

Workshop

# Flight and Migration in Europe

## Imprint

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Schwarzkopf-Stiftung Junges Europa  
Sophienstr. 28 /29  
10178 Berlin  
Telefon: 0049 (0)30 – 280 95 146  
Fax: 0049 (0)30 – 280 95 150  
E-Mail: [info@schwarzkopf-stiftung.de](mailto:info@schwarzkopf-stiftung.de)  
[www.schwarzkopf-stiftung.de](http://www.schwarzkopf-stiftung.de)

### Author / Translation

Lena Prötzel  
Thimo Nieselt  
Pia Sombetzki

### Graphics and Illustrations

Friederike Schlenz

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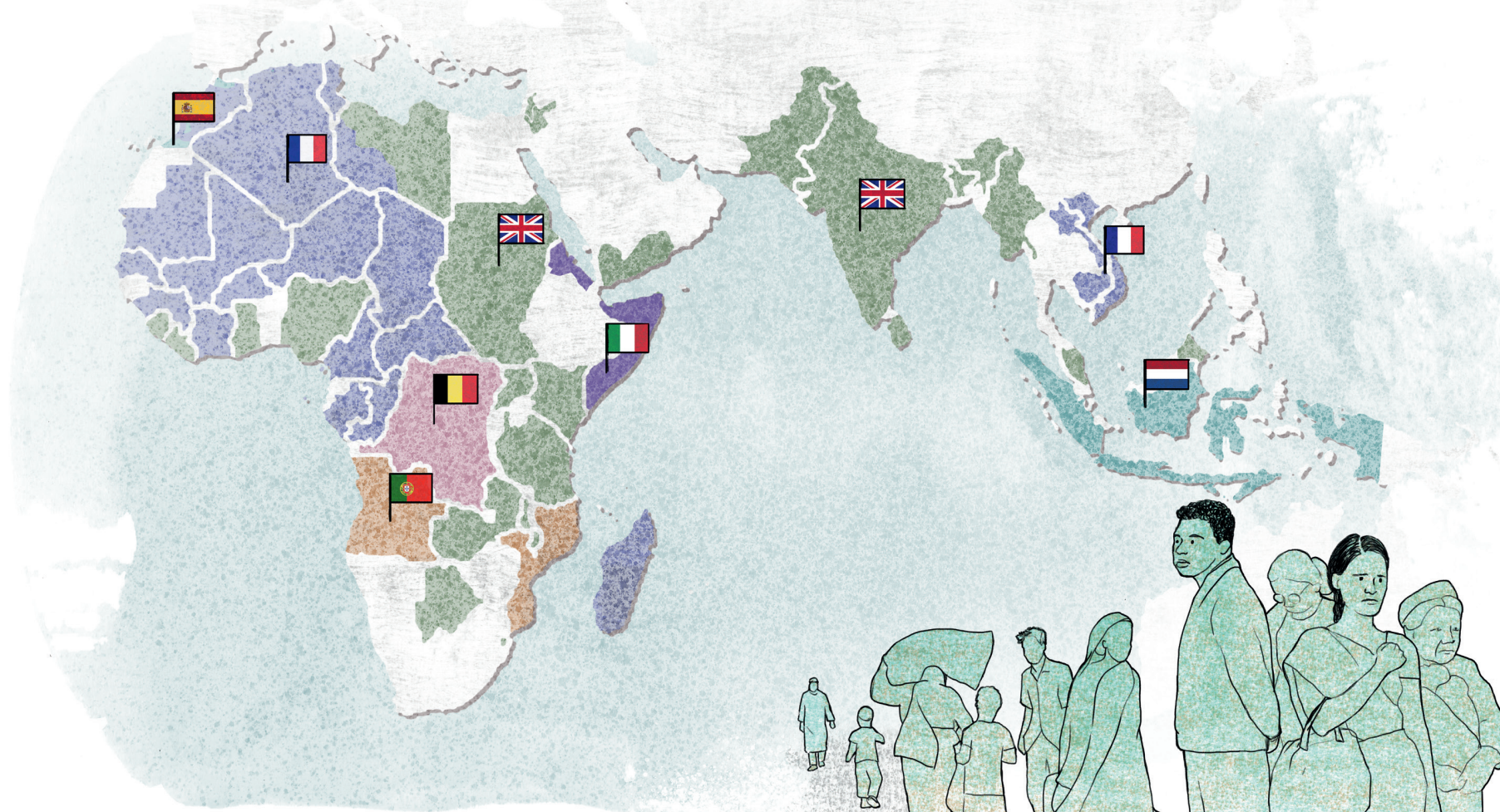
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# 1945



