

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 October 2024 17:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Flash news: Up-date on the IT-ALB migration agreement

Great! many thanks!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 11:45 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Flash news: Up-date on the IT-ALB migration agreement

Dear All,
Short update on the first transfer of migrants to Albania:

- 16 migrants (10 Bangladeshi and 6 Egyptians) intercepted in the international waters on Sunday night were transferred on the hub naval ship Ledra which disembarked them around 2 days after in Albania (Wednesday at 8 am); video from quite spectacular disembarkation is available [here](#)
- At the hotspot in the port, two of them declared to be 16 years old + two migrants appeared to have health condition and were considered to be vulnerable and transferred back to Ledra naval ship and brought to Italy.
- Medical screening and identification in the hotspot lasted from 10 am until late hours on Wednesday- initially, this process it was intended to last few hours only.
- It is not clear what is the current status of 12 migrants, e.g. whether and when they have already lodged an application for IP etc.

Best - [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 11:13:26 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Flash news: Up-date on the IT-ALB migration agreement

Dear Colleagues,

some update on FR upon future disembarkations is shared by Le Monde: "The asylum procedure will be made possible by a videoconferencing system linking the Albanian centres to the court in Rome, where

judges will be able to supervise the hearings. Asylum seekers will be able to communicate with their lawyers in the same way, with decisions expected within 28 days.”

More here:

[Italy sends first group of asylum seekers to Albania \(lemonde.fr\)](https://www.lemonde.fr)

With kind regards,

personal data x 2

From: [REDACTED] human resources

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 7:20 AM

To: [REDACTED] human resources x 4

Subject: Fw: Flash news: Up-date on the IT-ALB migration agreement

Od: Jonas Grimheden <Jonas.Grimheden@frontex.europa.eu>

Wysłane: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:57:17 AM

Do: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Temat: RE: Flash news: Up-date on the IT-ALB migration agreement

Thanks for the update, [REDACTED], and for the good overview of costs etc from the [REDACTED]. human resources

Best,

Jonas

From: [REDACTED] personal data x 4

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:55 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Flash news: Up-date on the IT-ALB migration agreement

Dear [REDACTED],

Following our previous email, this is jut to inform you (for your awareness) that the first transfer of migrants from Italy to Albania under the new migration deal has taken plane. Attached also an email from the [REDACTED] with further info; below a piece of news shared in the newsletter today.

human resources

We will keep you posted with more developments.

Best,

Italy sends the first ship with migrants to Albania

Italy is transferring the first group of migrants to Albania, the Interior Ministry said Monday, as part of a contentious plan to process thousands of asylum-seekers outside its borders.

[Reuters](#) [AP](#) [ANSA](#) [The Guardian](#) [Euractiv](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 5:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
Subject: Flash news: Up-date on the IT-ALB migration agreement

Dear [REDACTED],

As the practical application of the IT-ALB agreement goes ahead, we drafted a summary of its key points and potential thorny issues. The info you find below is based on multiple exchanges with FX operational team and [REDACTED] as well as extensive desk research of written sources.

Hope you will find it informative.

Best – [REDACTED] personal data + human resources

When will the deal kick start?

The Italian ambassador to Albania [announced](#) that centers are operational as of today. According to the UNHCR Italy, depending on the weather conditions, the first transfers are expected early next week.

Which categories of migrants will be eligible?

- Only adult and non-vulnerable male migrants originating from the so-called 22 “safe countries of origin” (as designated in the [decree](#) of 7th May 2024) intercepted by the Italian or other EU MS assets (*note: people rescued by NGO assets are excluded*) in the international waters will be transferred to Albania.
- In practice, Tunisians, Bangladeshis and Egyptians will be the most targeted groups (top nationalities among sea arrivals from the ‘safe country origin’ list). Only readmission agreement with Tunisia is well functioning though (with two return flights scheduled each week).

How is the process organised?

- Migrants intercepted in the international waters will be first transhipped to the ‘hub ship’ (with rather small capacity, most probably about 70-80 people, including crew etc.) which belongs to the Italian Navy and will be stationed in the southwest of Lampedusa (in a small patch of sea outside territorial waters but within the IT SRR zone so [REDACTED]).

