



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 22 November 2023**

**WK 15557/2023 INIT**

**DOCUMENT PARTIALLY  
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  
(date)**

**LIMITE**

**JAI  
MIGR  
ASIM  
RELEX  
ELARG  
COASI**

*This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.*

**NOTE**

---

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations

---

Subject:	Action File to follow up on the EU action plan for the Eastern Mediterranean route (matrix)
----------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

---

In view of the Mocadem Rountable of 29 November 2023, delegations will find attached the Action file to follow up on the EU action plan for the Eastern Mediterranean route (matrix).

## ACTION FILE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE EU ACTION PLAN FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
<i>I. Preventing irregular departures, combatting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings as well as providing legal migration pathways</i>				
1. Strengthen comprehensive engagement with countries of origin and transit in Asia and Africa	Commission, MS, EU DEL	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the implementation of programmes such as the Global Action addressing Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, and the PROTECT programme.</li> <li>- Continue cooperation within the framework of the comprehensive migration and mobility dialogues launched with Bangladesh and Pakistan in 2023 and explore the possibility to develop with them anti-smuggling operational partnership (ASOPs).</li> <li>- Roll out an EU-funded Common Operational Partnership project (EASTEAMS) between Pakistan and MS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kick-off meeting of the EASTEAMS project took place on 26 September 2023, in Athens (EL). Implementation continues.</li> </ul>
2. Implement the measures of the toolbox on transport operators	Commission, MS, Frontex, Eurocontrol		<div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 15%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> </div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 15%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 10%;"></div> </div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue engagement with Türkiye with a view to identifying additional actions and furthering operational cooperation, also in the framework of the EU- Türkiye High Level Dialogue on Migration and Security on 23 November.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Toolbox presented by the Commission on 6 June 2023.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
<b>3. Resume and conclude negotiations on the proposal for a Regulation on measures against transport operators</b>	Council, EP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue negotiations in the relevant Council's working parties and Parliament's committees.</li> </ul>	-
<b>4. Continue cooperation with Türkiye to counter migrant smuggling</b>	Commission, Europol, EUROJUST		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore the possibility to launch a new Common Operational Partnership project (SCOPE II).</li> <li>- Support the implementation of Türkiye's Integrated Border Management Strategy, the operationalization of the National Coordination and Risk Assessment Centre (NACORAC), and the enhancement of passenger screening at airports.</li> <li>- Reinforce Türkiye's participation in regional initiatives and projects targeting the Silk Route countries.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p>EU Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The grant agreement of SCOPE II (EUR 5 million through the Internal Security Fund) has been signed. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</li> <li>- Cooperation on migrant smuggling including with the relevant EU Agencies to be part of discussions of the upcoming EU-Türkiye High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Security of 23 November 2023.</li> <li>- Support to Türkiye's IBM Strategy project currently under implementation by ICMPD.</li> <li>- Airport security project focusing on passenger screening currently under implementation by IOM.</li> <li>- NACORAC operationalisation project under implementation by ICMPD.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
5. Continue support for the establishment of the International Migration Cooperation Centre in Istanbul	Commission			- The Centre to be financed under AMIF MPF [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
6. Enhance cooperation between EUROPOL, Frontex and EUROJUST, and build synergies between the EMPACT OAP on migrant smuggling and SCOPE II and EASTEAMS projects	Commission, Europol, FRONTEX, and EUROJUST	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase participation and information sharing of all relevant partners in the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) 2022-2025 policy cycle and its operational action plans (OAPs).</li> <li>- Build synergies between the EMPACT OAP and SCOPE II and EASTEAMS projects.</li> <li>- Continue to support regional cooperation among countries both on judicial and law enforcement aspects using EUROJUST and EUROPOL's expertise and capacity-building capacities.</li> </ul>	- Synergies between EMPACT OAP and SCOPE II and EASTEAMS project continue to be explored in their implementation.
7. Provide support to targeted information and awareness raising campaigns on the risks of irregular migration to the EU	EU DEL, MS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convene the European Migration Network Information and Awareness Raising Campaigns Working Group to identify actions supporting knowledge exchange and coordination between Member States and EU bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EMN Info Working Group workshop with a geographical focus on the Eastern Mediterranean Route to take place on 7 December 2023</li> <li>- Action under preparation: the Commission has positively replied to Cyprus request for funding under AMIF for a project proposal on an awareness-raising campaign to prevent irregular migration [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</li> </ul>