Many countries are still under **Western European colonial rule**. In the course of the decolonisation process after World War II, many people migrate from the former colonies to Europe – particularly to France, the UK, the Netherlands and Belgium.

# 1951



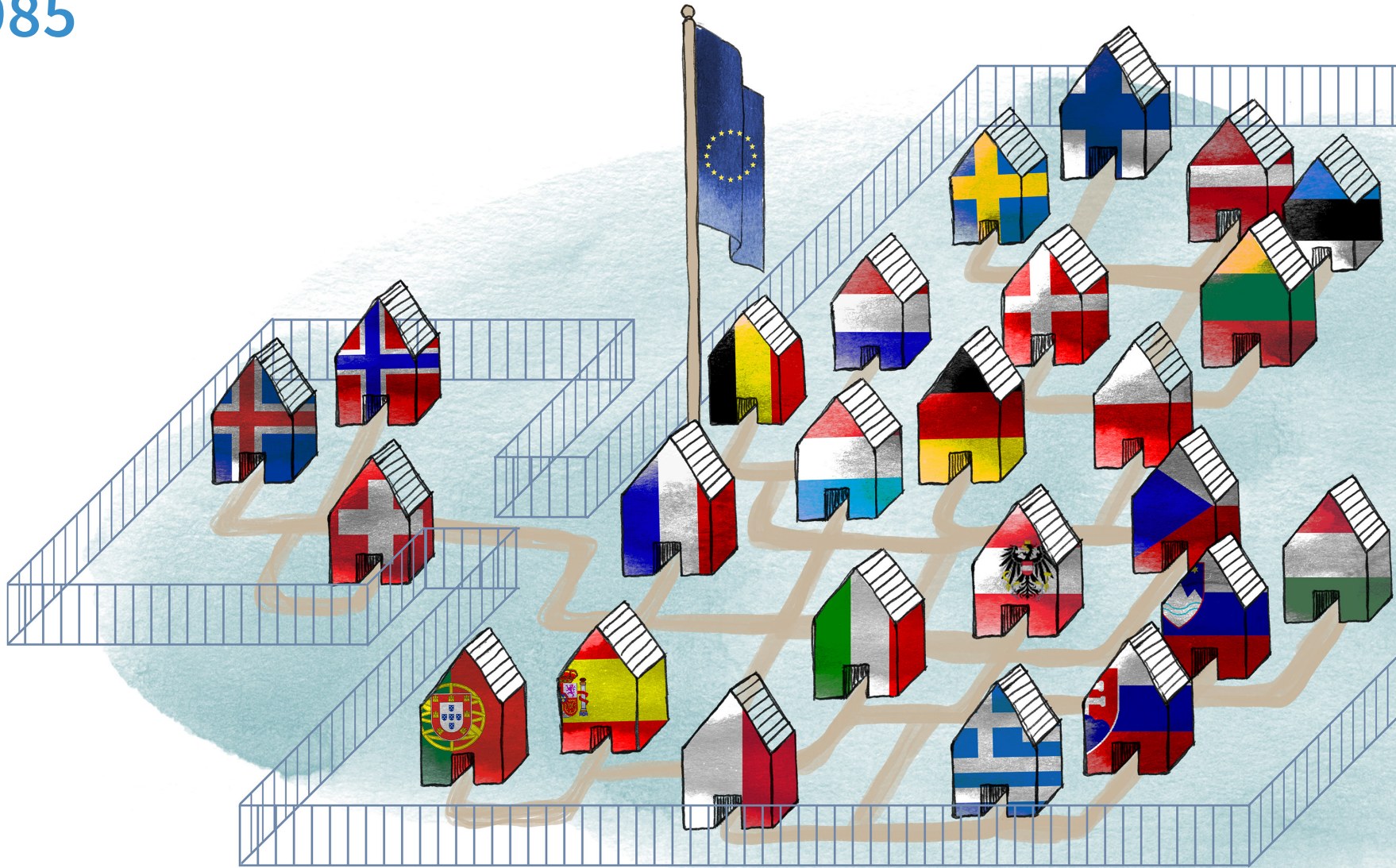
The [Geneva Convention on Refugees](#) defines the protection of all humans worldwide who are fleeing persecution and serious danger as a fundamental right, calling into existence the status of the “recognized refugee”.

