
ITALY SKETCHES ■■■■■■■■■■ IDEA TO RESETTLE 1,000 MIGRANTS STRANDED IN LIBYA

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Italy, in a fresh bid to tackle a migration influx that has become a political headache, sketched proposals on Thursday (28 September) to resettle around the world a thousand vulnerable migrants who are stranded in Libya.

Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano pitched the idea before flying to Tripoli.

It would begin as a pilot scheme with 1,000 migrants and entail several countries around the world welcoming these people, Alfano told a parliamentary committee in Rome.

The process would be revolutionary, as it would have to provide details about these individuals for host countries which are unable to interview them if they have closed their embassy in Tripoli, he said.

More than 600,000 people from Africa, Asia and the Middle East have arrived in Italy since 2014, many of them by sea from Libya. Rome is now looking hard at ways of discouraging migrants from crossing, including incentives for a voluntary return home or help for the most vulnerable.

A migrant quota scheme launched by the European Union wrapped up on Wednesday after two years. The programme has seen less than a fifth of a planned 160,000 Syrians and other asylum-seekers relocated around the block from Italy and Greece by the use of compulsory quotas.

Now the trend is to move from mandatory relocations to voluntary resettlement, which means taking candidates from outside the EU, on a non-mandatory basis. The scheme is being followed by a proposal to admit at least 50,000 of the most vulnerable persons in need of protection to Europe over the next two years.

The Commissions new proposals envisage member states to set up private sponsorship schemes and pilot projects for legal migrations with third countries.

On Tuesday, Roberto Mignone, the representative for Libya with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), spoke of negotiations in Tripoli to open a 1,000-place transit centre for migrants considered vulnerable □ families with children and the sick □ with the aim of a resettling them to other countries.

But currently both UNHCR and other international agencies are waiting for a secure compound in Tripoli to bring in expatriate staff.

A contingent of 230 Nepalese troops is expected to arrive this week and deploy at the site, which would be ready in November, Mignone said.

Kaynak/Source: