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## **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**

# **Ad hoc Sub-Committee to carry out a fact-finding visit to Sicily, Italy**

### **Report<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Declassified by decision of the Committee at its meeting on 17-18 October 2024.

## A. Introduction

1. The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons established, with the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly, an ad hoc Sub-Committee with the aim to look into the situation of refugees and migrants as well as their defenders in Lampedusa, in Catania and its surroundings. Mr Paul Gavan (Ireland, UEL) was appointed by the Committee on 29 May 2024 to chair this ad hoc Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee also included members of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, namely Mr Paulo Pisco (Portugal, SOC), Mr Birgir Thórarinnsson (Iceland, EPP/CD) and Ms Sandra Zampa (Italy, SOC), who joined the fact-finding visit. The Sub-Committee was initially also composed of Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR), Mr Emmanuel Fernandes (France, UEL), Mr Oleksii Goncharenko (Ukraine, EC/DA), Ms Arusyak Julhakyan (Armenia, EPP/CD), Ms Zdravka Bušić (Croatia, EPP/CD), Ms Nađa Laković (Montenegro, ALDE), Mr Marco Scurria (Italy, EC/DA), and Ms Tamara Vonta (Slovenia, ALDE), who could eventually not join the visit due to imperative commitments.

2. The mandate of the ad hoc Sub-Committee (Annex 1) was to draw attention of parliamentarians from member States of the Council of Europe to the situation of migrants and asylum-seekers in Lampedusa and Sicily overall, with a particular attention to women and migrant minors. The delegation also attached importance to assess the situation of the various public and private actors involved in migration management.

3. One of the main objectives of the delegation was to assess the situation of migrants and asylum-seekers in congestion points and regarding the Italian reception system overall. Lampedusa and Sicily overall may be considered as one of the main migration entry points of Europe. The congestion and the reception conditions in Lampedusa and other centres in Sicily are highly symptomatic of the numerous challenges facing Council of Europe's member States in migration management, and providing effective access to rights to migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers, while also maintaining effective border control. In this respect, the delegation was also invited to assess the border management policies, including procedures to identify victims of trafficking, the existing fundamental rights monitoring mechanisms, and the reception system in the visited areas.

4. For this purpose, the ad hoc Sub-Committee held meetings with numerous actors and visited several reception facilities; the detailed agenda of the fact-finding visit is attached in Annex 2 to this report, and the list of participants in Annex 3.

5. The members of the delegation wish to thank the Italian authorities of various levels, who showed willingness and openness all along our fact-finding visit. They also thank the Secretariat of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the Secretariat of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE). They all greatly facilitated the organisation of the visit.

## B. Background

6. This visit is part of the Council of Europe's overall work on the situation of migrants and asylum-seekers in Europe, which involves examining their humanitarian conditions, legal issues, and the involvement of various stakeholders in supporting them.

7. It is also relevant to refer to the important coordination and field work carried out by the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Migration and Refugees,<sup>2</sup> the country and thematic reports issued by the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner,<sup>3</sup> and the various relevant monitoring bodies. Prior to the fact-finding visit, the Council of Europe's different institutions made observations that highlight persistent issues, and which were crucial for an exhaustive assessment of the migrants', asylum-seekers', and refugees' humanitarian situation.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [www.coe.int/en/web/special-representative-secretary-general-migration-refugees](https://www.coe.int/en/web/special-representative-secretary-general-migration-refugees).

<sup>3</sup> [www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/country-work](https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/country-work).

<sup>4</sup> See in particular the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).

8. Lampedusa is a border land, and its geographic position far from the mainland brings huge challenges. Lampedusa is one of the main entry ways to Europe for migrants. In the past years, the number of people arriving greatly exceeded the number of local inhabitants. There are about 6,500 inhabitants in Lampedusa, whereas about 18,000 migrants reached the island in 2023.<sup>5</sup> The island's limited infrastructure and resources pose practical and logistical challenges, particularly when faced with a substantial number of arrivals by boat or during rescue operations. This creates substantial logistical difficulties, particularly about managing the sewage system, securing water supply and organising rubbish collection.

9. Despite these challenges, the inhabitants of Lampedusa have adapted to the regular influx of migrants, especially during significant arrivals, and have consistently demonstrated solidarity. Mr Filippo Mannino, Mayor of Lampedusa, whom the delegation met during its visit, emphasised the need to highlight the effective handling of migrant arrivals, particularly in the media, to enhance the island's image as a tourist-friendly and secure destination. Mayor Mannino recalled that the issue of migration to Europe is a shared responsibility, given that many migrants show little interest in staying in Italy. He hoped for more effective solidarity, as well as a greater involvement and assistance from neighbouring countries, particularly those in the Mediterranean region, to Lampedusa.

### C. Who are the people arriving in Lampedusa?

10. As a preliminary remark, it is important to recall UNHCR's definition of refugees<sup>6</sup>: the individuals recognised *inter alia* under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. UNHCR adds that the refugee population also includes people in refugee-like situations.<sup>7</sup> According to UNHCR (same source), asylum-seekers "are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined."

11. The majority of the migrants who arrive in Lampedusa request international protection. They arrive in Lampedusa with a multitude of stories, diverse cultural heritages, and varied migration paths.

12. Data is essential to gain insight into the complex situation Italy confronts as it grapples with the continuous arrival of migrants. The figures show a consistent rise in the number of people arriving in Italy by sea from 2015 to 2023, while decreasing in 2024. In 2023, there was a remarkable surge in arrivals, with a staggering 157,651 migrants reaching the shores of Italy.<sup>8</sup> This denotes the highest number of sea arrivals recorded since 2016.<sup>9</sup>

13. UNHCR has attributed the sharp rise in 2023 to the surge of departures from Tunisia, which accounted for the majority (62%) of departures. Additionally, the departure rates from Libya accounted for 33% of the total, while 5% of migrants left from Türkiye.<sup>10</sup> Almost three quarters of people arriving by sea in 2023 were adult men (72%).<sup>11</sup> Another 12% were unaccompanied minors, 10% were adult women and 5% were accompanied minors.<sup>12</sup> Although the number of arrivals varies from year to year, this demographic breakdown has remained stable over the past few years.<sup>13</sup>

14. In the first nine months of 2024, 47,569 migrants reached Italy by sea,<sup>14</sup> which includes 5,542 unaccompanied minors (12%). This marks a 65% drop compared to September 2023.<sup>15</sup> Most

<sup>5</sup> See, for instance, [www.lemonde.fr/en/europe/article/2023/09/15/migrant-surge-doubles-population-of-italian-island-of-lampedusa\\_6135968\\_143.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/en/europe/article/2023/09/15/migrant-surge-doubles-population-of-italian-island-of-lampedusa_6135968_143.html).

