of failure by Padua’s centre-left council. <http://listes.rezo.net/archives/migreurop/2006-08/msg00123.html>
- A public demonstration was held on 10 September in Lampedusa to demand the closing of the Italian CPTs (detention centers). More than 700 people took part in the demonstration. <http://www.meltingpot.org/articolo8449.html>

## Greece

- Authorities have kept 42 unaccompanied minors locked up in Athens under terrible conditions, over the last few months, the Children's Ombudsman, Mr. George Moschos reported. "Greece is still lacking in its care for unaccompanied minors", he said. Some 20,000 refugee children apply for asylum in Europe each year. Greece receives up to 300 of these applications from unaccompanied minors. But some 1,000 are detained and expelled annually, according to the Ombudsman. (*Kathimerini, Vradyni, Eleftherotyfia, Avgi, Eleftheros Typos, 28 September*)

## UK

- The Home Office's controversial practice of detaining families of asylum seekers in dawn raids sparked fresh political outcry on September 28 after officials conceded that much-vaunted reforms agreed with the Scottish Executive have not been implemented. Raids on two Glasgow families were carried out by immigration officials, provoking fierce criticism from teachers over the effect such removals were having on the schools where asylum-seeker children are enrolled. Opposition politicians demanded answers from the executive after it emerged that consultation with education and social work professionals – a key element of the supposed "protocol" called for by the First Minister last year – appeared not to have taken place. In March, Tony McNulty, the minister responsible for immigration at Westminster, promised a radical overhaul of its procedures in relation to dawn raids, including the appointment of a "lead professional" from a health, social work or education background who would oversee each case. <http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/70945.html>
- New measures have come into force that will strengthen borders and speed up the deportation process for foreign nationals who pose a threat to national security. The legislation in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 requires that if immigrants from nations not part of the European Economic Area are deported from Great Britain for reasons of national security, they must leave the country immediately, even if they plan to appeal their deportation. The only exception would be appeals based on human rights. The new laws mean that those immigrants believed to pose a threat to the country can be more quickly and efficiently returned to their home nations. At the same time, security for those entering the country has been tightened with the increased use of biometric information. Immigration officers now have the right to carry out biometric checks on any passenger who holds a biometric travel document. This is the first step in rolling out a new fingerprinting system for visa applicants due to come into effect in 2008. Officers now also have the right to temporarily detain those leaving the country if there are any doubts about their identity, or the validity of their passports and visas. This will give border control workers the time they need to interview suspicious travellers and determine if they entered the UK illegally in the first place, or abused their right to be in the country. The legislation that came into effect is known as the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill (<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/20060013.htm>), and it received Royal Assent in March this year. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/strengthen-borders>
- Speaking at the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association members' meeting on Regularisation at Garden Court Chambers, on 6 September Keith Best, IAS Chief Executive, said: "There is a growing campaign consisting of voluntary organisations, trades unions, immigration practitioners and other interested bodies to call on the Government to regularise the status of illegal migrants in the UK. There may not yet be consensus as to whom this should apply or the nature of the regularisation but the desire to start with a clean slate is very strong. It would assist those illegal migrants (many of whom will have entered the UK legally) by preventing them being exploited and having to resort to illegal working or nefarious ways of gaining sufficient resources with which to

survive. It would also assist the Government by getting them off the hook about how many illegal migrants are in the country. Of course, it would not include those who do not declare themselves or who continue to enter clandestinely but it would establish in the public's mind that the majority will have been regularised. Will it happen? The junior Immigration Minister was recently slapped down when he suggested that an amnesty was being considered. It is unlikely, therefore, that with the tough stance of immigration and the emphasis on removals an amnesty will take place before the next general election. Yet Home Office officials admit that it will take five years to process the backlog of 450,000 asylum files on which action still needs to be taken. The former Immigration Minister admitted to Newsnight that it would take at least ten years to remove those who are known about who have failed to establish a legal right to remain at current rates of removal. The cost of removing all these could amount to several billion pounds (the NAO has estimated that it costs £11,000 average to remove a person). Removing illegal workers could also have an immediately deleterious effect on the economy. Regularisation is both a more humane and economically more sensible way of dealing with it. All that is needed is the political courage to do it."