# 1955



The Federal Republic of Germany decides to recruit workers from Italy. In the following years, Germany also signs [labour recruitment agreements](#) with Spain, Greece, Turkey, Portugal and Yugoslavia.

# 1985



The [Schengen agreement](#) puts an end to controls at internal borders. Therefore, controlling the EU's external borders becomes more significant.

# 1991



The [civil wars in former Yugoslavia](#) force many people to flee the country. The EU's 15 member states at the time take in hundreds of thousands of refugees.

# 1999



The EU states decide that in the future there will be a [common EU asylum policy](#). The aim is to create the same conditions for all asylum seekers – regardless of which EU country they apply for asylum in.

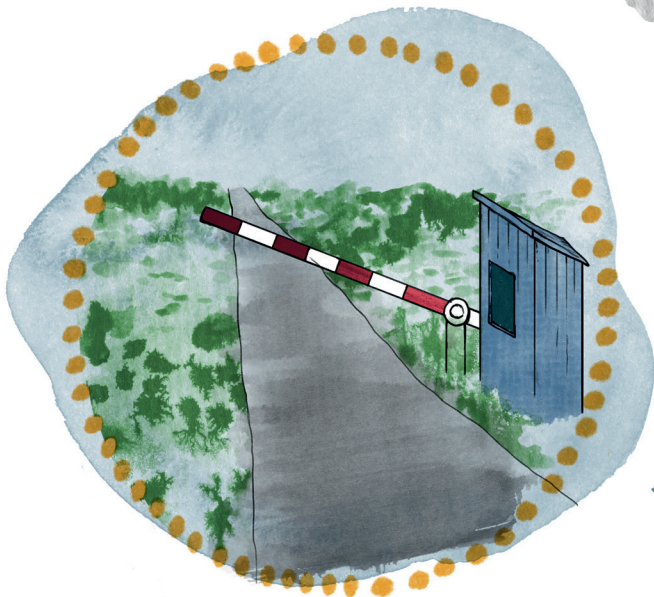
# 2003



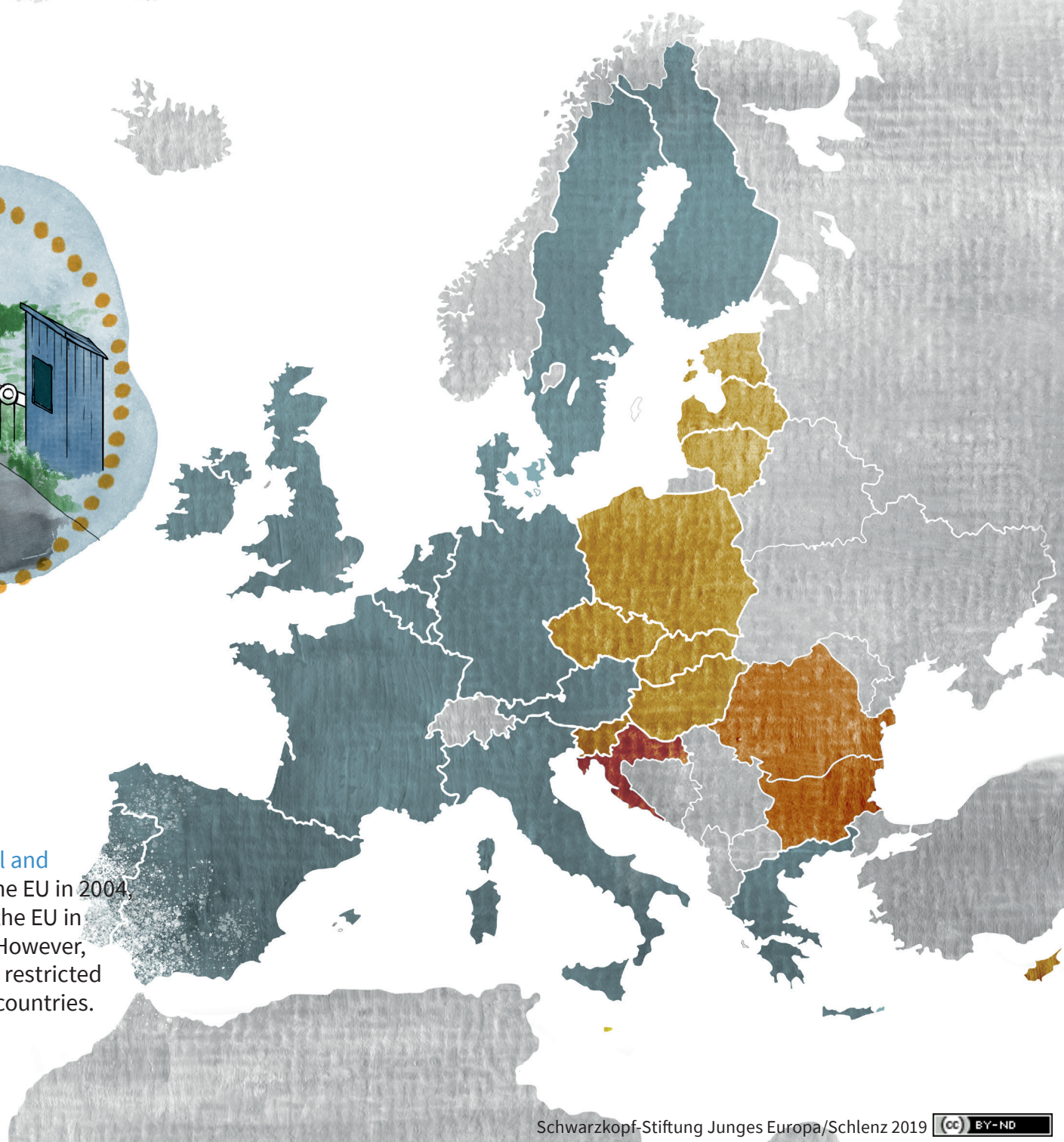
The [Dublin accord](#) requires that refugees must claim asylum in the country in which they first entered the EU. Naturally, this often happens in countries at the EU's external border.