<sup>6</sup> [www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/definition](http://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/definition).

<sup>7</sup> "People in refugee-like situation refers to a category which is descriptive in nature and includes groups of people who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained", same source.

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR, 13 March 2024, [Italy Sea Arrivals Dashboard December 2023](https://www.unhcr.org/italy-sea-arrivals).

<sup>9</sup> ISMU Foundation, 2024, [ISMU Annual Report 2024](https://ismu.org/annual-report-2024); "Notably, 2023 ranked as the third highest year for sea arrivals since 1998, following the peaks of 2014 (170,100) and 2016 (181,436)." Source: UNHCR, 13 March 2024, [Italy Sea Arrivals Dashboard December 2023](https://www.unhcr.org/italy-sea-arrivals).

<sup>10</sup> UNHCR, 13 March 2024, [Italy Sea Arrivals Dashboard December 2023](https://www.unhcr.org/italy-sea-arrivals).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. The expression "unaccompanied minor" refers indistinctly to the various ways of referring to this population group.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ministry of the Interior (Italy), 25 September 2024, [Sbarchi e accoglienza dei migranti: tutti i dati](https://www.mint.interno.it/it/immigrazione/sbarchi-e-accoglienza-dei-migranti-tutti-i-dati).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

people who have arrived are from Bangladesh, Syria, and Tunisia.<sup>16</sup> Like in 2023, the great majority were adult men (74%), whilst 14% were unaccompanied minors, 7% were adult women, and 6% were accompanied minors.<sup>17</sup>

15. It was of utmost importance for the ad hoc Sub-Committee members to meet and talk in person with people who recently arrived in Italy by sea. The delegation was able to engage in emotional exchanges with young adults, women, and unaccompanied minors on several occasions. The delegation heard, for instance, Ahmed's poignant testimony. This former unaccompanied minor explained that he left his home country of Senegal as an adolescent and arrived in Italy in 2016. Ahmed explained that many migrants left their country because of the violence they experienced, obliging them to seek safety elsewhere, as staying would expose them to further harm. He added that migrants also encountered violence during their migration journey, and frequently met dangerous criminals; this was particularly aggravated for girls and women, who moreover often endured sexual violence. He underlined that educational opportunities in Senegal were scarce. "I am one of the lucky ones because I was welcomed by a community. Italy gives education opportunities", he said. Ahmed finally highlighted the necessity to provide psychological aid to migrants upon their arrival, and recognised the trauma they faced in their country of origin and throughout their migration journey.

#### **D. Search and rescue operations**

16. Since 2014, the IOM Missing Migrants Project has recorded over 20,000 deaths and disappearances in the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>18</sup> One of the crucial issues regarding saving migrants' lives at sea is surveillance by sea and by air of both territorial and international waters, with vessels, planes and drones. Such a surveillance is conducted by the national coast guard authority and the European Agency Frontex. National coast guards maintain a watchful eye on territorial waters, while Frontex assumes the responsibility of monitoring international waters. NGOs also operate in the same area of the Mediterranean. Moreover, commercial ships, like any other vessel, are obliged by international maritime law to provide assistance to any ship in distress within their area of navigation. The presence of numerous actors requires effective coordination to prevent the tragic loss of migrants' lives at sea.

17. Several institutions participate in search and rescue (SAR) operations throughout Italy. Because Lampedusa is a major entry point, its Coast Guard Authority, which the delegation met, plays an important role herein. Its primary role is to protect the civil port and provide assistance to vessels in distress. To carry out these tasks, it utilises ships as well as drones that fly over the rescue area twice a day.

18. The Coast Guard Authority of Lampedusa is made up of 78 staff members. Each search and rescue crew includes, amongst others, a nurse, a doctor, a rescue swimmer, and a cultural mediator from IOM. The coast guards gather vital data during every rescue mission, such as the count of individuals rescued, their countries of origin, and the location where their journey began. The Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (IMRCC), the regional centre in Palermo, and the local level in Lampedusa work together to coordinate the SAR operations. One level transmits alerts to another. In 2023, they conducted 1,786 SAR operations, performing an average of about five rescue operations per day. The coast guards observed fewer arrivals in 2024, and, subsequently, fewer SAR operations.

19. In addition to national coordination efforts, there is a co-operation with other institutions, particularly the tax and customs Police (*Guardia di Finanza*), as well as with Frontex. Frontex contributes to joint operations in the Mediterranean, such as the sharing of naval resources. Nonetheless, the Lampedusa Coast Guard Authority clarified that they have solely operated within their designated rescue area, which means they have not had any interaction with the Libyan or Tunisian coast guards.

20. Additionally, non-governmental organisations involved in SAR operations like Sea Watch, Sea-Eye, SOS Humanity, SOS Mediterranee, or Open Arms, play a crucial role in such operations. The delegation met Sea Watch in Lampedusa. The organisation has two local ships as well as two planes and can monitor the situation at sea and potential boats in distress in the Central Mediterranean in order

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> UNHCR, 23 September 2024, [Italy weekly snapshot - 23 September 2024 \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/italy-weekly-snapshot-23-september-2024).

<sup>18</sup> Here is the number of migrants dead according to IOM:  
<https://missingmigrants.iom.int/region/mediterranean>.

to alert the authorities. Sea Watch works with a Swiss NGO called Humanitarian Pilot Initiative. The joint missions include a pilot, a tactical coordinator, a field media coordinator who documents, and a spotter looking at sea through binoculars.