[ncadc@ncadc.org.uk](mailto:ncadc@ncadc.org.uk) and <http://www.ncadc.org.uk>

## Belgium

- Almost 75% of Belgians believe that immigrants who commit serious crimes should be deported, new research has indicated. That percentage is even higher in the Netherlands (76.6 percent), the UK (78.2) and Germany (90.2), the Belgian newspaper De Standaard has reported. The figures are included in a new book called *Multiculturalism Analysed* from the Catholic University of Leuven. <http://www.enar-eu.org/en/wmail/index.shtml>
- A commemorative demonstration was held on 23 September to remember Semira Adamu, who was suffocated to death by police officers during an attempt to deport her from Belgium on 22 September 1998. [http://groups.google.com/group/1RSL/browse\\_thread/thread/b6402cf51375d1e8/8c3bb7e880f07a87#8c3bb7e880f07a87](http://groups.google.com/group/1RSL/browse_thread/thread/b6402cf51375d1e8/8c3bb7e880f07a87#8c3bb7e880f07a87)
- In a 31 May 2006 judgment, a Brussels' judge of summary proceedings ruled that the Belgian authorities were to grant a temporary residency permit to an undocumented student in her last year of secondary school. The residence permit would be granted to allow the student to finish her exams (and also resit them in the second exam session if necessary), on the grounds that the right to education also implies the right to have a useful effect of the education received, in this case the diploma. The judge based his judgment on an interpretation made by the European Court of Human Rights of its own first protocol. (Source: Newsletters Foyer & Medimmigrant, n° 134 and Odice, n° 9-6, and [www.sdj.be](http://www.sdj.be).)
- New guidelines were recently adopted for the forced removal of undocumented migrants from Belgium. The new guidelines are based on the recommendations of the Vermeersch Commission. [http://www.polfed-fedpol.be/presse/presse\\_detail\\_nl.php?recordID=1029](http://www.polfed-fedpol.be/presse/presse_detail_nl.php?recordID=1029)
- The Council of State has decided on a change in its modus operandi concerning appeals sent by fax in cases of extremely urgent need (concerning imminent expulsions). These appeals have to have the signature of either the lawyer filing the appeal or of the person s/he is representing, or they will not be entered in the cause list. (Source: Newsletter De Acht, 33/06)

## Netherlands

- Fewer or no people would have died in the fire that broke out last year in the Schiphol airport detention center if the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Housing, Regional Development and the Environment had lived up to their own rules and regulations. These are the conclusions of the Fact-Finding Committee for Safety, whose report was presented on 21 September. Neglect and badly trained security personnel were some of the reasons for the unsafe situation. The fire broke out in the detention center on 27 October 2005 and 11 people died. The detention center was housing suspected drug smugglers as well as undocumented migrants awaiting deportation (see PICUM Newsletter November 2005). Medical and mental health care for the traumatized survivors was minimal. 39 of the victims eventually received a residence permit.  
[www.nrc.nl/binnenland/article488483.ece](http://www.nrc.nl/binnenland/article488483.ece)  
[http://www.vertrokkengezichten.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=6](http://www.vertrokkengezichten.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=6) )
- Local politicians in several cities in the Netherlands housed asylum seekers for one night on 14 September. The 'Nacht van de Vervanging' (Night of Substitution) is part of the campaign 'Aftellen tot het Pardon' (Count 'Til the Pardon). Campaigners are seeking to draw attention to the situation of asylum seekers who applied for asylum before 1 April 2001 and who are still waiting a decision concerning their asylum application. The organizers are asking for a general pardon for this group of asylum seekers. <http://www.aftellentohtepardon.nl>
- To find a solution for the 26,000 undocumented migrants who have been in the Netherlands more than five years without a residence permit, a number of organizations will hold a demonstration in The Hague. In light of the upcoming elections (22 November) a political solution for this group is asked. The motto of the demonstration that will be held on 4 November will be: "Choose a humane asylum policy: General pardon now!" For more information visit: <http://www.generaalpardonnu.nl> or contact Alice Beldman and Petra Schultz, ASKV Steunpunt Vluchtelingen, tel. (+31)(0)20-6272408.
- Hundreds of children together with their parents, teachers and other concerned individuals and organizations protested on 30 September against the detention of migrant children in the Netherlands. Demonstrators highlighted cases such as that of Hui, an 8-year old whose mother is an undocumented migrant from China awaiting her return. The organizers stressed that detaining children of undocumented migrants is against the Convention on the Rights of the Child.  
[www.geenkindindecel.nl](http://www.geenkindindecel.nl)
- A registration desk has been set up to collect reports of situations regarding undocumented migrants' lack of access to health care and welfare services. Reports can be made at the following website: [www.pharos.nl/meldpunt](http://www.pharos.nl/meldpunt). The NGO Pharos will take the reports and present them to members of the Lower House by the beginning of 2007. Institutions concerned with the complaints will also be informed. For more information contact: Gerd Beckers,  
[medoc@doktersvandewereld.org](mailto:medoc@doktersvandewereld.org)