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
				████████████████████ ████████
8. Continue offering safe and legal avenues to protection, including resettlement	Commission, EUAA,	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sustained efforts for the resettlement of refugees in need of international protection under the 2024-2025 EU resettlement and humanitarian admission scheme.</li> <li>- Pledging exercise for the upcoming 2024-2025 EU resettlement and humanitarian admission scheme was concluded in early October. Commission is currently assessing the results.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	
9. Continue efforts to create legal migration and mobility opportunities	Commission	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up discussions involving partner countries such as ████████████████████ and interested EU Member States to operationalise Talent Partnerships.</li> <li>- Adopt the NDICI-funded actions in support of Talent Partnerships in ██████████</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The high-level conference on legal migration organised by the EMN and the Spanish Presidency on 16 and 17 November 2023 brought together Member States, partner countries, notably Egypt, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. It was an opportunity for partner countries (who ensured a high-level participation) to reaffirm their commitment to Talent Partnerships, as part of a reinforced cooperation in migration management.</li> <li>- After the Talent Partnership Roundtables, first follow-up technical meetings were organised with the Bangladeshi and the Pakistani authorities on 18 July and 10 October 2023, respectively.</li> </ul>

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
				<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>- On 15 November, the Commission adopted a Skills and Talent Mobility package, including a proposal to set up an EU Talent Pool. It would be the first matching platform between EU employers and non-EU citizens living outside the EU.</p>
10. Explore with MS the possibility to further streamline Schengen visa procedures and to facilitate processing of visa applications	MS, Commission	Ongoing	<p>- Facilitate the processing of visa applications in MS.</p> <p>- The Commission explores possibilities with Member States to facilitate access to visa applications, in particular for certain specific categories of [REDACTED]. This should also include making full use of the flexibilities of the Visa Code to allow the issuing of multiple entry visas with a long validity.</p> <p>-</p>	-
11. Reinstate the temporary scheme of short-stay tourist visits from certain Turkish areas to Greece	EL, Commission	Ongoing	<p>- Promote people-to-people contacts between Greece and Türkiye.</p>	<p>[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>





Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
				<p>reinforce rights-based approach and IBM coordination contributing to enhanced border security and trade facilitation</p> <p>- LEBANON: new programme “Support to Integrated border management in Lebanon” (EUR 7 M) adopted under Annual Action Plan 2023 to contribute to Integrated Border Management (IBM) in Lebanon in line with EU and international standards, including through the application of the human rights-based approach.</p> <p>JORDAN: Support to Integrated Border Management in Jordan (€11M) from 07/2019 to 06/2024; with UNODC/ICMPD with the following objective: Main aim is to contribute to the development of the long-term capability of Jordan to control and manage its borders and to ensure greater security for citizens and visitors, while guaranteeing the respect for the rule of law and human rights standards.</p>
14. Continue to support regional cooperation among partners in the	Commission, EEAS, EU DEL	Ongoing	- Promote cooperation among partners in the Southern neighbourhood, notably Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.	



Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
<b>Southern neighbourhood</b>				
<b>15. Provide assistance to Greece in establishing the NIMSS, to Cyprus in making operational the new National Coordination Centre, and to Bulgaria to update the coastal surveillance system</b>	Commission, EL, CY and BG	Ongoing	- Support the implementation of the Border Management and Vista Instrument (BMVI) in each of those countries paying particular attention to the achievement of the goals mentioned. The Commission prioritises swift implementation.	
<b>16. Foster the reinvigoration of cooperation between Frontex and Türkiye</b>	Frontex		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen the cooperation on risk analysis by reinvigorating the Frontex-Türkiye analysis network.</li> <li>- Support the implementation of the BMVI project to strengthen border control and the NACORAC capacity building project.</li> <li>- [REDACTED]</li> <li>- [REDACTED]</li> <li>- [REDACTED]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BMVI project currently being reviewed by the Commission.</li> <li>- NACORAC project currently being implemented by ICMPD.</li> </ul>
<b>17. Improve situational awareness at the sea borders in cooperation with Frontex and ensure that assistance to persons found in</b>	Frontex, Commission, MS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- [REDACTED]</li> <li>- [REDACTED]</li> <li>- [REDACTED]</li> <li>- [REDACTED].</li> <li>- Enhance cooperation by collecting and exchanging information, using EUROSUR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NB: exchange of information using EUROSUR would require [REDACTED]</li> <li>- [REDACTED]</li> <li>- [REDACTED]</li> <li>- [REDACTED] In case of EU Member States, this exchange would require a bilateral or multilateral</li> </ul>

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
distress at sea is swiftly provided			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide assistance to improve the external border control, and maritime search and rescue, e.g. via the BMVI funded European Multinational Mission Surveillance Project (EMMOS).</li> </ul>	<p>agreement (between a given MS and a third country).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NB. BMVI funding can be taken into consideration in the following circumstances: 'search and rescue operations in situations which might arise during border surveillance operations at sea' (BMVI cannot provide financial support for search and rescue as such as it is not an EU competence)</li> </ul>
<b>III. Enhance return and readmission cooperation</b>				
18. Promote full and effective implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement and the EU-Turkey readmission agreement	Commission, EEAS, Council	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ [REDACTED]</li> <li>- EU-Türkiye High Level on Migration and Security, 23/11</li> </ul>	
19. Strengthen national operational and infrastructural capacities to step up returns from the EU	Commission, Frontex, MS, EUDEL	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further support the development and implementation of national IT return case management systems based on the RECAMAS model.</li> </ul>	-
20. Support the use to the maximum extent of the Action Plans on returns agreed	Frontex, CY, EL, BG		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to provide expertise and operational support to Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria for</li> </ul>	

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
between Frontex and Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using to the maximum extent the support available under the Action Plans</li> <li>- Sustain cooperation between Frontex, the Commission and MS within the framework of the dedicated Working Groups on Returns and work to building sufficient, future-proof capacities.</li> </ul>	
21. Under the Bulgaria pilot project, enhance returns through, <i>inter alia</i> , the deployment of return specialists and interpreters	Frontex, Commission, BG	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue working via the framework established under the Bulgaria pilot project in order to improve returns.</li> <li>- Support Bulgaria's engagement with third countries on non-voluntary returns, while considering a tailor-made Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme.</li> <li>- Following the progress on the pilot project for Bulgaria, as reported by the Commission on 18 October 2023, the Commission, Bulgaria and the EU Agencies to continue working closely in this framework, including by identifying potential new areas of cooperation.</li> </ul>	-
22. Coordinate joint diplomatic outreach vis-à-vis third countries of origin and transit, in particular in South Asia and in Africa	Commission, EEAS, MS, EUDEL	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take concrete steps to improve readmission, in the framework of the existing EU readmission agreements and arrangements, and of Article 25a of the Visa Code.</li> <li>- Raise readmission issues with third countries' governments in a coordinated manner.</li> </ul>	

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
23. Support sustainable reintegration in the countries of origin	MS, Commission, Frontex, EUDAL		- Take specific measures to address the social, psychological and professional reintegration of returnees in the origin countries and coordinate support accordingly, including with EUMS. -	[REDACTED]
<i>IV. Ensure efficient migration management, improve asylum procedures and support sufficient reception capacity</i>				
29. Continue cooperation with Türkiye on strengthening its asylum and reception systems	Ongoing		- Cooperate with Türkiye in line with the Common European Asylum System and EU standards, and through the Roadmap for Cooperation between the EUAA and Türkiye's Presidency of Migration Management. - Maintain EU support in improving asylum procedures. -[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. - Continue supporting AVRR and other alternative detention measures	[REDACTED]