21. Sea Watch provided the delegation with a comprehensive account of a recent shipwreck that took place on 4 September 2024. Upon witnessing a migrant boat in distress, carrying 35 individuals, the organisation promptly relayed the information to the competent authorities. It continuously provided updates about the boat's progress but did not receive any response from them. A few days later, Sea Watch learnt about the shipwreck of the boat in question, following which only 7 out of 35 people were rescued. Sea Watch claimed that the authorities did not intervene in a timely manner, despite its alerts, and reminded the delegation about comparable incidents in the past. During the meeting with the delegation, the Lampedusa Coast Guard Authority vehemently denied such claims, emphasising their commitment to thoroughly investigate every incoming alert, regardless of its origin. The judicial authority is investigating the case.

22. On 2 October 2024, Italy adopted new measures on migration. The new Law Decree places new restrictions on NGOs using aircraft to monitor arrivals at sea. They will no longer be allowed to tell their ships where to carry out rescues, but will have to report any emergency immediately to the competent air traffic control authority and the national maritime rescue coordination centre.

## **E. Disembarkation and management of migrants' arrivals in the Lampedusa hotspot**

23. The authorities that the delegation met in Lampedusa explained the process of arrival and management of migrants from their disembarkation until their short stay (in general, a maximum of 72 hours, with an average of 24 hours) in Lampedusa hotspot (*Contrada Imbriacola* hotspot).

24. After the search and rescue operation, the rescued migrants disembark at the Lampedusa port. There are numerous actors involved in the first operations and present at the pier, such as the coast guards, the State police, the Tax and Customs Police, Frontex, and many other organisations offering first assistance to support newcomers who need urgent medical care: UNHCR, European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), CISOM (*Corpo Italiano di Soccorso dell'Ordine di Malta*), Save the children and representatives of civil society, like Mediterranean Hope or the nuns of the *Unione Internazionale delle Superiore Generali*. A triage conducted by a team of doctors, nurses, and cultural mediators aims to identify needs for immediate and potential future medical care. help in this respect. Common health issues include hypothermia during the winter, dehydration and heat strokes during the summer period, diabetes, burns, or inhalation of toxic fumes from boats' engines.

25. The delegation was present at Lampedusa port on 16 September 2024, 20:45, to witness the disembarkation of approximately 70 migrants who were rescued by the Lampedusa Coast Guard Authority. The parliamentarians expressed their sympathy towards the situation and commended the authorities for their efficient handling of the disembarkation process.

26. Many people arriving in Lampedusa are in a situation of vulnerability. They are exhausted and traumatised by their journeys and have often experienced violence, including gender-based violence and torture, trafficking, labour exploitation, forcible return, or potential abusive detention in transit countries. Unaccompanied minors and pregnant women, who are at risk of experiencing sexual violence during their migration journey, are among these vulnerable individuals. A significant number of them may be dealing with intersecting vulnerabilities, such as pregnant women who have suffered from sexual violence, or unaccompanied minors who are victims of torture.

27. The reception system's various actors collaborate within the Community-based protection (CBP) framework to identify and assist vulnerable migrants or those with specific needs swiftly and efficiently. At the disembarkations, UNHCR assists in identifying individuals with vulnerabilities, such as single mothers, individuals with disabilities, or unaccompanied minors. They get certification of vulnerabilities, which will help them later during the next phases of the reception system. Once the initial medical care is administered, the migrants are transported by bus to the Lampedusa hotspot, where a dedicated health centre continues to provide ongoing medical support.

28. Once the initial medical care is administered, the migrants are transported by bus to the Lampedusa hotspot. Hotspots are governmental centres set up in the places of disembarkation where

take place the operations of first assistance, health screening, identification and administration of information on how to apply for international protection.

29. The delegation visited the Lampedusa hotspot, managed by the Italian Red Cross. The establishment has devised protocols tailored to the diverse populations of migrants. They are supplied with food, water, and clothing, as part of the initial reception system. They have access to washing facilities and charging stations for their mobile phones, crucial to communicate with their families. In addition, the staff evaluates their humanitarian needs.

30. Regarding the identification phase of migrants in the hotspot, the Police collaborates with UN agencies. IOM also assists in these procedures to identify vulnerabilities associated with human trafficking and labour exploitation. Additionally, the EU Agency for Asylum aids in the pre-identification process by providing information on migrants' rights, including the right to asylum, and gathering data on the arrivals.

31. This initial phase of identification entails conducting brief interviews and collecting comprehensive data on migrants, including personal details such as name, date of birth, and fingerprints of all ten fingers, which will be registered in national and international databases. The interpreters also play an essential role as cultural mediators in assisting migrants to understand the various steps of the pre-identification process. Furthermore, migrants receive informative sessions from different entities, including the Italian Red Cross, the EU Agency for Asylum, UNHCR, and IOM, the latter of which covers subjects such as trafficking and labour exploitation. Save the Children is also presents in the hotspot, offering support to families with children, and unaccompanied minors.

32. The migrants arriving in Lampedusa may also be victims of trafficking. When there is a potential trafficking situation identified during the pre-identification phase, the Police notifies the responsible department. Frontex also contributes to the pre-identification phase by gathering data on the origins of migrants' journeys. Frontex officers receive specialised training to identify indicators of trafficking when conducting confidential interviews with migrants at the hotspot.

33. The delegation learnt that the Lampedusa hotspot improved after June 2023, when the Italian Red Cross took over its management. Since then, staff has increased, and the centre has been better organised. Furthermore, there is now enhanced co-operation between organisations and institutions at local and regional levels, notably with UNHCR.

34. Despite the progress made in the management of the Lampedusa hotspot, civil society representatives conveyed to the delegation their inability to access the hotspot facilities, while migrants are restricted from freely leaving the premises.

35. The Lampedusa hotspot thus continues to grapple with significant challenges in developing accommodating and suitable facilities. Beds, mattresses, showers and bathrooms are in bad condition and inadequate. Some difficulties are primarily due to limited space and frequent overcrowding. The delegation was informed of the local population's resistance to expanding the hotspot.

36. Interlocutors underlined the risk of promiscuity of minors with adults in the Lampedusa hotspot, as it seems impossible to separate unaccompanied minors and women from male adults, especially at night, despite the Prefect of Lampedusa affirming, on the contrary, that minors do not stay anymore with adults. No control over building access at night raises security risk for vulnerable migrants.