## Germany

- Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble, German Minister of the Interior, takes the issue of illegal migration in Germany as a reason to propose further deregulation of the labour market and social contribution systems in Germany. During a conference on "Integration: Magic Formula – Problems – Necessity" organized by the Tutzing Protestant Academy on 1 July 2006, Dr. Schäuble admitted that globalization not only demands workers in the high tech sector, but also low qualified workers in the

tertiary sector. According to Dr. Schäuble, social contribution systems have to be changed even though that entails difficult political decisions in order not to drive people working in this sector into illegality. (<http://www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-nr-115/index.html#2990>)

- In the text "The criminalisation of illegal migrants", which was published in the newspaper "Neue Rheinische Zeitung", Klaus Jünschke dealt with questions regarding undocumented migrants in Germany. (<http://www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-nr-115/index.html#2996>)
- The "Katholische Forum Leben in der Illegalität" (Catholic Forum Living In Illegality) and the German Institute of Human Rights in Berlin set up a working group on the federal level to work out a concept for the improvement of access and financing of basic health care for undocumented migrants in Germany. Health care and financing are both very difficult to achieve under the existing administrative, legal and political structures. The working group consists of experts from academia, political parties, medical practice, churches, welfare organizations and other NGOs. Further information is available (in German): [www.forum-illegaliaet.de](http://www.forum-illegaliaet.de) and [www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de).
- The "Büro für Medizinische Flüchtlingshilfe," an organization working on the issue of health care and undocumented migrants in Berlin, has celebrated its 10th anniversary. The festivities on the occasion of the anniversary included a boat demonstration with press conference and several information as well as mobilization campaigns. (More information [http://www.medibuero.de/de/Projekte\\_und\\_Buendnisse/10\\_jahre\\_medibuero.html](http://www.medibuero.de/de/Projekte_und_Buendnisse/10_jahre_medibuero.html)).

## Switzerland

- Swiss voters overwhelmingly approved tougher regulations on asylum seekers as well as new limits on immigration for people from outside the European Union, by voting on 24 September for new asylum and immigration laws. One of the main innovations resulting from the revision of the law on asylum or the new law on foreigners consists in the provision on "people without identity papers": the Office of Migration will no longer intervene if the asylum seeker does not submit any travel or identity document within 48 hours following his/her arrival and is not able to provide an explanation. Birth certificates, other certificates or driving licences are no longer regarded as sufficient documents. The new law will also deny financial assistance to unsuccessful asylum-seekers and threatens them with longer periods of detention if they refuse to leave. (Sources: Imerissia, Nea, Ethnos, 25 September, <http://www.enar-eu.org/en/wmail/index.shtml> and <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24822757.htm>)

## 3. European Policy Developments

### General

- A tri partite meeting, including Italy, Malta and Libya took place on 6 September. Libya has refused until now to allow EU patrol boats to intervene in its territorial waters. Italian Interior Minister Amato however underlined the need of the European Union to go to Libya's southern border. <http://listes.rezo.net/archives/migreurop/2006-08/msg00001.html>
- In a letter addressed to the Heads of the EU States, Commission President Mr. Barroso expressed his concerns regarding irregular migration and the southern borders of the EU that serve as entry points. Barroso talks about a European problem that requires a European response, which should

be urgent and decisive. In reply to the letter, Greek Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Mr. Koumoutsakos said that irregular migration is a problem that affects Greece seriously, due to its geographical location and long sea borders. He reassured that renewed efforts are being made to tackle the problem more effectively, in co-operation also with other South European countries. (Kerdos, 14 September / Express, 12 September)

