

# The European Union: Sanctuary or fortress for refugees?

What are the implications for international refugee law of the EU's use of non-entry policy?

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## 1. In response to the refugee crisis, the EU has...

**Stressed its commitment to offering protection to people fleeing war and persecution**

**Developed partnerships with non-European countries = non-entry policy**

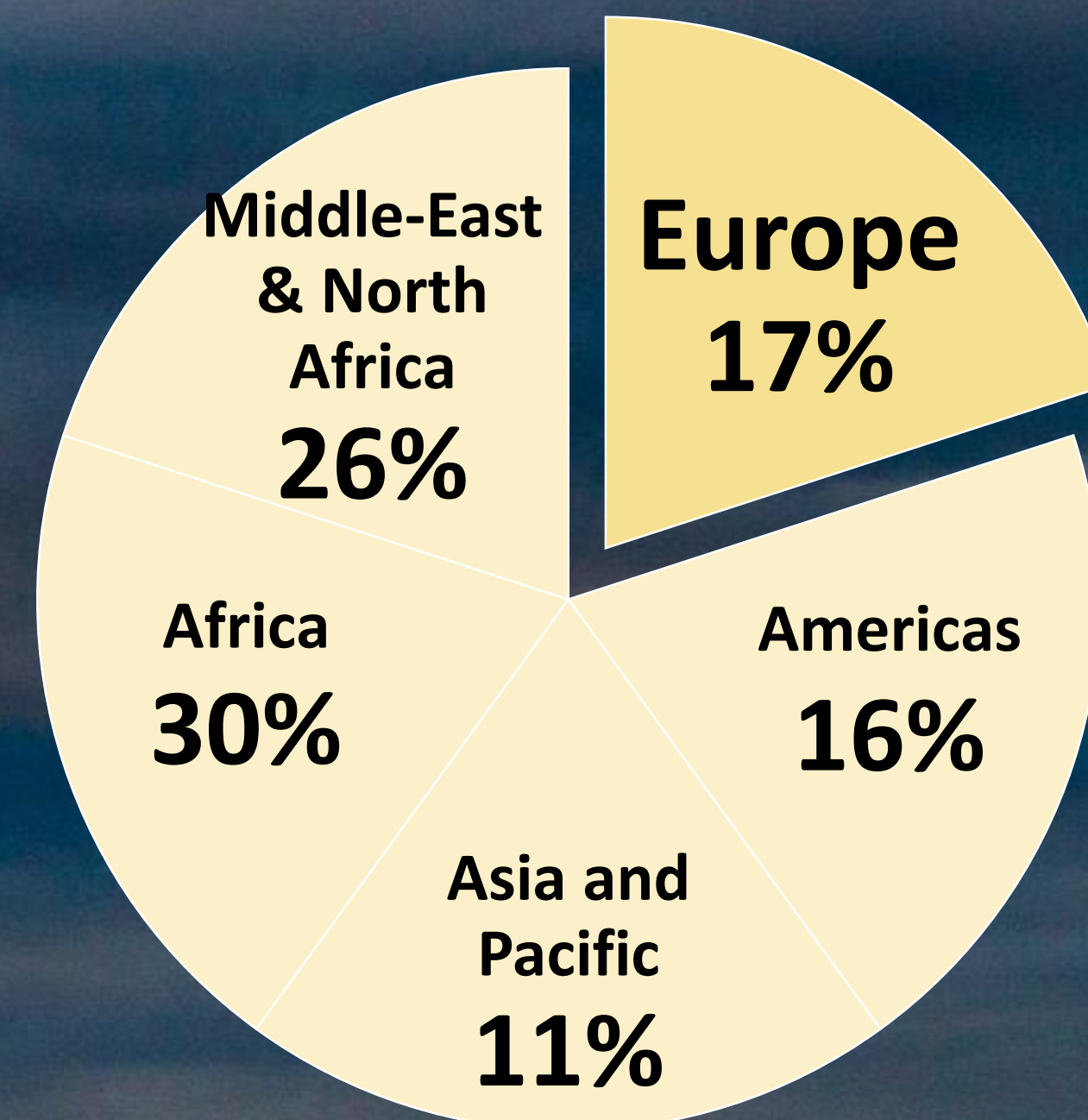
**But in European law, refugees need to be on the territory of the EU to ask for protection**

**The EU is asking non-European countries to prevent refugees from crossing the sea**

**Refugees cannot reach the European territory**

**So, they cannot ask for protection from the EU**

Among **65.6 million** forcibly displaced people worldwide:



## 2. So far, the research on non-entry

- Focuses on the compliance of non-entry policy with existing laws
- Focuses on practical aspects of refugee flows and emergency solution
- Offers no real alternative to the system of non-entry

## 3. My thesis aims at...

understanding why the EU keeps stressing its commitment to international refugee law although, in practice, it does not respect it

## 4. In my thesis, I argue that the attitude of the EU towards refugees is...

**Based on the conception of refugees as "threat"**

- Thus, justifying to distance them from the EU

**Reproducing a colonial structure**

- By imposing the burden of dealing with refugees to poor non-European countries

**Reproducing a "civilising mission"**

- By imposing reforms of border management on other countries

### References:

- UNHCR, 'Figures at a glance' (19 June 2017) < <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html> > accessed 6 April 2018.
- Cathryn Costello, *The human rights of migrants and refugees in European law*, (Oxford University Press 2015) .
- B. S. Chimni, 'The Geopolitics of Refugee Studies: A View from the South' (1998) 11(4) *Journal of Refugee Studies* 350.