37. By visiting the Lampedusa hotspot and interacting with different players involved, the delegation gained insight into how the organisation in Lampedusa allows migrants' disembarkation at the Door of Europe migrant and their reception. The delegation, however, regrets it could not meet with migrants in Lampedusa hotspot. This was a result of the migrants being moved to Sicily few hours before the visit, leaving the Lampedusa centre unoccupied. The delegation nonetheless met with the various institutional and non-institutional stakeholders dealing with the complicated situation of the regular arrival of migrants on this small island.

38. Once the period spent in the Lampedusa hotspot is over, the migrants are then transported to Porto Empedocle or Pozzallo on the main island of Sicily by ferry, and then, if they express the will to apply for international protection, sorted to the reception centres for asylum-seekers situated throughout Italy. If migrants do not express the will to apply for international protection, a different path is initiated: as irregular foreign nationals, they cannot stay on the Italian territory. This may result in an order issued to leave the Italian territory within 7 days or in the detention of migrants in detention centres (so-called CPR) until the final execution of the return to the country of origin.

## F. Reception system

39. Italy's reception system for asylum-seekers and refugees consists of two levels of reception, preceded by an initial phase of assistance, ensured in the crisis points (hotspots), established in the places of disembarkation, such as in Lampedusa.

40. The Italian reception system for asylum-seekers and refugees is then divided into two phases:

- The **first phase of reception** for people expressing the will to apply for asylum after their identification is in the governmental first reception centres (CAS). They remain in reception centres until their application for international protection is completed;
- a **second reception and integration phase**, ensured at territorial level by local authority projects (SAI).

41. Governmental centres handle the **first reception** tasks such as initiating asylum procedures, evaluating health conditions, and addressing vulnerabilities. The extraordinary reception centres, known as CAS, are determined by the Prefectures in consultation with the local authority where they are situated. They provide only basic necessities, such as housing, meals, clothing, health care and linguistic-cultural mediation.

42. **The second reception system** is guaranteed by the projects of the Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR), established in 2002, recently renamed Reception and Integration System (SAI). The programmes associated with the second reception system go beyond providing basic necessities like housing and meals. They encompass a wide array of functional interventions designed to help individuals regain their independence, such as Italian language courses, vocational training, legal guidance, access to local services, job placement assistance, housing support, social integration, and comprehensive psycho-social-healthcare services.

43. Recent legislative interventions (Decree Law no. 113/2018, Decree Law no. 130/2020 and Decree Law no. 20/2023) stipulate that CAS centres can only accommodate asylum-seekers. SAI facilities, instead, are conceived to accommodate beneficiaries of international protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection), and unaccompanied foreign minors. In case of available places, SAI centres can also accommodate vulnerable asylum seekers, asylum seekers who legally entered Italy through complementary pathways (government-led resettlements or private sponsored humanitarian admission programmes), and holders of national permits and complementary protections.

44. In this context, the delegation paid a visit to the CAS and SAI centres run by Cooperative *Iride* in Giarre, near Catania. There are about 50 young adult men hosted in the same building, on different floors. These centres are part of the territorial Bronte project, a network of small reception centres distributed among several municipalities, carried out in the territory for over fifteen years, taking on the most difficult challenges of immigration and turning them into opportunities, for migrants and for Sicilian resources (operators, professionals, teams) who find employment in the Island. These facilities provide Italian language courses, vocational training, activation of internships in the local area and volunteer activities that periodically engage migrants in supporting the local community. The manager and the legal and social operators working in the two centres underlined that the exclusion of asylum seekers from the SAI reception system lowers their chances of taking part in programmes aimed at fostering social inclusion and increases a condition of precariousness.

45. The good reception practices witnessed by the delegation during its fact-finding visit can be largely attributed to the experience that public and private actors gained in the last ten years, after the massive arrivals in 2014-2016. Nevertheless, many interlocutors stressed there were still critical situations with respect to reception conditions, particularly in CAS centres, where the quality of services offered is very low, and expressed worries about the overwhelming number of migrants in reception centres during periods of high arrivals.

46. A comprehensive understanding of migration to Europe necessitates recognising that Italy's reception data system does not encompass all migrants, resulting in their exclusion from the protection network. Numerous migrants leave the centres soon after their arrival and continue their journey to other European destinations or remain in Italy and work even if off the books, and undocumented. The responsibility for this issue cannot be solely attributed to Italy; rather, it underscores a broader gap in Europe that questions the effectiveness of the European Dublin regulation and the overall reception system and solidarity.



47. The Decree-Law no. 20/2023 (so-called “Cutro Decree”) introduced the possibility of issuing detention orders to asylum seekers who have been stopped for evading, or attempting to evade border controls, or who are from countries of origin that Italy deems safe,<sup>19</sup> and if they do not have a passport or do not present a financial guarantee. After the first assistance in the hotspot, they are placed in reception facilities situated close to the places of arrival (see the new structures built in Porto Empedocle and Pozzallo), where the registration of the asylum application and the initiation of the accelerated procedure take place. This accelerated procedure does not apply to unaccompanied minors and to people with special needs. A judge must confirm the detention order, and the detention cannot last more than four weeks. Upon receipt of the application, the police officers immediately transmit the necessary documentation to the Territorial Commission, which must take steps for the personal interview within seven days of the receipt of the documentation. The decision must be taken within the following two days.

## **G. Access to asylum and to international protection**

48. In 2023, a total of 1,129,640 asylum applications were submitted in the 27 EU Member States, the highest number recorded since 2018. In Italy, 135,820 applications for international protection were filed, compared to 351,510 filed in Germany, 166,880 in France and 162,420 in Spain.

49. The Italian asylum system examined 41,415 asylum applications: 49.8% refusals (20,625), 11.9% recognition of refugee status (4,910), 14.9% beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (6,185), 23.4% beneficiaries of special protection (9,690).<sup>20</sup>

50. By mid-September 2024, 138,104 migrants were hosted in the Italian reception system, including hotspots, reception centres, and reception and integration centres (SAI). Lombardy was the region hosting the highest number of migrants, yet Sicily was the region hosting most people in reception and integration centres (SAI).<sup>21</sup> The SAI network holds the capacity to host 38,535 migrants throughout Italy. Only 3% of places in the network remained unoccupied at this moment in time.<sup>22</sup>

## **H. Women**

51. Women are a vulnerable group among migrants. Throughout the migrants’ journey, interlocutors presented the delegation with numerous instances of women’s vulnerability, both during the migration process and upon their arrival in Italy. Women may encounter dangerous criminals and at a heightened risk of becoming victims of trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence. Additionally, they often become targets for various forms of exploitation, including prostitution, forced marriages, and enslavement as domestic workers.