## European Commission

- The Commission's Task Force on Migration, established under the coordination of Vice President Franco Frattini on August 30, held its first meeting in Profondval, Belgium on September 19. After the meeting, President José Manuel Barroso stated: *"The pressing and dramatic issue of illegal immigration calls for an urgent and strong answer from the whole European Union. The arrival en masse of illegal immigrants in the European Union...is a European challenge and requires a coordinated European response."* He said that the Task Force provided *"a real opportunity to demonstrate what solidarity in action means in practical terms, demonstrating the ability of the EU to deliver concrete results in complex policy areas that are right at the centre of public attention and concern."*  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/1225&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
- The European Commission announced on 21 September 2006 that the Aeneas Programme for financial and technical assistance to third countries in the area of migration and asylum will support dialogue and co-operation on migration and asylum issues with the countries bordering on the enlarged EU and also with the countries in other regions of the world where asylum issues are particularly acute. The programme has a total budget of €120 million for the 2004- 2006 period, of which €75m has already been allocated. Community intervention under this programme will supplement action already taken under existing national and regional strategies, to underpin readmission negotiations and to develop specific initiatives, such as cooperation between countries located on the same migration route. Unlike regional instruments, Aeneas' scope is not confined to just one region. <http://www.enar-eu.org/en/wmail/index.shtml> and <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/1218&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
- The most recent ten EU Member States will be not part of the Schengen area on January 2007. The spokesperson of the Dg JLS (Justice, Liberty and Security), Mr. Jonathan Faull, announced on the 15 September that the SIS II, the (Information Schengen System) is not ready yet, consequently the elimination of the borders' controls with the 10 New Members States is not possible on January 2007. No new data has been fixed. The creation of a new SIS system is indispensable in order to enlarge the Schengen area to the new Member States, given the limited resources of the original SIS System. For more information see: <http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0@2-3214,36-813638@51-802583,0.html>
- The third annual report on the activities of EURODAC was published on 19 September by the Commission. The report gives essential information on patterns of asylum seeking and illegal entry in the EU and shows that 16% of all applications in 2005 were 'multiple applications' – asylum claims where the same person has already made an application in the same country or in another Member State. EURODAC is an EU-wide fingerprint database for the comparison of the fingerprints of asylum seekers and illegal entrants, to help determine which Member State should examine an asylum application. The Commission will shortly issue a report on the evaluation of the Dublin system, which legally determines which Member State is responsible for the examination of an

asylum application and makes arrangements for their return there, and of which EURODAC forms an essential part.

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/fsj/asylum/identification/fsj\\_asylum\\_identification\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/asylum/identification/fsj_asylum_identification_en.htm)

## European Council

- EU justice ministers meeting to discuss how to present a more unified front on tackling immigration have ended up taking side swipes at each other about who is to blame for the thousands of mainly African migrants coming to Europe's southern shores. With the bulk of the migrants coming to the Canary Islands, Spanish justice minister Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar made a formal plea to his colleagues for financial aid to help tackle the problem. <http://www.enar-eu.org/en/wmail/index.shtml>
- Ms Tarja Filatov, Finnish President of the European Council, presented the EU migration policy at the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York on 14 September 2006. She affirmed that "the Member States and the European Commission are also providing support to many countries to help them strengthen their capacity to manage migration and enhance the development benefits of migration" and she added that "the EU is ready to play an active role in the work of the Dialogue and its Round Tables, and in its follow-up" [http://www.eu2006.fi/news\\_and\\_documents/speeches/vko37/en\\_GB/168034](http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/speeches/vko37/en_GB/168034)
- The heads of government of eight EU Member States - Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, and Slovenia - wrote a common letter addressed to the president of EU Commission, Manuel Barroso and to Matti Vanhanen, President of the European Council. The aim of the letter is that to encourage the launching of a "new clear policy" and of new actions in the migration sector during the next summit in Lahti (Finland), on 20 October. In particular, they underlined the necessity of stronger collaboration and cooperation in the patrol border controls and in strengthening the activities of the FRONTEX Agency. *Source: Associated Press (AP) 25/09/2006*

## European Parliament

- The twofold discrimination immigrant women suffer based on origin and gender is highlighted by the Women's Rights Committee in a report adopted on 20 September, which proposes ways to promote their integration into the EU. Accessing the labour market, education, language training and information about rights are some of the measures put forward. Immigrant women's awareness of their rights is important to facilitate their smooth social integration and to protect them from discrimination. The report, drafted by Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (EPP-ED, EL), calls on the Member States to ensure language education and information concerning fundamental human, political and social rights and democratic principles in the host country. (Source: Social Platform Weekly Mailing #280, [www.socialplatform.org](http://www.socialplatform.org))
- The European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties approved a consultative report on 13 September in which it called for the competence of the future European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights to be extended to intergovernmental cooperation on policing, justice, immigration and counter-terrorism issues. MEPs also stated their desire for greater involvement by the Parliament in the new agency. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/017-10539-254-09-37-902-20060911IPR10523-11-09-2006-2006-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/017-10539-254-09-37-902-20060911IPR10523-11-09-2006-2006-false/default_en.htm)
- A European campaign to shut down all detention centers in Europe ("No Fortress Europe") has been launched by the European GUE/NGL group. To sign the petition visit: <http://www.no-fortress-europe.eu>.

