Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe 07 –11 September 2015

PACE

PACE Head Warns Europe Against 'Burying Head' in Sand on Migrant Crisis

07/09 – Sputnik News

The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) President Anne Brasseur urged Europe on Monday to step up to the plate on the migrant crisis, as the EU legislature prepares to tackle the surging refugee inflow in late September. "Europe is in the centre of a migration and asylum cauldron. Each day more and more ingredients are being added to this melting pot of human suffering, and Europe can no longer bury its head and humanity in the sand," Brasseur said at a parliamentary meeting in New York.

Migration

Refugee crisis: Europe must act humanely on refugees or face nationalism and closed borders, says continent's top human rights official

06/09 – The Independent

Europe faces the "dangerous scenario" of closed borders and rising nationalist sentiment without a united, and humane, response to the refugee crisis, the continent's top human rights official has warned.

Hit by new wave of refugees, Germany warns EU partners

07/09 – Reuters

Struggling to cope with record numbers of asylum seekers, Germany told its European partners on Monday they too must take in more refugees, as police in Hungary used pepper spray on desperate migrants who broke out of a reception centre at the border. Chancellor Angela Merkel, speaking after a weekend in which 20,000 migrants entered Germany from Hungary by train, bus and on foot, described the influx as "breath-taking" and tried to reassure German citizens that the crisis was manageable.



Germany to take 31,000 refugees, France 24,000 under EU plan: European source

07/09 – Business Insider

Germany and France would take nearly half of the 120,000 refugees to be relocated from frontline states under a plan by European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker, a European source said Monday. According to Juncker's proposal for mandatory quotas for EU states which is set to be unveiled Wednesday, Germany would take 31,443 and France 24,031, to relieve the burden on Greece, Italy and Hungary, the source told AFP.

France and Germany to take bulk of 120,000 migrants

07/09 – EUObserver

France and Germany will take the bulk of 120,000 asylum seekers from Greece, Italy, and Hungary, according to a European Commission proposal due out on Wednesday (9 September). The draft paper, seen by EUobserver, represents Europe's latest attempt to deal with its largest refugee crisis since WWII. It comes on top of an earlier project, covering 40,000 people from Greece and Italy, bringing the total number of relocations to 160,000.

EU's refugee plan: how does it work?

08/09 - The Express Tribune

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker will unveil a plan Wednesday for EU states to take 120,000 refugees from overstretched Italy, Greece and Hungary, but divisions remain over how it would work. The proposals, to be announced in the European Parliament, are aimed at relieving the worst refugee crisis since World War II as growing numbers of people flee war-torn Syria and other conflict zones for Europe.

Migrant crisis: Germany's Merkel says EU quotas are a 'first step'

09/09 – BBC News

Mandatory quotas determining how many migrants each European Union country should take in are a "first step", German Chancellor Angela Merkel says. She was speaking as the EU continues to grapple with a huge influx of migrants, which peaked at the weekend. The European Commission is set to announce plans on Wednesday, including quotas, to distribute 120,000 migrants among member countries.

Germany calls for flexibility as EU prepares migrant quota plan

09/09 – Business Insider

Germany has called for a flexible system to allocate migrants as the EU prepared to announce a quota plan Wednesday, while Greek islands grapple with a huge backlog of people desperate to reach Western Europe. European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker is preparing to unveil proposals for mandatory quotas that would relocate some 120,000 refugees across the bloc from border states that are swamped by the crisis.



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

EU's Juncker urges 'bold' plan for 160,000 refugees

09/09 - Zee News

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker unveiled a "bold" new plan on Wednesday for dealing with the migrant crisis, calling on EU states to agree as early as next week to relocate 160,000 refugees from frontline countries. In his first State of the Union speech, Juncker urged EU states to look to historic values as it copes with the biggest flood of refugees since World War II, most of them fleeing conflict in Syria. "Now is not the time to take fright, it is time for bold, determined action for the European Union," Juncker said to applause from the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Migrant crisis: EU nations face plans for binding quotas

09/09 - CNN

The European Commission has set out detailed plans for mandatory quotas for EU nations to take in refugees, as Europe struggles to cope with a huge influx of migrants -- many of them fleeing war in Syria. European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said the proposed measures would "ensure that people in clear need of international protection are relocated swiftly after arriving -- not just now but also for any crisis in the future."

Germany is pushing a divided EU to accept migrant quotas

11/09 – Business Insider

Germany on Friday will seek to mend bitter divisions over how to handle Europe's spiralling migrant crisis, pushing eastern states to accept a quota system it says is still only a "drop in the ocean". Foreign ministers from Germany and Luxembourg are set to meet their counterparts from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia in Prague for talks on a controversial system to distribute 160,000 new arrivals around the bloc.

Turkey

Jagland condemns attacks on Turkish security forces

09/09 – Today's Zaman

Council of Europe's Secretary-General Jagland has strongly condemned the recent deadly attacks on the Turkish security forces. In a press release on Wednesday, Jagland offered condolences to "all victims of violence of the past days." Noting that "the recent events in Turkey are worrying," Jagland said he is also "alarmed by the attacks on political parties and media outlets which risk destabilizing democracy." "I urge the authorities to do all they can to protect citizens and democratic life in the country," Jagland said in the statement.



EUROPEAN UNION Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

European Court of Human Rights

ECHR imposing changes to rent laws

10/09 – Times of Malta

A landmark judgement was delivered last month by the European Court of Human Rights, which is bound to change the interpretation of our municipal rent laws. In the case of 'Zammit and Attard Cassar v Malta', the ECHR decided that Articles 3 and 4 of the Reletting of Urban Property (Regulation) Ordinance which prohibit an increase in pre-1995 rents, violate the owner's property rights as protected by Article 1 of Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights since this law imposed an unfair and excessive burden on the owner.