# 2004

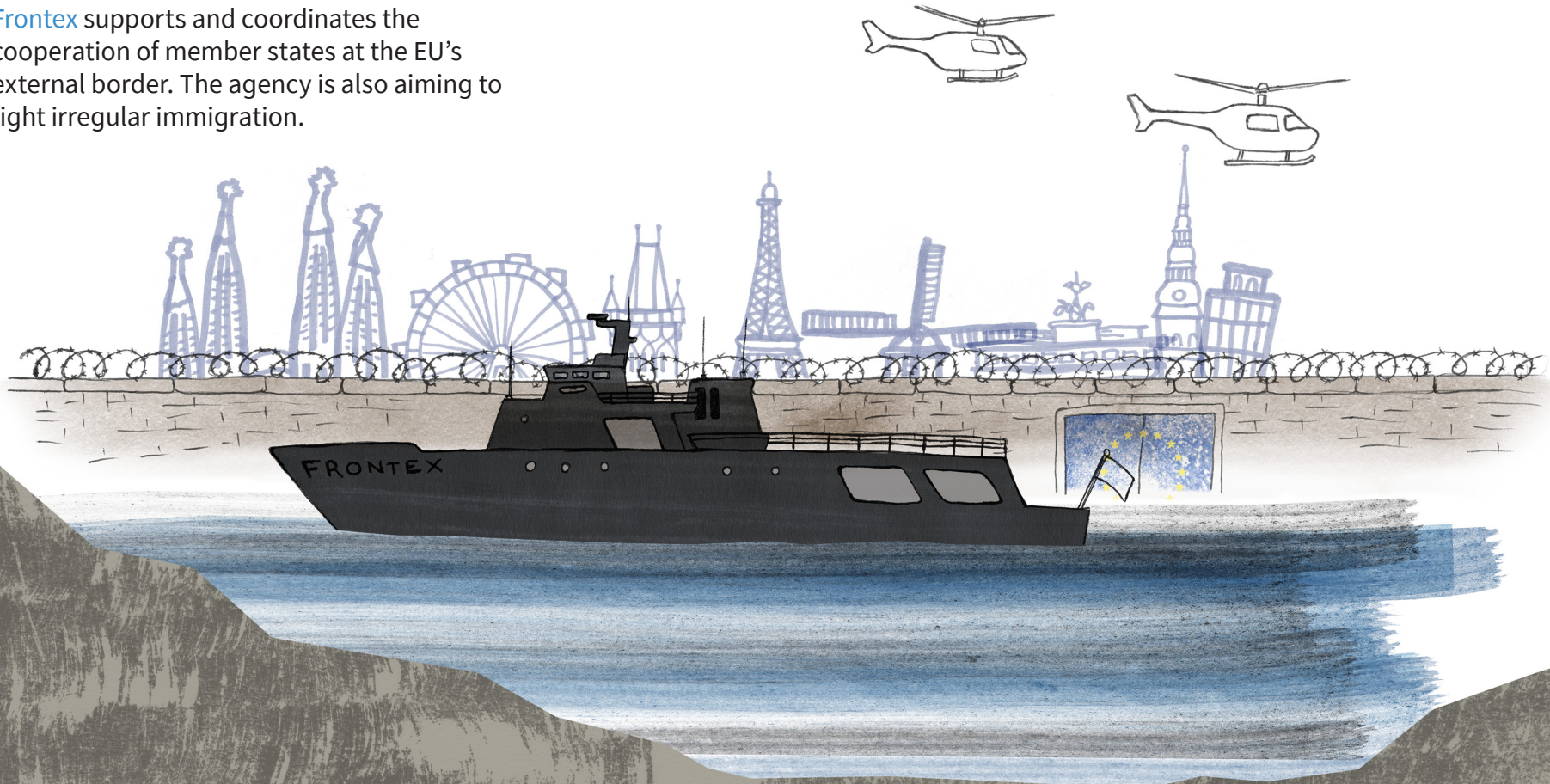


After the accession of ten **Central and Eastern European countries** to the EU in 2004, also Romania and Bulgaria join the EU in 2007, as well as Croatia in 2013. However, freedom of movement is initially restricted for migrant workers from these countries.

