



Norway

Mark Proupes

1 Afghanistan

Afghanistan has an embassy in Oslo and Norway had an Embassy in Kabul, which got taken over by the Taliban after Norway evacuated its personnel and the participants of the Resolute Support Mission of the War in Afghanistan. Norway’s ambassador to Iran claimed that “wine bottles were smashed and childrens’ books destroyed”.

There are 10,475 Afghan people living in Norway. As of October 2013, there have been 10 Norwegian Armed Forces fatalities in the Afghan War, seven of these were due to so called Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), while two were due to direct hostile gunfire, and one was in connection with the 2011 Mazar-i-Sharif attack. In addition, there have been at least 26 non-fatal combat-related casualties.

“The total amount of humanitarian funding earmarked for Afghanistan is NOK 261 million so far this year, including support to neighbouring countries receiving Afghan refugees,” said Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Eriksen Søreide. The Norwegian support goes to the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

2 Turkey - Greece relations:

Firstly, and most importantly, Norway is a NATO member, just like both Greece and Turkey, however it is not a member of the EU which might present an opportunity to play an intermediary role. Secondly, Norway is a hydrocarbon exporter and consequently has stakes in the natural gas reserves in the Mediterranean as it would prefer that the EU buys Norwegian gas and not Turkish or Russian.

Establishment of diplomatic relations in 1926 with Turkey. In the 1970s Turkish immigrants came to Norway. Many of these immigrants have since remained in Norway. In 1976 the borders were closed for further inward migration of this kind. Since the European migrant crisis, Iraqi Turks and Syrian Turks have also migrated to Norway. In 2013 there was roughly 16,500 Norwegians of Turkish descent living in Norway. Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu paid an official visit to Norway on 29-30 August, 2019. The bilateral trade volume between Turkey and Norway stood at 1.278 billion USD in 2018 (Turkish exports: 513 million USD; imports: 765 million USD). Main Turkish export items to Norway are cruise ships, excursion boats and similar vessels for the transport of persons or goods, fishing vessels, vehicles for the transport of goods and motor cars, while main import items from Norway are petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons, fish and ferro-alloys. More than 161 thousand Norwegian tourists visited Turkey in 2018. Norwegian investments in Turkey are mainly concentrated in the fields of energy and shipping.

The Greek Embassy in Oslo opened in 1980 and the Norwegian Embassy in Athens opened in 1974. Greece is a popular tourist destination for Norwegians, with up to 250000 visitors a year. Norway is part of the EEA and consequently enjoys the freedom of movement of people and capital between Greece and Norway. Since 2001, Greek exports to Norway have increased in pharmaceuticals, cotton, clothing, non-ferrous metals, plastics, steel products, and fresh fruit

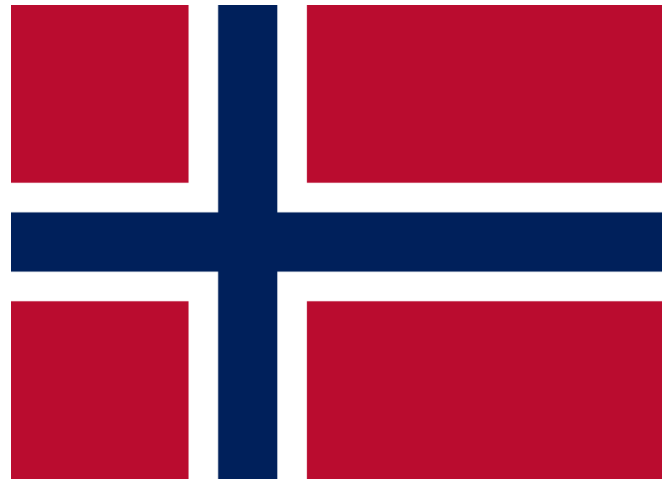


Fig. 1: Norwegian Flag

and in 2003 amounted to some NOK 430 million. Norway exports fishery products, maritime equipment, aluminium alloys, and granite, which in 2003 amounted to about NOK 970 million. In 2019 the number of Greeks in Norway was 3,246.

“We recently contributed NOK 350 million to help Greek authorities expand their systems for treating asylum applications, and this was especially targeted at helping vulnerable groups and unaccompanied minors,” Ms Eriksen Søreide said. The new Norwegian contribution comprises 500 bunkbeds, 1 500 mattresses and 10 tents. Because Norway is not in the EU its involvement in the migrant crisis is less than EU countries, however it takes on a more supportive role. Moreover, in 2015 some migrants came to Norway through the border with Russia, an event which the Norwegian government would prefer to prevent from repeating again.

3 References

- 1 Wikipedia: 'Norwegian casualties'
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Norwegian_Armed_Forces_casualties_in_Afghanistan
- 2 Regjeringen: 'Norway increases humanitarian support'
<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/norway-to-increase-humanitarian-support-to-afghanistan/id2871405/>
- 3 Turkey Government: 'Turkey - Norway Relations'
<https://www.mfa.gov.tr/relations-between-turkey-and-norway.en.mfa>
- 4 Wikipedia: 'Greeks in Norway'
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greeks_in_Norway
- 5 Norway: 'Norway contributes to Greece migration'
<https://www.norway.no/en/Greece/norway-greece/news-events/news/contributions-to-the-migration-situation-in-greece/>