

PARIS (REGIONAL)

COVERING: Denmark, France, Germany, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden (with specialized services for other countries)

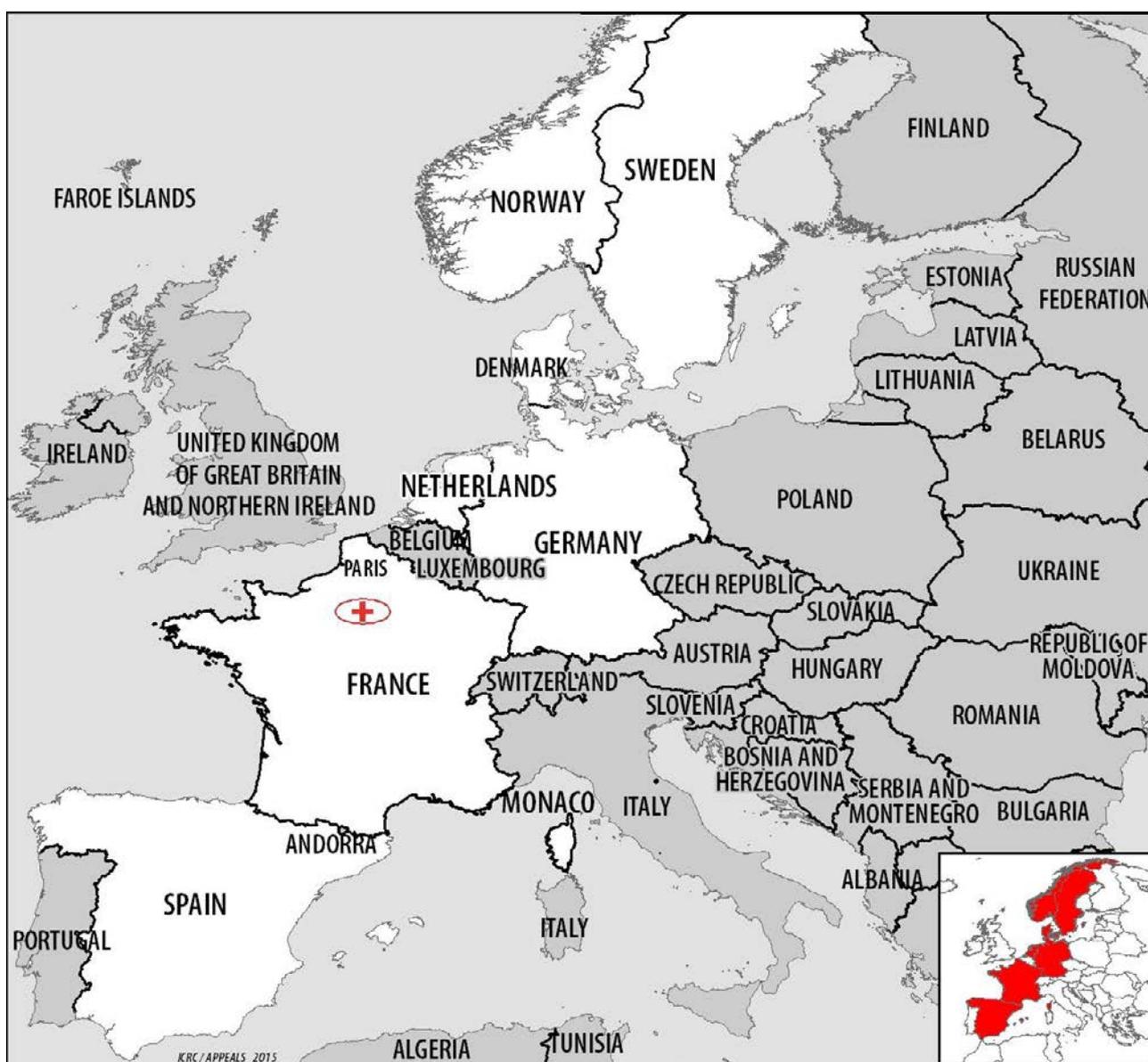
Throughout the region, the ICRC engages in regular dialogue on IHL, its implementation, and other humanitarian concerns with the authorities, military and academic circles, and third country representatives; increases awareness of its mandate; and mobilizes political and financial support for its activities. It visits people held by international criminal tribunals based in the region. It also follows up on people formerly held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. The ICRC works with the National Societies on their international activities and IHL promotion and, through them, enables migrants to contact their families.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	1,797
Assistance	352
Prevention	2,423
Cooperation with National Societies	512
General	43
Total	5,126
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>313</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	7
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	16



