
25 August 2022

First relocations in France with the new Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism

The operation led by the Viminale in coordination with the European Union Agency for Asylum and the International Organization for Migration

The first 38 asylum seekers, relocated under the new Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism, left today for France, in implementation of the Political Declaration adopted last 10 June in Luxembourg by the European Council of Home Affairs.

The Italian Ministry of the Interior oversaw the operation in liaison with the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In accordance with the operational modalities approved by the European Commission and the States concerned, the operation was preceded by pre-identifications, photo-signalling and health checks activities led by the Italian authorities to identify the potential beneficiaries, by the registration of applications for protection and the proposal for the relocation of applicants for international protection by the EUAA, by the analysis of individual files and by the interviews carried out by the French Delegation.

With the European Commission's financial support, the organization of transfers to France was conducted through the logistical assistance provided by the IOM, as part of dedicated European projects.

By the end of August, a delegation of German officials is expected to arrive in Italy to verify the composition of a second group of migrants to be relocated to Germany.

The political declaration approved last 10 June in Luxembourg, which provides for the annual relocation of about 10,000 migrants mainly identified among people rescued at sea as a result of SAR operations in the Central Mediterranean and along the Western Atlantic route, was shared by 18 Member States and 3 Associated States of the European Union.