

Sudan

EU engagement to date

There has been no specific readmission engagement with Sudan at EU level. Sudan has not been considered a priority for engagement on readmission at EU level so far due to the complex political and humanitarian situation in the country. Article 13 of the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement, to which Sudan is party, prescribes the commitment of the partner countries to cooperate with the EU in readmitting its own nationals.

Cooperation on readmission

In 2019 2 785 Sudanese nationals staying illegally in the Member States were issued return decisions and 255 effectively returned to Sudan resulting in a **return rate** of 9%. Member States submitted 219 readmission requests to Sudanese authorities, who issued 109 travel documents resulting in an **issuance rate** of 50%.

A total of 15 Member States reported having approached the authorities of Sudan for readmission matters related to its nationals in 2019.

Two Member States reported having **bilateral agreements/arrangements** in place with Sudan, whose relevant provisions are in one case rarely respected and in the other case (almost) always.

Almost half of responding Member States assess the overall cooperation with Sudan in the **identification procedure** as good or very good. The three Member States who account for two thirds of all Sudanese nationals ordered to leave consider the cooperation very good.

Half of the responding Member States have an established business routine for cooperation on identification that is effectively implemented. For most Member States consular interviews are often to always performed upon their request as necessary, with, on average, satisfactory outcomes. Consular interviews by phone or videoconference, however, is not possible.

According to two Member States, the Sudanese authorities are almost always available to organise short or long-term identification missions, with very good outcomes.

Evidence accepted by the Sudanese authorities for the purpose of identification includes not only valid or expired passports but can also include, depending on the Member State, information extracted from the VIS and any other type of document that might be helpful.

According to half of the responding Member States, accounting for more than three quarters of all return decisions the **issuance of travel documents** often to always takes place in a timely manner.

Most of the responding Member States did not attempt return operations by **charter flight**. However, three Member States confirmed acceptance by Sudan of charter flights.

In general, Member States have assessed the **overall cooperation on return and readmission** as improved or excellent since 2015, including the three Member States with the overwhelming number of cases.

With a total of 2 785 Sudanese nationals ordered to leave in 2019, Sudan ranks 29th amongst visa-bound third countries whose nationals have been issued return decisions in the Member States. Overall, about half of the Member States interact on readmission with Sudan on a small number of cases compared to the number of return decisions issued (less than 10%). Two have bilateral agreements and seven have an established cooperation routine. With half of these Member States, covering more than two thirds of return decisions issued, identification processes are conducted in a satisfactory manner, including by accepting a wide range of documents and through interviews. Once identification is performed the issuance of travel documents takes place in a timely manner for the Member States standing for more than three quarters of return decisions issued. To improve cooperation, this good practice would need to be extended to all Member States and charter flights accepted from all requesting Member States. If the number of readmission requests increased, this should result in a higher return rate.