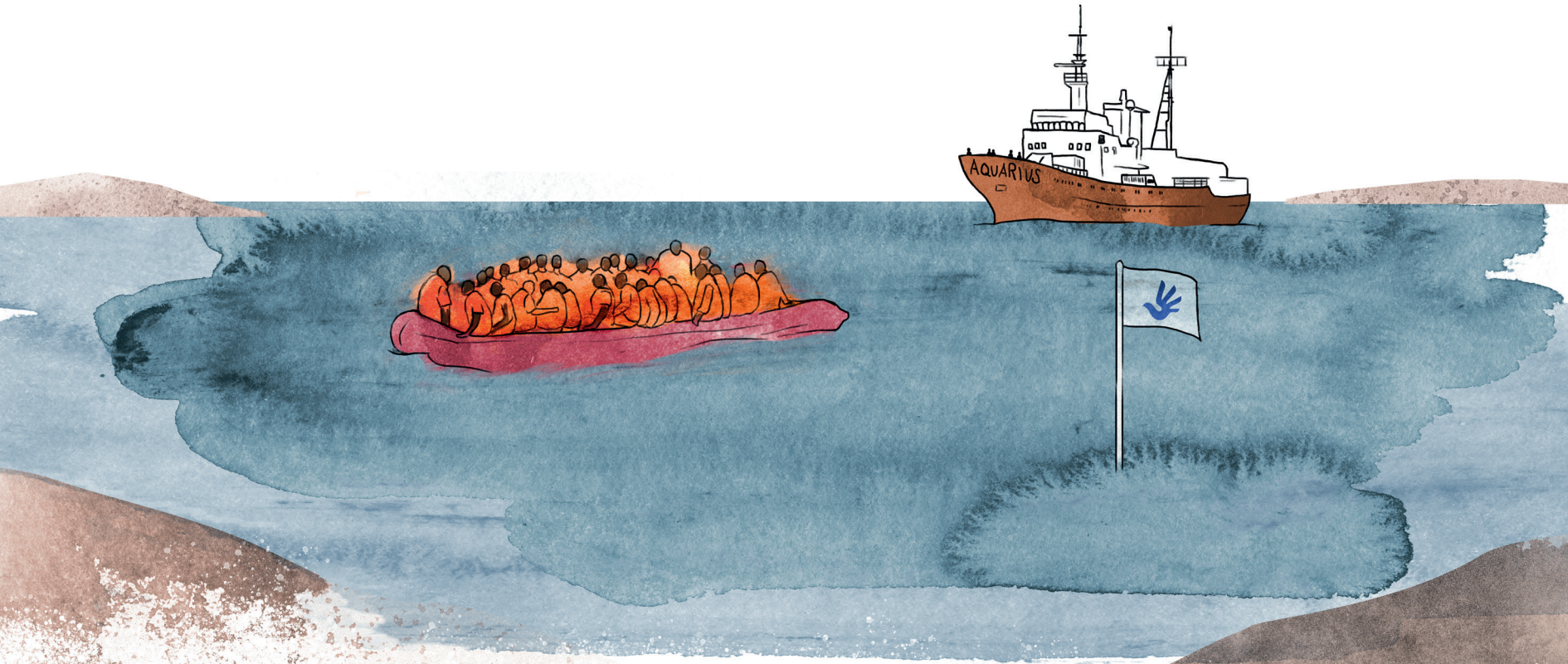


# 2004

Frontex supports and coordinates the cooperation of member states at the EU's external border. The agency is also aiming to fight irregular immigration.



# 2012



The European Court of Human Rights clarifies in a judgment that [human rights are also applicable at high sea](#). As soon as refugees reach a vessel under the flag of an EU member state, they have the right of access to an asylum procedure.