 ICRC regional delegation

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ European State authorities and the French armed forces evince support for IHL and humanitarian action, and help to facilitate ICRC operations worldwide
- ▶ through a pilot project, migrants in Greece, particularly unaccompanied minors, restore family links with relatives abroad via the Internet
- ▶ on the basis of an agreement signed in 2014 with the ICRC, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie promotes IHL among its member States, including through its training programmes
- ▶ detainees in the region, including some previously not visited, receive ICRC visits to monitor their treatment and living conditions
- ▶ the dissemination of multimedia materials on humanitarian themes, produced by the delegation's multimedia communication centre, gathers support for the ICRC's work among a broad audience
- ▶ European National Societies implement – on the basis of formalized agreements – projects in priority contexts and in such areas as migration, IHL, violence, family links, first aid, and emergency response

CONTEXT

Like several other European countries, France is involved in international/non-international armed conflicts through political mediation and/or military intervention – mainly as part of multilateral organizations such as the European Union (EU) and NATO. Its armed forces maintain a presence in several African and Middle Eastern countries and also participate in UN peacekeeping operations. France has launched military/security operations – Operation Barkhane – in the Sahel region of Africa.

Several intergovernmental and international organizations have their headquarters in Europe. Representatives of various foreign opposition groups are also based in the region.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, France plays a major role in international affairs and regularly communicates its views on various policy and legal issues.

Europe continues to draw migrants fleeing violence or seeking better economic prospects; hence, migration policies are a priority for the EU, individual States and EU governing institutions.

People formerly interned at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba are accepted for resettlement in some European countries. Europe also hosts the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT).

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In view of the similarities between the priority objectives of the Paris delegation and those of the Europe mission, the decision was taken to merge the two, both based in France, into a regional delegation.

In 2015, the ICRC will pursue humanitarian diplomacy with European authorities and with a network of influential contacts and leaders of foreign opposition groups based in or visiting Europe. Its priorities will be to promote IHL, increase understanding of and support for the ICRC's mandate and stimulate debate on humanitarian issues. It will engage with Europe-based international organizations to discuss issues of common concern, with the aim of ensur-

ing that they are addressed by policy-makers. The ICRC will also maintain contacts with representatives of foreign armed groups to facilitate ICRC activities in the contexts concerned.

With regard to the humanitarian concerns engendered by migration, the ICRC will provide, through a temporary office, family-links services for migrants stranded in Greece; while helping the Hellenic Red Cross resume its tracing activities. National Societies in the main zones of arrival will be assisted in strengthening their capacities to respond to migrants' needs. Authorities will be reminded of the principle of *non-refoulement*; at the same time, the ICRC will document allegations of abuse, including through on-site assessments, and make representations to the parties concerned, particularly in Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, to prevent recurrence of such violations.

To increase the likelihood of identifying the remains of migrants who perish during their journey, the ICRC will encourage the development of national and regional mechanisms to centralize forensic data and enable the exchange of information among forensic professionals and others concerned.

The ICRC will continue to follow the situation of detainees awaiting trial or serving their sentences in Europe who fall within the purview of the international tribunals. Dialogue with the RSCSL will be pursued in coordination with the delegation in Rwanda. The ICRC will strive to gain access to other detainees, particularly those arrested on security-related charges.

The well-being of former inmates of the Guantanamo Bay internment facility resettled in Europe will be monitored. When necessary, the ICRC will encourage the authorities concerned to take appropriate action to address any difficulties they encounter.