- Just a few days after the Justice and Home Affairs Council met in Tampere, Finland, MEPs adopted a resolution drafted by the PES, ALDE, Greens and EUL/NGL groups aiming to draft some basic lines on how the European Union should handle immigration. The adopted text regrets "the failure of the Council (...) to define a common immigration policy, instead maintaining unanimity and the consultation procedure for all matters regarding legal migration" and stresses the need for the integration of migrants into the labour market. Any comprehensive approach to immigration cannot ignore the "push factors" that lead people to leave their country, MEPs said. MEPs "believe that the sharing of responsibilities and financial burdens between Member States must be an integral part of EU immigration policy" and call on the Commission to propose, as soon as possible, the creation of an emergency fund to finance "expert support teams" for reception at borders and tackle humanitarian crises in the Member States. (Source: Social Platform Weekly Mailing #282, [www.socialplatform.org](http://www.socialplatform.org))
- The Italian singer Claudio Baglioni performed at a concert in the European Parliament on 13 September. The aim of the event, organized by MEP Lilli Gruber, was to demand for the building of a common European migration policy. Franco Frattini, Commissioner for the Justice, Security and Liberty, and Jean-Marie Cavada, President of the EP LIBE Committee, took part in the event. For more information contact: [lina.vestberg@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:lina.vestberg@europarl.europa.eu) or write to the Lilli Gruber Office at [lilli.gruber@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:lilli.gruber@europarl.europa.eu).

#### **4. Upcoming Events**

- The Council of Europe's Directorate General of Social Cohesion will hold a forum on 9-10 November 2006 in Strasbourg, France, on "Achieving social cohesion in a multicultural Europe." In its efforts to secure the well-being of everyone, including migrants, the Council of Europe hopes, by means of the 2006 Forum, to help foster a perception of social cohesion that views migration and cultural diversity as key components. To this end, it is intended to analyse the different approaches to "integration" and the fight against inequalities, by focusing on the importance of participation and the cultural dimension in access to rights. <http://www.coe.int/socialcohesion/forum2006>

#### **5. Publications**

*Voices from the Poverty Line: Jobs and Unemployment in the EU*, by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). Fintan Farrell, EAPN Director, said at the launch of the booklet in the European Parliament that "this booklet tells the stories of real lives, which are experiencing the effect of EU policies on the ground in different Member States. When you read these stories, you see the connection with key EU level debates: concerning defending an adequate minimum income capable of supporting a dignified lifestyle, the need for quality services, comprehensive approaches not only to work but to inclusion, effective measures that tackle the blatant discrimination that prevents so many groups: migrants, disabled, older people etc. from accessing decent jobs." Available online in English and French at: [www.eapn.org](http://www.eapn.org).

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has recently produced the *Summary Report of the Workshop on Irregular Migration* as well as the report of the Key Migration Issues Workshop Series (2005-2006), hosted by UNITAR, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The workshop on irregular migration was held on 30 August at UN Headquarters in New York, and PICUM Chair Don Flynn was one of the speakers (see *PICUM Newsletter September 2006*). Report available at: [www.unitar.org](http://www.unitar.org).

*EU-Africa: Carnage continues as EU border moves south*, Statewatch analysis by Yasha Maccanico.  
<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2006/sep/Immigration-analysis.pdf>

## **6. PICUM News**

- PICUM issued a **press release** on 15 October entitled **“Will undocumented migrants continue to be invisible in the new national action plans on social inclusion, health and pensions for 2006-2008?”** The Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process is a European mechanism through which Member States have decided to coordinate their actions and achieve greater convergence in the field of social policy. They have accordingly committed themselves to translate agreed European common objectives into “National Strategies for Social Inclusion, Pensions and Health and Long Term Care”. New plans, which should cover the period from 2006-2008, were submitted to the European Commission by all Member States on 15 September 2006. Even if undocumented migrants are among the most socially excluded groups in Europe today, almost no mention of their presence and marginalization has been made in the different national plans on social inclusion so far. The full press release is available at [www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org).