2015



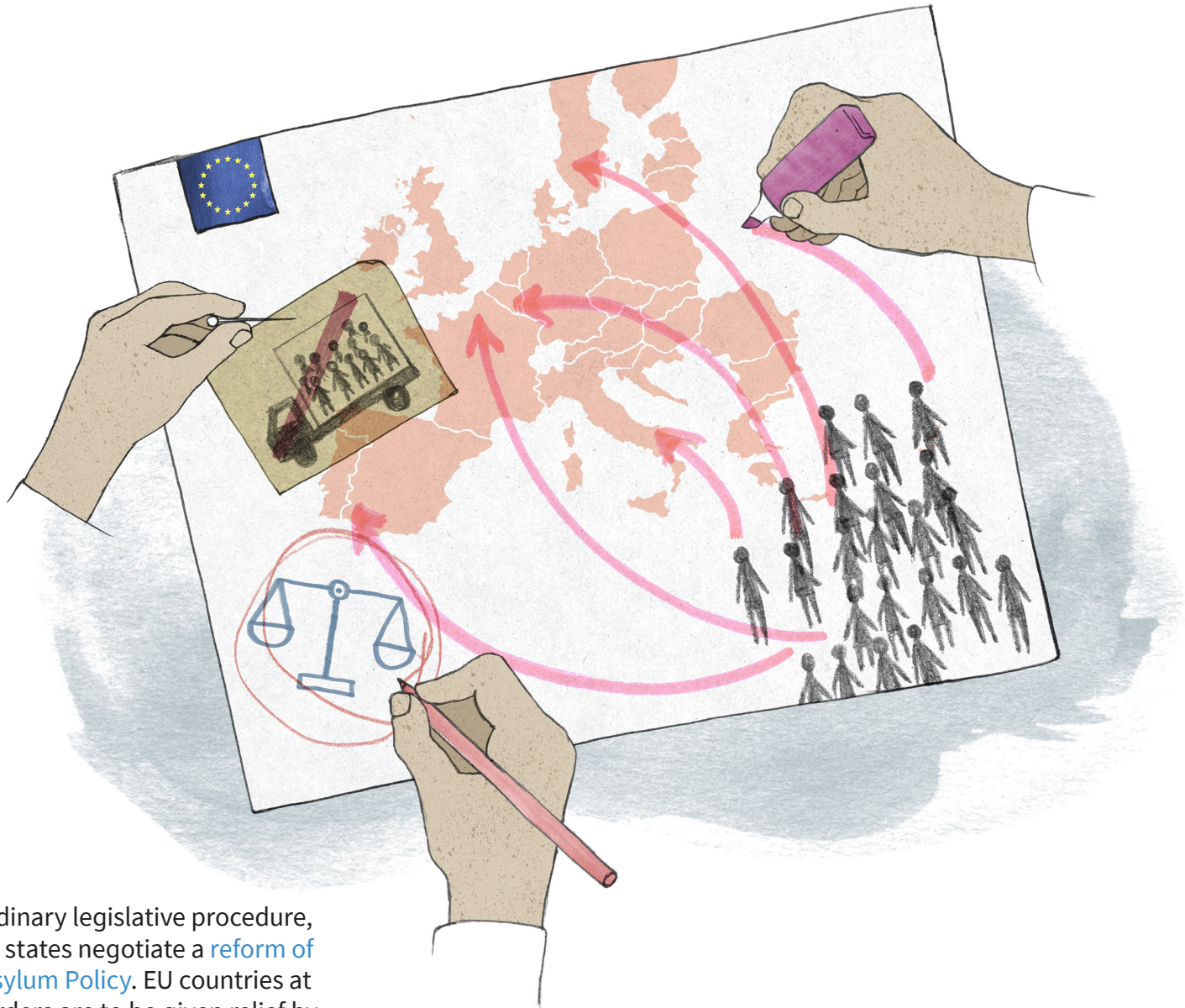
Thousands of refugees are stuck at Budapest's central rail station. Chancellor Angela Merkel (GE), Prime Minister Victor Orbán (HU) and Chancellor Faymann (AU) decide **not to close the borders** and to let them continue their travels to Germany.