52. Some organisations underlined that when there was a significant number of migrants arriving in the Lampedusa hotspot, women were exposed to a higher degree of promiscuity due to the lack of private sleeping and hygiene spaces, aggravating their precarity. In addition, mandatory gynaecological examinations were exclusively conducted on women who were visibly pregnant and those who had explicitly requested them. Furthermore, the hygiene kit distributed upon arrival in the hotspot did not include sanitary pads, meaning girls and women must specifically ask for them. Additionally, skirts for women may be unavailable, posing cultural or religious challenges. Several interlocutors informed the delegation that women often left rapidly the reception centres, without further trace of them.

## **I. Unaccompanied minors**

53. According to the Ministry of the Interior, almost 5,000 unaccompanied minors arrived in Italy in the first nine months of 2024, and 18,820 arrived the previous year.

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<sup>19</sup> Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Morocco, Montenegro, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia (see the decree dated 7 May 2024 of the Italian Ministry of foreign affairs).

<sup>20</sup> Source: Eurostat.

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of the Interior, 26 September 2024, [Cruscotto statistico del 26 settembre 2024](#).

<sup>22</sup> SAI – Sistema di accoglienza e integrazione, 31 August 2024, [I NUMERI DELLA RETE SAI](#).



54. The Law No. 47 of 2017 (the so-called “Zampa Law”) introduced a single procedure to identify the minor, which makes up the fundamental step for ascertaining the minor’s age, on which depends the possibility of applying protection measures in favour of unaccompanied minors. The Law also introduced measures concerning strengthening rights and protections in favour of minors, starting from the reception stages.

55. The regulatory framework for the reception of unaccompanied foreign minors distinguishes between a first and a second reception and establishes the principle that unaccompanied minors may under no circumstances be detained or received in return centres (CPR). As specified by the Law No. 47 of 2017, these centres are in any case facilities intended for minors, established and operated by the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with local authorities, and partly funded through the EU Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

56. All unaccompanied minors shall be received within the framework of the Reception and Integration System (SAI), the capacity of which must therefore be commensurate with the actual presence of foreign minors in the national territory. Asylum-seekers who have been placed in the SAI while under 18 years old remain in reception until their application for international protection is completed.

57. In the second reception centre, the minors can stay until 18 years old, or 21 years old with a judge’s authorisation, only if the child gets new permits in certain situations. Interlocutors informed the delegation that minors with permits could stay until 18 and could transition to work or study permits based on an integration assessment. The delegation was, however, informed of the complexity and the bureaucratic character of such procedures, participating in the obstacles to integration. Lastly, the delegation noted that the quality of integration was closely linked to the reception conditions and the reception centre’s performance.

58. The recent Law Decree no. 133 of 2023 introduces several novelties about child identification and age assessment. It provides for the possibility for the public security authority to proceed with examinations to determine the age of an alleged minor, as an exception to the already codified procedure based on the socio-medical assessment conducted by multidisciplinary teams. Among the changes, it is established that the procedure for the socio-sanitary assessment of the child’s age must be concluded within 60 days from the date on which such assessment is ordered by the Public Prosecutor’s Office. Several interlocutors, however, expressed concerns about the recent legislative developments, which may affect the quality of the Italian reception system concerning unaccompanied minors.

59. The new law also provides that in case of need, there is the possibility for prefects to establish extraordinary reception centres (CAS) for minors, with different services and fewer guarantees than ordinary SAI centres. Among the challenges at stake, the length of stay of unaccompanied minors in the first reception varies according to the number of arrivals, and the availability of space in the dedicated centre. Their prolonged stay in these first reception centres poses a challenge, despite the fact that their stay may not exceed 30 days according to the law.

60. The Law No. 47 of 2017, in addition, provided the establishment by the regional guarantors for childhood and adolescence of a computerised list of voluntary guardians available to take on the guardianship of an unaccompanied foreign minor and shifted from the tutelary judge to the Juvenile Court the competence to open the guardianship and appoint the guardian, so as to concentrate all the jurisdictional procedural stages relating to unaccompanied foreign minors at the same judge.

61. The President of the Juvenile Court of Catania provided the delegation with detailed information regarding the process of selecting guardians for every unaccompanied minor. These guardians are primarily experienced professionals, often lawyers, who have undergone specialised training and possess a strong technical expertise. The Juvenile Court of Catania has a transcultural psychiatrist who assists minors in recognising situations of trafficking. There are also cultural mediators, who also act as translators, and accompany the court and the minors in all the integration process. They play a key role in making sure unaccompanied minors understand gender equality when they come from patriarchal societies. The president of the court added that it had signed a protocol of co-operation with the Sicilian Islamic Community to provide Muslim unaccompanied minors with spiritual care and a psychological support at the same time. Such agreements also participate in avoiding risks of radicalisation within the migrants’ communities.

62. According to the president of the court, the local implementation of the legislative framework lacks social workers in certain municipalities. For example, approximately 30% of unaccompanied minors get this continuing residence permit. Such procedures work well in big municipalities, less in small ones, as the access to professional training and employment opportunities is more difficult for budgetary reasons. In terms of good practices, SAI centres sometimes work together with local businesses to offer job training or employment to these youngsters. On another positive note, some guardians stay on as mentors to these young adults, despite not being obliged to do so.

63. The delegation visited in Catania the first reception centre for unaccompanied minors, called *// Nodo*, funded by the EU Asylum Migration and Integration Fund. The centre hosts about 20 minors and is staffed with a multidisciplinary team that offers basic services, such as Italian language courses and legal guidance, as well as various additional activities, such as gardening and access to professional training through partnerships with local companies.

64. The delegation also visited the *CivicoZero* centre in Catania, managed by the organisation Save the Children. This day centre for minors is open until 18:00 every day, and provides resources, educational opportunities, psychological support, and language instruction to unaccompanied minors aged 14 and above, with an average age of around 16-17 years old. For children under 14 years old, *CivicoZero* ensures that the child protection authorities are notified. Workshops are set up to offer minors legal advice and assist them in crafting CVs, among other things. The centre also offers them legal assistance and educates them about their rights, empowering them to make informed choices about their lives and futures. The centre's staff, particularly cultural mediators, frequently come into contact with the young individuals on the streets.