The following migrants will not be ideally transhipped to the ‘hub ship’ in the first place: migrants with visible/evident vulnerabilities, e.g. minors, elderly, women, people with serious health condition, migrants who carry travel/ID documents (*note: according to the Italian law, if a migrant submits passport or other*

valid equivalent document ID , he/she is excluded from the detention during asylum border procedure so he/she could not be detained in Albania anyway).

- Migrants transhipped to the 'hub ship' will receive medical assistance and will undergo a pre-identification led by the police in order to further identify the most eligible migrants.
- The 'hub ship' few times per month will navigate towards Shengjin port (~20 hrs navigation), where it will disembark migrants for which migration-related procedures (both asylum and return-related) will continue directly in Albania. Should new vulnerabilities emerge at the early stages of the registration process, those people would re-embark the 'hub ship' that will wait at anchor for up to 12 hours.
- Upon arrival to Shengyin port, migrants will undergo further health checks and identification/screening procedures in the designated facility which will function like a hotspot but with no reception capacity (see: [picture](#)). They will also most probably register their applications for international protection. The same day, they will be transferred to the Gyader facilities located 20 km away (see: [video](#)).
- The Gyader camp is divided into three sections: the largest will accommodate migrants who have applied for international protection and are awaiting decision (880 places); the second is a pre-removal detention center (CPR with 144 places) where people whose asylum application has been rejected will be housed, and the third section dedicated to a small penitentiary for those who commit crimes within the facility (80 places).
- Migrants eligible for one of the forms of protection will be ultimately transfer to Italy. Same will apply if Italy is unable to carry out the return of people hosted by Albania.

How long will migrants stay in Albania?

- In principle, according to the Italian law, migrants awaiting their asylum applications being examined under the so-called border procedure can be detained for not more than 28 days (up to the judicial decision on the suspensive effect in case of appeal), whereas people held in pre-removal detention centers, can be detained for up to 18 months (maximum initial period of 6 months, with possibility of 3-month extensions if necessary, up to 18 months in total).
- Importantly, each time detention order has to be validated by the court (Regional Administrative Court in Rome). If this is not the case, the migrant should be transferred to Italy for further processing of his application.

What is the role of UNHCR?

Upon request of the Italian authorities, the UNHCR Italy has agreed to undertake a role of monitoring and counselling during initial three-month period whereupon it will make available its recommendations to the Italian government. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] international relations

Which other external partners will be involved?

human resources

IOM will also be engaged in medical screening and provision of cultural mediation services (*note: [REDACTED] is to arrange a meeting with IOM Italy*).

Will Frontex be involved?

- In one of his official [statements](#), the ED stated that Frontex will not be able to support return operations from Albania envisaged under the deal as it is not allowed to do it from the territory of the territory of TC. It however stayed silent on the possible FX involvement in other stages of the process.
- Based on exchanges [REDACTED] had with both and [REDACTED], the Italian authorities [REDACTED].
- Frontex assets (both naval under [REDACTED] and aerial under [REDACTED] and MAS) will be most probably indirectly affected by the deal, e.g. by initially intercepting migrants and subsequently transhipping them to the 'hub ship' or by contributing to the detection of migrant boats by means of aerial surveillance.

Modus operandi (Cooperation with Member States)

What are the most contentious issues so far?

- Efficient handling of vulnerabilities/certain characteristics which are most difficult to identify/assess: age, family links, nationality.
- Validation of detention by the court: courts often refuse to validate the detentions adopted regarding asylum seekers from safe countries of origin, e.g. out of 74 detention decisions [issued](#) by the Agrigento police so far, only 10 were validated by the judiciary. It is therefore pivotal for the successful implementation of the agreement how judges in Rome will approach detention orders.
- 'Safe country of origin' concept applied by Italy: there are a lot of polemics within the Italian judiciary on designation of certain countries as safe countries of origin, especially those mainly targeted under the agreement. The [CJEU in its recent judgement](#) has also established that there cannot be territorial exceptions or exceptions for certain categories of people to designate a country as "safe". This criterion clashes with the Italian practice of indicating some states, such as Tunisia, Egypt, and Bangladesh, as only partially safe.