PICUM staff, board members and members have recently spoke at the following events:

- The **UN’s High-Level Dialogue (HLD)** on Migration & Development on 14-15 September 2006 was intended to examine “the multi-dimensional aspects of international migration and development” in order to “maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts.” Due to the limited number of civil society and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives to the HLD (only eight civil society and NGO representatives from around the world were invited), the voices and perspectives of the communities who would be most impacted by the policies and outcomes of this HLD, were not adequately and comprehensively represented. As a response, Migrants Rights International (MRI), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), the National Network of Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) and their respective members and partners in New York and around the world held a parallel forum on 13-15 September in New York. **The parallel forum - “Community Dialogue on Migration, Development and Human Rights”** – was intended to provide an alternate space to share perspectives on the current situation, challenges and proposed solutions around migration and of migrants’ rights from communities around the world. PICUM was a member of the international work group that planned the community forum, and PICUM director Michele LeVoy participated in the forum in New York.
  - During the parallel forum, PICUM co-organized a workshop with the National Employment Law Project (NELP) and Global Workers Justice Alliance on **“The Global Economy and Strategies for Advancing the Rights of Undocumented Migrant Workers.”** In addition to a presentation about protecting undocumented workers in Europe, speakers working in the United States, Korea, Argentina, Guatemala and Mexico presented various strategies to defend undocumented workers’ rights.
  - For more information please see:
    - Official site of the UNHLD: [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org).
    - Parallel forum to the UNHLD, 13-15 September 2006, New York: <http://migrantsrightsinternational.blogspot.com/2006/09/global-community-dialogue-on-migration.html> and [www.mfasia.org](http://www.mfasia.org).
    - Informal Interactive Hearings with NGOs, Civil Society, and the Private Sector – 12 July 2006, New York (*also see PICUM Newsletter Aug. 2006, detailing PICUM’s participation in the hearings*):

- Summary of the hearings (in all official UN languages):  
<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/447/86/PDF/N0644786.pdf?OpenElement>
  - NGO Responses to the UN Secretary General's Report  
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/hldmigration/Text/Migration.pdf>
- UNESCO special dossier on international migration:  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001469/146990E.pdf#16>
- **EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network) Basic Training Session**, 14-16 September, Helsinki, Finland. PICUM board member George Joseph represented PICUM at the session.
- **“Anti-Trafficking Activity Towards Safe Migration Perspectives: Role of NGOs as Watchdogs and Service Providers,”** NGO Platform meeting organized by La Strada, 26-27 September, Kiev, Ukraine. PICUM director Michele LeVoy co-facilitated a workshop on “Safe Migration Perspectives – ways to protect migrant workers,” which was attended by representatives of La Strada national organizations throughout Europe as well as other NGOs.
- **AIDS & Mobility Main Conference: “Bridging Policy & Action,”** held on 28-30 September in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Two of the aims of the conference were to identify highlights and emerging issues regarding migration and HIV in Europe and to expand and identify linkages between community sectors and policy makers. PICUM member Joost J Den Otter from the Dutch NGO Pharos, represented PICUM and discussed undocumented migrants’ access to health care.
- **“Mainstreaming non-discrimination in integration policies,” Round Table Conference organized by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)** 4 October 2006, The House of States, Helsinki, Finland. PICUM project officer Sara Collantes participated in the discussions and raised points on: i) minimum rights for undocumented migrants and access to basic social services; ii) no criminalisation of assistance to undocumented migrants as a first step to allow undocumented migrants and organisations providing assistance to them to participate in the democratic and political process; iii) recalling the role of trade unions in the protection of undocumented workers’ rights.
- **11<sup>th</sup> International Metropolis Conference**, 2-6 October, Lisbon, Portugal.
  - PICUM held a workshop on 3 October on **“Protecting Undocumented Migrant Workers in Europe.”** PICUM Chair Don Flynn facilitated the workshop and presenters included Franck Duvell, COMPAS (UK); Michele LeVoy, PICUM; Reyes Castillo, ACCEM (Spain); Sonia McKay, London Metropolitan University (UK) and Christopher Ho, Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center (USA).
  - PICUM Chair Don Flynn made a presentation on “Aiding trafficked migrants – a role for civil society?” in a workshop organized by Anti-Slavery International on 4 October on **“Trafficking for Forced Labor and Labor Exploitation of Migrant Workers.”**

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