#### **J. Humanitarian aid and overall support to migrants: the crucial role of the civil society**

65. The delegation met with civil society organisations in Lampedusa and in Catania, offering insight into a wide scope of their work. Civil society organisations are involved at all stages of the arrival and reception of migrants: ranging from the disembarkation to the different levels of reception. The delegation was impressed by the numerous organisations involved in the support to migrants (see in Annex 3 the list of stakeholders met during the fact-finding visit), and the overall well-oiled system of support to migrants.

66. According to their specific mandates, objectives, and agreements with public structures and other actors, these organisations play a vital role in providing diverse forms of assistance to migrants, including psychological support, information sessions on the Italian reception and asylum systems, legal aid, language mediation, language courses, healthcare, and more. A significant number of these organisations have a specific focus on providing aid to vulnerable populations, particularly unaccompanied minors and women.

67. In this respect, the delegation visited in Catania Casa Betania (Centro Astalli), a place of co-housing for mothers with children, run by Centro Astalli. The delegation met with representatives of Centro Astalli, Caritas, Comunità di Sant'Egidio, Arci, Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration (ASGI), Diaconia Valdese, Associazione Penelope, Save the Children and other civil society organisations working on minors' rights in Sicily (part of the network *Tavolo Minori Migranti*), which gave precious insights of the civil society's crucial role in the migration management and in supporting the most vulnerable foreign persons in Catania and in Sicily overall.

68. The various public and private actors supporting migrants also prove their efficiency when they co-operate together, as well as with municipalities, with local religious communities, mosques included.

#### **K. Conclusions and recommendations**

69. The matter of migration is a European matter, not limited to Italy alone, despite the substantial number of individuals arriving in Europe through Italy. This necessitates additional assistance to Italy, particularly for Lampedusa and Sicily as a whole, to ensure a human rights-based harmonious and comprehensive approach to migration. This support should also account for the islands' sustainability and the well-being of their inhabitants, including the tourism industry. This co-operation also implies an equitable distribution of migrants throughout the European continent.

70. Many provisions foreseen in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum are based on what is already happening, *inter alia*, at the borders of Italy. The pressure on border states such as Italy, Greece and Spain, may further increase due to the mandatory “screening” and “border procedures” foreseen by the Pact, to be conducted at the EU’s external borders. When planning the implementation of the Pact, particular attention should be given to guarantee individual assessments and to ensure suitable and dignified living conditions during these procedures at the border. Furthermore, particular attention to prevent unlawful deprivation of liberty at the border, especially of vulnerable migrants, including accompanied minors. This furthermore involves assessing the effective enforcement of various instruments, primarily the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights’ migration-related case law, as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in relation to unaccompanied minors.

71. Italy is no longer a destination for migrants and smugglers, but rather a transit country. The assertion supports the necessity of a European migration approach, without defensive or coercive intentions. Nonetheless, the problem of migrant trafficking persists, posing significant threats to migrants, particularly women and unaccompanied minors. One possible solution to address this crucial issue is to establish safe humanitarian corridors and legal pathways for people to travel to Europe securely.

72. Beyond the congestion points themselves, and as already underlined in the report that followed the fact-finding visit that the ad hoc Sub-Committee performed to Calais, France, on 25-26 October 2023,<sup>23</sup> there is a need to share further responsibility between all European countries, and more solidarity within Europe, in order not to leave the burden to countries on the external border of Europe. It is not solely the responsibility of the first countries of arrival to manage migration.

73. It is worth mentioning that our aging democracies will rely on immigration for their long-term survival, particularly when it comes to sustaining our economies, job markets, and pension schemes.

74. In terms of search and rescue operations, the delegation could observe the commendable work carried out by both the coast guards of Lampedusa and the international organisations involved during the rescue and disembarkation mission in Lampedusa on 16 September 2024.

75. Despite the laudable actions taken to save lives at sea, the delegation calls for a better co-operation and coordination across stakeholders. Additionally, the Italian authorities should refrain from obstructing search and rescue operations conducted by NGOs, as required by the recent law adopted in 2023, establishing that NGO vessels’ disembarkation after a rescue operation can take in a port in central or northern Italy, requiring additional days of sailing from the Sicilian coast. Furthermore, there is a pressing demand for European co-operation when it comes to search and rescue operations. International assistance is crucial, as Italy and other actors, particularly NGOs, cannot handle the responsibility of these operations on their own. Increasing the resources dedicated to search and rescue operations will not result in a higher number of migrants attempting to reach Europe, but rather, it will be a critical measure in saving more lives at sea.

76. This also requires enhancing co-operation and regular communication between coast guards and NGOs engaged in sea operations, to effectively detect and potentially save migrant ships in distress. It is crucial to establish clearer decision-making processes to effectively save migrants’ lives at sea.

77. When it comes to the Italian reception system and its management, the delegation commends the implementation of small reception centres, which prevents the formation of isolated communities. This is why the consortiums of small municipalities or municipal joint projects in migration management are seen as successful models. Contrarily, instances in other member States have demonstrated that the presence of ghettos and segregation can foster negative consequences, such as radicalisation. The delegation thus noticed the agility and the effectiveness in terms of inclusion of the reception system when it remains small.

78. In addition, the SAI seems to be a model of “integrated reception” going beyond the mere distribution of food and accommodation, and providing individual programs designed to enable people to regain a sense of independence and effective involvement in life in the community, in terms of employment, housing and access to local services and social interaction, through the development of solid relationship with local authorities and networks. For this reason, the access to SAI’s integrated reception services should be also provided to asylum-seekers.

<sup>23</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/report-of-the-ad-hoc-sub-committee-to-carry-out-a-fact-finding-visit-t/1680adaf30>.

79. Moreover, the Sicilian society appears to be a very welcoming community, and the positive attitude of local populations, especially in Lampedusa, should be praised. This demonstrates the benefits of collaborating with local populations, which ultimately leads to a smoother and more secure experience for migrants and host communities.

80. Despite the positive co-operation between public and private entities, the delegation was disturbed by the conditions at the Lampedusa hotspot and believed that the facilities could be significantly enhanced. This once again highlights the urgent need for increased solidarity from other member States, in addition to the continued efforts required from the Italian authorities.