# 2016



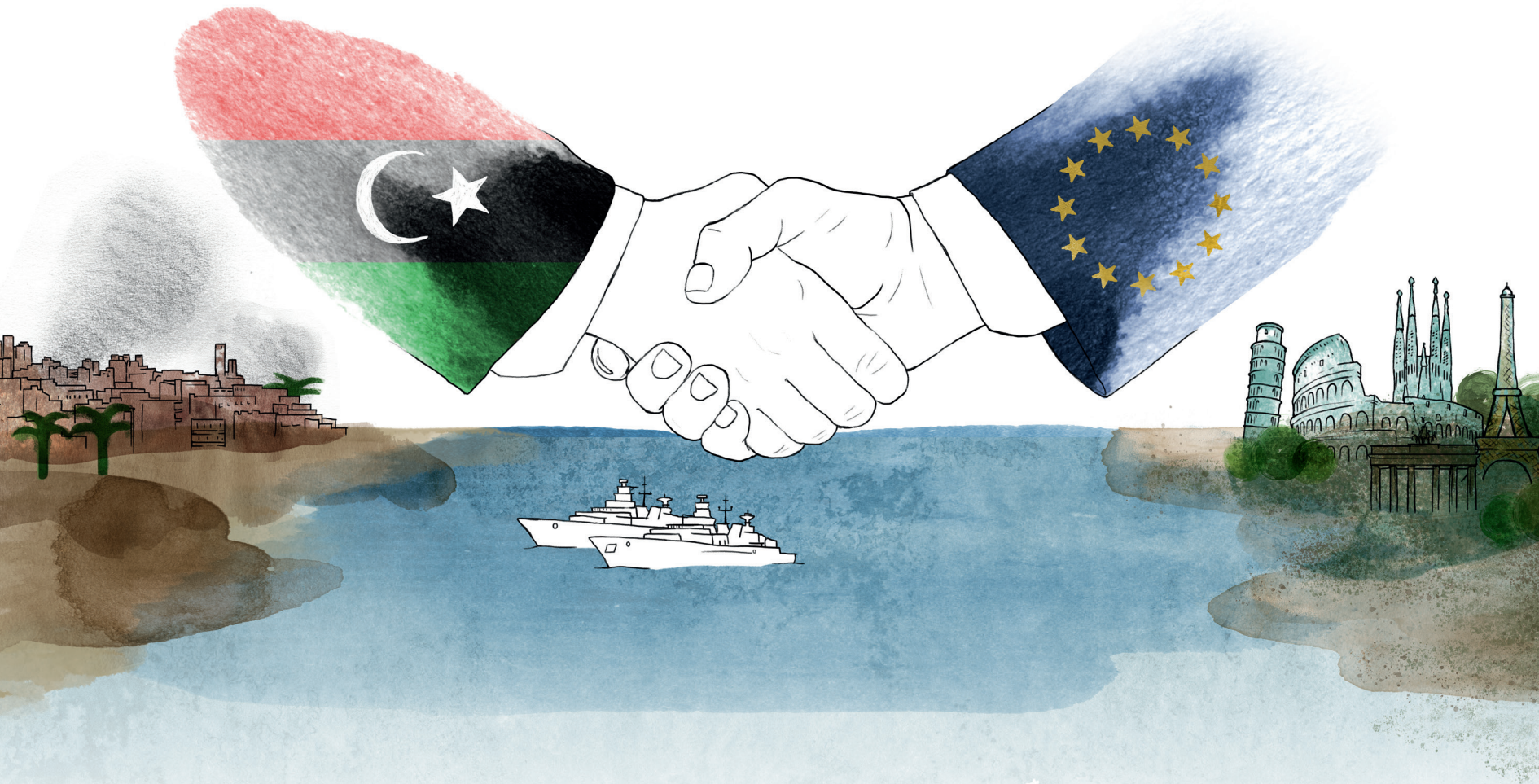
The **deadliest** year so far: according to UNHCR, 5000 people drown on the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean sea, trying to reach Europe. Among them are many children and teenagers.

2017



As part of an ordinary legislative procedure, the EU member states negotiate a [reform of the Common Asylum Policy](#). EU countries at the external borders are to be given relief by way of a more just and effective system.

# 2018



The European heads of member states decide to foster the [cooperation on asylum policies with Libya](#). In doing so, irregular migration across the Mediterranean Sea shall be restricted.