In France, the delegation will strengthen its dialogue with the armed forces, particularly commands/units involved in contexts covered by the ICRC; it will continue to promote IHL and its further incorporation in various levels of military training, giving presentations at the main military academies and centres, instructing senior officers in IHL and briefing personnel preparing to leave for missions abroad. The ICRC will, with the National Societies concerned, make presentations at universities and research institutions throughout Europe, to stimulate interest in and

enhance knowledge of IHL-related issues among researchers, lecturers and students.

Through its multimedia communication centre, the delegation will organize debates on key IHL issues, which will be relayed through the delegation's blog and other online platforms, and help raise awareness of humanitarian issues and the ICRC's mandate and activities among the wider public; other communication initiatives will be undertaken as well.

To foster cooperation with and among European National Societies, the ICRC will encourage the exchange of expertise, enabling all the parties involved to build on each other's strengths and to identify cooperation opportunities in areas of mutual interest. It will look to the National Societies for support, particularly for: strengthening the emergency response capacities of other National Societies, bolstering the ICRC's rapid deployment and response capacity in countries affected by violence, and developing a coordinated regional approach to addressing migration-related issues in line with the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

Many irregular migrants enter Europe through Greece, Italy, Malta or Spain. To stem the flow, several governments have imposed strict immigration and border controls, and employ such methods as detention and forced/voluntary return of irregular migrants, both adults and minors. Irregular migrants, including unaccompanied minors, are particularly vulnerable: they have no access to basic services, including health care, and face unlawful administrative detention with risk of ill-treatment, loss of contact with their families or disappearance.

Recovering and identifying migrants' remains continues to be a challenge throughout the region.

Most of the region's National Societies are involved in the humanitarian response to migrants' needs – in restoring/maintaining family links, for instance. They often work under difficult circumstances, and are at times requested to provide services that are not in line with the Movement's Fundamental Principles, particularly neutrality and independence. In addition, economic and other factors strain their capacities to provide services.

People formerly held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility and resettled in Europe find it difficult at times to adapt to life in their host countries.

Objective

Vulnerable people, particularly migrants and people released from US custody and repatriated or resettled in third countries, have their basic rights respected. They have access to essential services, and their specific needs are taken into account. They maintain family links and are reunited with their relatives, if they so wish. Families of missing migrants are informed of the fate of their relatives.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

With the National Society concerned:

- ▶ strengthen dialogue with the authorities, especially in Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, to raise awareness among them of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of mi-

grants, especially unaccompanied minors, detained migrants or those at risk of expulsion or going missing, and particularly to:

- document the issues confronting migrants, including through on-site assessments; when necessary, provide recreational or other assistance to migrants held at juvenile detention centres
- encourage the authorities concerned to prevent abuse, detention or disappearance of migrants, particularly unaccompanied minors, and to ensure that these people do not lose contact with their families

Restoring family links

- ▶ help European National Societies, particularly those in the main zones of arrival, strengthen their capacities to respond to the family-links needs of migrants, by:
 - helping migrants stranded in Greece, particularly unaccompanied minors, restore links with their families abroad, through a temporary office and developing working procedures/guidelines with a view to handling responsibility for tracing cases back to the Hellenic Red Cross
 - implementing a pilot project in Greece aimed at improving family-links services through the Internet
 - facilitating/participating in regional meetings on improving services in line with the Movement's family-links strategy, while reminding National Societies of the Movement's Fundamental Principles; providing expertise and technical support, whenever necessary
 - encouraging National Societies to reform their family-links services for addressing migrants' needs and the issue of missing migrants – for instance, by incorporating these services in disaster management and emergency response in southern Europe
- ▶ among the authorities concerned and National Societies, particularly in Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, promote the development and implementation of standard procedures for searching for, recovering, identifying and/or disposing of human remains after disasters at sea, particularly those involving migrants, by:
 - sensitizing national forensic and other services involved in these activities to the proper management of human remains, and, particularly, to families' right to know the fate of missing relatives
 - encouraging the development of national and regional mechanisms to document and centralize data, which will enable forensic professionals and others concerned to exchange information, facilitate the identification of human remains, and ensure that National Societies' family-links services can provide accurate information to bereaved families
 - providing forensic advice on managing human remains during emergencies, and when needed, support after disasters at sea involving migrants
 - promoting, at EU level, follow-up to conclusions and recommendations made during a 2013 conference on managing and identifying human remains
- ▶ to help address the needs of people released from the Guantanamo Bay internment facility and subsequently resettled in European countries, and of the families of people held in Afghanistan:
 - with the agreement of the authorities concerned, systematically monitor the situation of resettled former

internees, including new ones, through yearly follow-up visits and regular contact/interaction