81. The delegation expressed apprehensions regarding the trend of adopting or modifying immigration laws in different member States, which seem to be moving towards more restrictive measures regarding the reception of migrants. Adopting such stringent laws will not effectively address the issue of irregular arrivals in Europe. In this regard, the delegation expresses deep concern about the measure recently adopted by the Italian government that requires that a citizen of a country outside the European Union who wants to buy a SIM card for a cell phone also be required to have a document proving legal residence in Italy. The decision to prevent migrants from communicating with each other or with their families because they are undocumented seems discriminatory and deeply unfair.

82. When it comes to Frontex, while commending the agency's fundamental role in search and rescue operations, the delegation also underlines the repeated and concerning allegations, either of remaining silent in the face of distress calls or, even more alarming, of alleged attempts to forcibly return migrant boats to international waters.<sup>24</sup> Ongoing investigations must shed light on what happened in those cases.

83. When considering the countries of transit, it became evident from the visits and meetings that Libya poses significant challenges. The delegation was appalled by the firsthand testimonies of migrants, detailing the harrowing experiences of human rights abuses in Libya, sometimes with the co-operation of the Libyan police or coast guard authorities. Additionally, the growing similarity between the situations in Tunisia and Libya is a cause for great concern.

84. In this context, the delegation expressed serious concerns about bilateral agreements that involve the outsourcing of migration management to countries outside the EU or Europe, particularly when it regards Libya and Tunisia. The outsourcing of migration management to such unstable States and/or with poor human rights record and their official law-enforcement bodies or their non-official structures jeopardises the respect for human rights and the Rule of Law by the same member States involved.

85. In addition, the Assembly should continue its work on drafting resolutions and exploring different approaches to address the findings of this fact-finding visit, with the goal of highlighting the importance of improving the situations of migrants and refugees in Sicily and other European hotspots where there is a significant arrival of individuals. It is thus imperative to establish a harmonised legal framework at the European level for border management, ensuring that migrants are treated equitably at all of Europe's borders.

86. In light of this, the delegation emphasises the importance of considering Resolution 2555 (2024) "Ensuring human rights-compliant asylum procedures",<sup>25</sup> along with the ongoing reports on "Ending collective expulsions of migrants", "The challenges and needs of public and private actors involved in migration management" and "Saving migrants' lives at sea and protecting their human rights" once adopted.

87. Finally, the ad hoc Sub-Committee suggests that the Assembly works further on the following thematic issues:

- Use and misuse of emergency laws and accelerated practices in migration management;
- The humanitarian crisis generated by congestion points of the European refugee and migration routes;
- Unaccompanied minors' fundamental rights violated along refugee and migration routes;

<sup>24</sup> See, for instance, [www.statewatch.org/news/2024/june/frontex-collaboration-with-libya-we-call-them-and-try-to-persuade-them-to-take-them-back](https://www.statewatch.org/news/2024/june/frontex-collaboration-with-libya-we-call-them-and-try-to-persuade-them-to-take-them-back), [www.spiegel.de/international/europe/frontex-involved-in-illegal-pushbacks-of-hundreds-of-refugees-a-9fe90845-efb1-4d91-a231-48efcfa53a0](https://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/frontex-involved-in-illegal-pushbacks-of-hundreds-of-refugees-a-9fe90845-efb1-4d91-a231-48efcfa53a0).

<sup>25</sup> <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/33652>.

- Establishing legal pathways for people in need of protection and for migrant workers;
- Ending sexual violence against migrants.

## **Annex 1 – Terms of reference of the ad hoc Sub-Committee**

### **Background**

In the continuity of the fact-finding carried out in Calais and Dunkirk areas in 2023, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons wishes to follow up on the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in congestion points. In this respect, the Committee will seek from the Bureau of the Assembly the authorisation, subject to the invitation by the Italian authorities, to carry out a visit to Sicily (Italy), and more specifically in Lampedusa, Catania, Pozzallo, with the aim to look into the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. The congestion and the reception conditions in Lampedusa and other centres in Sicily – which may be considered a border of Europe – are considered as being highly symptomatic of the many challenges facing member States in migration management, and providing effective access to rights to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers whilst ensuring border control.

In particular, the visit will aim to gain insights into the following aspects:

- the effectiveness of access to fundamental rights, including on the application of border procedures and the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors;
- the co-operation between the different public and private actors involved in migration management;
- the role of civil society in providing support to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers; and
- the attitudes of the local population.

### **Terms of reference**

- To draw attention of parliamentarians from member States of the Council of Europe to:
  - the human rights situation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Lampedusa, Pozzallo and Rosolini, with a particular attention to women and migrant minors;
  - the border management policies, including procedures for the identification of victims of trafficking and the existing fundamental rights monitoring mechanisms;
  - the reception system in the visited areas;
- To encourage:
  - coordinated and human-rights based border management policies, especially in congestion points;
  - effective resources to be allocated to the reception of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers;
  - solidarity among public and private actors involved in migration management.

The Ad hoc Sub-Committee shall, in particular:

- conduct working meetings in Lampedusa, Catania, Pozzallo with:
  - the Italian authorities, in particular: the mayors of Lampedusa, Pozzallo, the prefects of Agrigento and Ragusa, the Juvenile Court of Catania, and other authorities and police forces involved in border management;
  - other relevant actors, in particular with Red Cross, UNHCR and IOM representatives, as well as with representatives of the civil society involved in the support to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, including to migrant minors;
- visit reception centres for migrant minors in Cifali and/or Rosolini;
- visit centres where migrants live in Lampedusa, Catania and Pozzallo;
- draw the attention of the members of PACE to the human rights situation and the humanitarian needs of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Lampedusa and other areas in Sicily;
- encourage solidarity to ensure that the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers are respected in the light of the 1951 Geneva Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights;
- report to the Committee the findings of the visit and come up with concrete proposals for follow-up.

