Managing the Migrants - EU

What is the issue?

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- Italy recently refused docking permission for a ship that rescued around 600 migrants.
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- This is only yet another instance in EU countries' continuing problem of migrants' entry.
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What is Italy's stance?

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- Italy’s Interior Minister refused to grant docking permission for MV Aquarius, a ship that had rescued migrants.
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- The ship was finally allowed to dock at Valencia, Spain.
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- This was only after food had run out and the UN refugee body had made appeals.
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- More than 600,000 migrants have arrived in Italy from Africa in recent years.
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- Italy wants to deport 500,000 of them, and fix the migrant resettlement system.
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- It also wants to build migrant reception centres in Africa.
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- Italy is particular about doing away with the Dublin Regulation.
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- Under this, refugees must apply for asylum in the EU country where they first landed.
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What is the concern in EU?

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- More than 1.8 million migrants have come to Europe since 2014.
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- These have been mostly from West Asia and Africa.
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- The temporary migrant resettlement system was brought in 2015.
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- It was formulated to distribute migrants across the European Union.
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- However, it failed when many countries refused to meet their quotas.
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- Migrant inflows have fallen since their peak in 2015-16.
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- However, some countries have each accepted 12,000-15,500 migrants in the recent year alone.
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- Treatment of migrants and related policies are major challenges before EU countries.
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- This has now become a contentious electoral issue across Europe.
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- The right-wing populists are capitalising on an anti-migrant sentiment.
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- Migration is top of the agenda in the present European Council meeting in Brussels.
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How does it impact the German government?

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- More than 1.6 million migrants have made their way to Germany since 2015.
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- Most of them arrived when Chancellor Angela Merkel suspended EU migration rules in 2015.
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- This was to accept migrants stranded in other countries.
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- It was politically criticised, and had an impact on the elections last year.
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- It now threatens the existence of the coalition government headed by Ms.

Merkel's party.
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- There are differences among the members in allowing migrants registered in other countries to enter Germany.
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Source: The Hindu

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