- make recommendations, to the authorities in host and sending countries, for addressing issues faced by resettled former internees
- if necessary, recommend the pertinent National Society to the authorities concerned, for monitoring former detainees' efforts to adjust to their new surroundings, while continuing dialogue with National Societies or other organizations
- facilitate visits for families to relatives formerly held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility or in Afghanistan

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People held under the jurisdiction of the ICC and the ICTY are detained in The Hague, Netherlands while awaiting trial. Detainees convicted by the ICTY are serving their sentences in European countries, based on agreements concluded between the ICTY and those countries. The MICT has assumed, in addition to its other duties, the ICTY's responsibilities for supervising the enforcement of sentences.

Linguistic/cultural barriers and limited contact with their relatives are among the issues of concern for remand/convicted detainees under the authority of the international tribunals. For the detaining authorities, aging prisoners are a concern.

People are held on security-related charges in a number of European countries.

In certain countries, migrants are detained until their legal status is formalized or they leave for their country of origin.

Objective

People deprived of their freedom in relation to armed conflict or other situations of violence are afforded treatment and detention conditions, including respect for their judicial guarantees, that meet internationally recognized standards. They are able to maintain family links. The fundamental rights of migrants in administrative detention in Europe are respected. The principle of *non-refoulement* is fully acknowledged and respected by European countries.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ to ensure that people detained by the international tribunals benefit from treatment and detention conditions in compliance with internationally recognized standards, while on remand in The Hague or serving their sentences in European countries:
 - continue to visit detainees, including detained witnesses; facilitate contact between them and their families abroad, as appropriate; and share findings and recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities
 - expand dialogue with the international tribunals and the detaining authorities in enforcement States through meetings on issues affecting the general detainee population, and encourage them to address issues of humanitarian concern, particularly with regard to aging inmates – by organizing a workshop on the subject, for instance – and support sustainable solutions for releasing, returning or transferring detainees

- ▶ serve as a key source of reference for international criminal tribunals and penitentiary authorities in Europe on the humanitarian issues at stake in international detention; maintain dialogue with the authorities on national detention legislation and develop contacts with organizations that can influence penal reform
- ▶ resume visits to specific places of administrative detention for migrants to ensure that conditions and treatment are in compliance with international standards, and remind the authorities concerned of the need to respect the principle of *non-refoulement*
- ▶ on the basis of assessments of the needs of persons arrested and detained on security-related charges, pursue dialogue with national authorities on ICRC visits to such people, either to gain access to them or to be able to continue visiting them in accordance with standard ICRC procedures while addressing data protection and confidentiality issues in particular

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Governments in the region promote and help develop IHL. They have ratified most IHL treaties, and the level of domestic implementation is high. Many have national IHL committees, which advise their governments on fulfilling their obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and other IHL instruments.

European States have considerable influence with many countries and play a major role in international affairs. Because of this they are well placed, particularly France, to mobilize support for IHL, raise awareness of humanitarian issues, and make it possible for such issues to be addressed in multilateral fora.

Europe is also a major hub for media – French-language media as well – and for NGOs and academic institutions; all these are powerful agents for shaping opinion and relaying humanitarian messages. Representatives of various foreign opposition movements based in France exert influence in their countries of origin.

Proposals to address data protection with a single EU-wide law are under deliberation.

