



March 2018

EU announces EUR 24 million to address the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine

28 February 2018 – European Commission

The new EU funding will help address the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations along the contact line including in the non-government controlled areas. The EU, together with its Member States, is the biggest donor of humanitarian aid, early recovery and development assistance to Ukraine. With the latest contribution the EU has now provided over EUR 677 million since the beginning of the conflict in 2014.

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President of Ukraine and the EU High Representative discussed deployment of a UN peacekeeping mission to the Donbas

12 March 2018 – President of Ukraine

During the talks between President Petro Poroshenko and Vice-President of the European Commission – High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, the issue of deploying a UN peacekeeping mission to Ukraine's Eastern Conflict Area was discussed in detail.

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UN calls for accountability for human rights violations

21 March 2018 – OHCHR

There is a systemic lack of accountability for human rights violations in Ukraine, according to a report published by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission.

The report covers the period from 16 November 2017 to 15 February 2018. The reporting period was marked by the simultaneous release of detainees by the parties to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission interviewed 64 individuals released by the Government and the armed groups, recording their accounts of inhumane conditions of detention, torture or ill-treatment, including instances of sexual violence, threats of violence, and/or violations of fair trial guarantees.

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IOM is fostering integrated border management in Ukraine

27 March 2018 – UN Migration

Almost 100 million people and over 20 million vehicles crossed Ukraine's borders last year – respectively a 9% and a 2% increase from 2016.

IOM, the UN Migration Agency recently signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the State Fiscal Service (SFS) of Ukraine which sets out to help Ukraine ensure the right balance between open and controlled borders. "We aim to support Ukraine in facilitating secure, transparent and more efficient border procedures for the benefit of cross-border trade and movement of persons in the region," said IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission, Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, after signing the memorandum of understanding with the acting Head of the SFS, Myroslav Prodan.

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Moldova welcomes Verkhovna Rada ratification of border control treaty

3 March 2018 – Ukrinform

The Prime Minister of Moldova, Pavel Filip, welcomes the ratification of the Agreement on Joint Control on the Moldova-Ukraine Border by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, reported the press service of the Government of Moldova following the meeting between Prime Minister Pavel Filip and the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Andriy Parubiy. "The practical implementation of the Agreement on Joint Control on Moldova-Ukraine Border will contribute to strengthening of border security and intensification of cross-border cooperation," the statement reads.

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Kyiv tightens requirements for Russian citizens travelling to Ukraine

21 March 2018 – Reuters

Kyiv will tighten control over travel by Russian citizens to Ukraine, according to a decree signed by President Petro Poroshenko. The decree stipulates that Russians and citizens of certain other countries will be required to notify the Ukrainian authorities in advance about their reason for travelling to Ukraine. This is aimed at "safeguarding state security and neutralizing threats in the areas of migrations and citizenship", the President's administration said in a statement. According to the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service, there were 1.5 million trips by Russian citizens to Ukraine in 2017.

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Ukraine to institute a procedure for registration of foreigners and stateless persons at border checkpoints

21 March 2018 – KyivPost

The procedure for the registration of foreigners, stateless persons and their documents at the crossing points at Ukraine's border, as well as the procedure for maintaining the registry of foreigners and their passport data, are being developed and should be approved within two months. This is stated in the resolution of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) "On Urgent Measures to Neutralize Threats to National Security in the Field of Migration Policy". According to the NSDC resolution, the procedure of biometric verification and identification of citizens of Ukraine, foreigners and stateless persons should also be developed and approved.

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Ukraine and Qatar sign visa-free agreement

20 March 2018 – Ukrinform

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin signed an agreement on the introduction of a visa-free regime with the State of Qatar. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko congratulated all Ukrainians on this agreement. "Unique tourist opportunities for Ukrainians in Qatar will be created and there will be a large number of Qatari citizens [who will visit Ukraine]," the press service of the Head of State reported.

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Volume of remittances to Ukraine by labour migrants in 2018 could reach USD 9.3 billion

21 March 2018 – Interfax-Ukraine

The volume of remittances to Ukraine by migrant workers in 2018 could amount to at least USD 9.3 billion, the Deputy Head of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), Dmytro Solohub, stated. "We expect that labour migration will decline in the medium term, but it will grow for another two or three years. In January, we expected private remittances to grow from USD 7.3 billion in 2017 to USD 7.8 billion in 2018," he told journalists. Mr. Solohub noted that in the short term, the growth in the number of labour migrants positively influences the balance of payments, but in the medium term it is a significant risk factor.

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Poland simplifies the employment procedure for Ukrainians

16 March 2018 – 112.international

The Government of Poland is working on amendments to the social and migration policy that should simplify the stay of labour migrants, particularly from Ukraine, in Poland. The Investment and Development Minister of Poland, Jerzy Kwiecinski, claimed this at the XI Forum 'Europe-Ukraine'. It will be easier for Polish companies to hire foreigners. Also, the Polish Government wants to carefully study the need for certain professional workers in different regions of the country. Moreover, new amendments will also aim to increase the terms for conducting business in Poland for the citizens of Ukraine.

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A mere 4% of Ukrainian workers in Poland engaged in intellectual work – poll

27 March 2018 – UNIAN

A mere 4% of Ukrainians who have worked in Poland in the past five years were engaged in intellectual work. A total of 77% of Ukrainians in Poland were mostly engaged in physical labour, 16% were employed in the service sector, 3% had work related to intellectual activity, and a mere 1% worked as senior managers, according to a survey conducted by the Rating sociological group in February 2018. The vast majority of men (89%) were employed in physical work, and 6% of them worked in the service sector. Among women, 63% were engaged in physical work, while 28% worked in the service sector.

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UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner calls for improved access to pensions for IDPs

27 March 2018 – UNHCR Press Release

Concluding a week-long visit to Ukraine, where four years of conflict have displaced an estimated 1.5 million people, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations Mr. George Okoth-Obbo has called for enhanced actions to address the plight of conflict-affected persons and to secure their rights, including access to pensions and freedom of movement. In a meeting with Ukraine's Vice Minister of Internal Affairs, Ms. Tetiana Kovalchuk, Mr. Okoth-Obbo shared UNHCR's concerns over the low recognition rate for asylum-seekers.

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EU Advisory Mission reaffirms commitment to the reform process in Ukraine by opening another regional presence

7 March 2018 — EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

The European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) Ukraine opened a new regional presence in Odesa. This is the third regional EUAM presence since forming at the end of 2014. EUAM's other two regional presences, outside its headquarters in Kyiv, were created in Kharkiv and Lviv in 2016. According to EUAM, this has been a key part of the EU's response to public demand for systemic civilian security sector reform in the country.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team