

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Refugee crisis In Focus: towards better cooperation between Europe's national governments

Vít Novotný

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This In Focus argues that without cooperation between the EU member states, the situation of the current refugee crisis is not going to improve. The EU's dysfunctional asylum system, which is based on 28 national systems, needs to be reformed, including by allowing asylum applications in the countries of origin. Member states need to start supplying Frontex with personnel and equipment to better protect the border. The EU also needs a new deal between host countries and newcomers on the refugees' integration into European societies.

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**Vít Novotný** is senior research officer at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies. He focuses on immigration and asylum, new societal challenges, and ethics and religion.

### Summary<sup>1</sup>

The current refugee crisis has caught the EU off guard. Risk in Europe against the crisis is primarily not an immediate crisis between the EU's national governments, rather than one of the European Commission or European Parliament. The conflicting and conflicting responses of the EU's national governments to the crisis are symptoms of deeper structural and systemic problems. The crisis of responsibility of the national level over the past years and decades. The EU lacks essential leadership in the areas of immigration and asylum. The existing policies have not been properly implemented at the national level or enforced by the Commission.

The solution is not going to improve without a much closer cooperation between the EU states. More cooperation can be facilitated at the EU level by the Council that brings together the heads of state and government, and the Council's president. More generally, EU institutions and the member states should rather seek an implementing the solution through consensus or common arrangements and appropriate policies.

A number of specific policies can address the current crisis. The EU's dysfunctional asylum system, which is based on 28 national systems, needs to be reformed, including by allowing asylum applications from the

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