Objective

Governments and multilateral regional fora and institutions respect, implement and promote the application of IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence. They understand and support the ICRC's mandate and activities, recognizing the organization as a key reference on IHL and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. The authorities consult the ICRC on IHL-related and other humanitarian issues.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ exchange views on humanitarian issues with the region's authorities to gain their support, including funding, for ICRC operations and working procedures; in particular:
 - urge the authorities to adopt legislation recognizing and protecting ICRC confidentiality
 - in France, follow up the implementation of an agreement finalized in 2014, affirming the French authorities' support for ICRC activities

- maintain contact with representatives of foreign opposition groups and provide operational briefings to secure their support for ICRC activities in contexts of common interest
- ▶ focus bilateral/regional dialogue with the authorities on IHL and other issues, including cyber warfare, detention, sexual violence and nuclear weapons, to raise awareness of such matters and mobilize support for addressing them
- ▶ engage in dialogue with international organizations; in particular:
 - encourage the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie to promote incorporation of IHL in its activities, and distribute French translations of selected articles from the *International Review of the Red Cross* to member States
 - contribute IHL expertise during regional events on humanitarian issues such as the protection of cultural property
 - establish/enhance dialogue with humanitarian NGOs; for instance, share ICRC publications and other relevant information

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ to support further incorporation of IHL in French military training, operations and doctrine:
 - give presentations on IHL and the ICRC to students at France's main military academies and to military personnel, including legal advisers, before their deployment abroad
 - enable a high-ranking officer to participate in events, including an IHL course abroad
 - share, with the authorities concerned, the ICRC's interpretation of matters connected to the conduct of hostilities and other operational issues
- ▶ to raise awareness of and support – among NGOs, academia, the media and the wider public – for IHL, humanitarian issues and ICRC activities:
 - provide support, through the delegation's centre for multimedia communication, for the production of multimedia materials, exhibitions, documentaries, publications, events and competitions on humanitarian themes
 - invite civil society representatives to participate in ICRC-organized debates and to contribute to the ICRC's French-language blog
 - give IHL presentations at universities and research institutions, and promote/distribute ICRC publications and other informational materials
- ▶ to promote respect for IHL, help national IHL committees encourage State authorities to:
 - ratify IHL treaties they are not yet a party to, particularly Additional Protocol III, the amendments to the Rome Statute and the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property
 - at regional level, prevent IHL violations, specifically by national armed forces deployed abroad, and/or punish those responsible – according to recommen-

dations made by national IHL committees and the ICRC

- implement the Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Enforced Disappearance; and take measures to protect the provision of health care during armed conflict
- ▶ provide support for the authorities in fulfilling pledges made at the 31st International Conference, and to adopt resolutions on strengthening IHL at the 32nd International Conference

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

European National Societies, particularly those of Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden, play a major role in humanitarian affairs. They can influence government and Movement policies, and provide operational support and expertise in certain areas. They assist migrants and lobby on their behalf at national and regional levels, and help build the capacities of other National Societies. All have strong relations with the ICRC; some have concluded partnership agreements with the organization, notably to enhance the Movement's response in emergency operations.

Objective

European National Societies and the ICRC work in close partnership in areas of common concern, contributing to strengthening their operations and national/international positioning. National Societies have solid IHL expertise and partner the ICRC in its dialogue with the authorities on IHL-related issues. They are able to respond to the needs of migrants and deliver family-links services.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ strengthen partnerships with priority National Societies by:
 - meeting regularly, particularly with the Danish Norwegian and Swedish Red Crosses to monitor progress in implementing key areas of partnership, and by helping to boost other National Societies' capacities, particularly through incorporation of the Safer Access Framework
 - implementing projects in priority contexts and areas, including family links, IHL promotion, safe provision of health care, first aid, violence, rapid deployment and emergency response
- ▶ ensure, before the 32nd International Conference, common positioning on resolutions of common interest and follow up the implementation of pledges from the 31st International Conference
- ▶ support National Societies in mobilizing their governments and the general public to support ICRC activities for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence
- ▶ with Movement partners, support the Hellenic Red Cross in rebuilding its tracing capacities to address migrants' needs; improve coordination with National Societies in the Mediterranean region in connection with activities for migrants (see *Civilians*)