## **Annex 2 – Programme of the fact-finding visit, 16-18 September 2024**

### **15 September, arrival to Lampedusa**

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### **16 September, Lampedusa**

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#### **09.00**

Meeting with the Prefect of Agrigento, the Head Constable of Agrigento, the Commanders of Lampedusa Air Force Detachment, Carabinieri Tenenza, Italian Army, Coast Guards Authority, Tax and Customs Police, and with the representatives of European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA)

#### **11.00**

Visit of the *Contrada Imbriacola* hotspot

Meeting with the Italian Red Cross officers responsible for the centre's management, and with representatives of UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and Save the Children, operating in the hotspot

#### **13.00**

Visit of the Door of Europe monument

#### **15.00**

Meeting with Save the Children

#### **16.30**

Meeting with UNHCR

#### **18.00**

Meeting with representatives of Mediterranean Hope, Sea Watch, Maldusa and other civil society organisations

#### **20.30**

Disembarkation of a migrant boat rescued by the Italian Coast Guards Authority at the Favalaro Pier

### **17 September, Lampedusa, then Catania**

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#### **Morning session in Lampedusa**

#### **09.00**

Meeting with the Coast Guards Authority

#### **10.30**

Meeting with the Mayor of Lampedusa

#### **12.25-13.30**

Flight Lampedusa => Catania

#### **Afternoon session in Catania**

#### **15.00**

Meeting with the Prefect of Catania

#### **16.30**

Meeting with the President of the Juvenile Court of Catania



**18.00-20.30**

Visit of the co-housing for mothers with children *Casa Betania* (Centro Astalli)  
Meeting with representatives of Centro Astalli, Caritas, Comunità di Sant'Egidio, Arci, ASGI, Diaconia Valdese, Associazione Penelope, Save the Children and other civil society organisations working on minors' rights in Sicily (*Tavolo Minori Migranti*)

**18 September, Giarre and Catania**

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**Morning session in Giarre**

**9.30-12.00**

Visit of CAS and of the SAI reception centre for minors managed by *Cooperativa IRIDE*

**Afternoon session in Catania**

**15.30**

Visit of the day centre for minors *CivicoZero*

**17.30**

Visit of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) first reception centre for minors *Il Nodo*

**19.30**

Debriefing meeting of the delegation

**19 September, departure from Catania**

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**Annex 3 – List of participants**

<b>Participant</b>	
<b>Members</b>	
Mr Paul GAVAN	Rapporteur (Ireland, UEL)
Mr Paulo PISCO	Member (Portugal, SOC)
Mr Birgir THÓRARINSSON	Member (Iceland EPP/CD)
Ms Sandra ZAMPA	Member (Italy, SOC)
<b>Institutional actors</b>	
Marshal Ciro CRISCITIELLO	Italian Army
Mr Francesco D'ARCA	Responsible of the Poli-Ambulatory of Lampedusa
Mr Roberto DI BELLA	President, Juvenile Court of Catania
Lt. Giuseppe FRENNA	Commander of Carabinieri Tenenza, Carabinieri
Lt. Antonino GIANNO	Commander of Guardia di Finanza Tenenza, Tax and Customs Police Authority
Tn. Marco GIUFFRIDA	Guardia di Finanza Naval Operations Section ROAN, Tax and Customs Police Authority
Mr Antonio GULLÌ	Head of Cabinet of the Prefect, Prefecture of Catania
Ms Maria Carmela LIBRIZZI	Prefect of Catania, Prefecture of Catania
Mr Filippo MANNINO	Mayor, Lampedusa
Mr Carlo MOSSUTO	Vice Head Constable, Police
Mr Andrea PALERMO	Commissioner of the Police Mobile Unit (Squadra mobile) Agrigento, Police
Capt. Enrico PASCALI	Commander, Lampedusa Air Force Detachment
Mr Filippo ROMANO	Prefect, Prefecture of Agrigento
Ms Chiara SCIARABA	Assistant Police Commissioner, Police
Ms Elisa VACCARO	Vice-Prefect, Chief of Staff, Prefecture of Agrigento
Flag Lt. Flavio VERDE	Coast Guard Maritime District Office in Lampedusa, Coast Guards Authority
<b>International organisations and agencies</b>	
Mr Umberto D'ANGELO	Inspector, European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)
Mr Abiel GHEBRE GHIRMAI	Senior Protection Assistant, UNHCR
Ms Federica STARINIERI	Senior Community-Based Protection Assistant, UNHCR
Mr Giorgio TORTORICI	Coordinator, European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA)

Civil society	
Mr Emiliano ABRAMO	President, Community of Sant'Egidio
Ms Veronica BOGGINI	Migration Advocacy Coordinator, Save the Children
Ms Oriana CANNAVÒ	Vice President, Associazione Penelope
Mr Riccardo CAMPOCHIARO	President, Centro Astalli Catania
Suor Angela CIMINO	
Ms Giusy D'ALCONZO	Institutional Relations & Advocacy Manager, Save the Children
Mr Imad DALIL	Director of Lampedusa hotspot, Italian Red Cross
Mr Alessandro DI BENEDETTO	Emergency
Mr Filippo FINOCCHIARO	Lawyer, Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration (ASGI)
Ms Dorra FRIMI	Maldusa
Ms Rachele GIORGI	Advocacy and Legal Officer, Sea Watch
Mr Piero MANGANO	CNCA
Mr Fausto MELLUSO	Arci Sicilia (Defense for Children)
Ms Adelaide MERENDINO	Tutori in Rete
Ms Raquel PAREJO REY	Catania Inclusion Services Project Coordinator, Diaconia Valdese
Ms Valeria PASSERI	Mediterranean Hope – Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (Federazione delle chiese evangeliche in Italia)
Don Nuccio PUGLISI	Director, Caritas Catania
Mr Luigi RACIDI	CISMAI
Ms Francesca SACCOMANDI	Mediterranean Hope – Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (Federazione delle chiese evangeliche in Italia)
Ms Domenica SAPIENZA	CIR
Ms Matilda ZACCO	Maldusa
Secretariat of the Italian Delegation to PACE	
Mr Federico CASELLI	Documentalist, Permanent Secretariat of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament to PACE
Ms Vitaliana CURIGLIANO	Documentalist, Permanent Secretariat of the Italian Senate to PACE
Interpreters	
Ms Paula BRUNO	International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC)

Ms Alessandra PERRICONE	International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC)
PACE Secretariat	
Mr Gaël MARTIN-MICALLEF	Secretary, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
Ms Manuela DE KOSTER	Project Manager and Administrative Support, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons