



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 February 2013

5663/13

LIMITE

**JAI 44
ASIM 7**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration (HLWG)

on: 21 January 2013

No. prev. doc.: 17309/12 JAI 873 ASIM 150

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Programme of the Presidency

The **Chair** presented the programme of the Presidency for the first term of 2013, the main features of which were already outlined in the HLWG meeting of 26-27 November 2012 (see 17309/12 JAI 873 ASIM 150).

2. Implementation of the Global Approach

The **Commission representative** presented the state-of-play of dialogues and processes under the Global Approach. The GAMM update is set out in Annex I to this Note.

In this framework, specific information was provided on the following items:

- by **CY**, the **Commission** and **EEAS representatives**, on the outcome of the VII EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Migration, held on 28 November in Brussels. In this framework, the **EEAS representative** also provided information on the preparations, in relation in particular to migration-related issues, for the EU-CELAC Summit, held on 26-27 January 2013 in Santiago de Chile.

- By **CY** and the **Commission representative**, on the outcome of the Mission to Amman, held on 12 December 2012, which launched a dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security EU-Jordan.

- The **Chair** provided information on the outcome of the Justice and Home Affairs Informal meeting, held on 15 January, in Dublin, which addressed the situation in Syria. In this context, the **Commission representative** provided information on the launch of a 'regional development and protection programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East'. The programme consists of two main components: 1) an 'Operational research component' and 2) a 'Regional Protection Programme (RPP)' component. The 'Operational Research' component aims to establish 'robust evidence-base on the costs as well as the positive developmental and socio-economic impacts of refugees on host communities and countries. Therefore, this component encompasses micro- and macro-level studies, assessments and analyses will be conducted on the costs and impacts of refugees on: public and social services (e.g. health, education); demand, consumption and production of goods; and key sectors of the economy such as domestic labour markets, employment, livelihoods, land and property. In addition, assessments and analyses of current protection capacities, standards and rights provision for refugees will be conducted in partner countries. This key component is defined as 'operational' because the analytical research will be translated into practice. Indeed, it will inform the design and implementation of the socio-economic development activities for both refugees and host communities. In addition, the research findings will serve as the basis for advocacy and political dialogue with concerned governments and local authorities with regard to durable solutions and refugee mobility. In reference to the second component, the implementation of a Regional Protection Programme (RPP) will be an integral part of the broader development programme. The RPP specific content will be designed in line with the 2005 European Commission Communication on RPPs. The RPP will envisage core activities such as: legal assistance to refugees, the establishment of an effective Refugee Status Determination, the improvement of refugee reception conditions, refugee registration, capacity-building for national and local governmental authorities as well as project for host communities. Besides, the programme might explore the scope for a resettlement scheme notably to the EU Member States.

- By the **Commission** and **the EEAS representatives** on the state-of-play of the preparations for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, to be held in October 2013 in New York.
- By **PL**, on the Senior Official meeting of the Prague process, to be held on 27-28 February 2013 in Prague.
- By **BE**, on the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Rabat process, to be held on 21 February in Brussels.

3. **Preparation of the GAMM report**

The **Commission representative** provided information on the state-of-play of the preparations for the first GAMM report, following the GAMM Communication of November 2011, expected to be issued in Spring/Summer 2013.

4. **Azerbaijan**

The **Commission representative** provided information on the state-of-play of the contacts with the Azerbaijani authorities in view of the future establishment of a Mobility Partnership with this country.

The **Group** had an exchange of views on this subject.

5. **Cooperation on migration with ASEAN**

The **Commission** and **EEAS representatives** provided information on plans for developing cooperation on migration with ASEAN.

The **Group** had an exchange of views on this subject.

The **Chair** indicated that this item will be further addressed at the next HLWG meeting.

6. **Budapest process Ministerial Meeting "A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration"**

HU and the **Commission representative** provided information on the state-of-play of the preparations of the Ministerial Conference on the Silk Route, to be held on 19 April 2013 in Istanbul, including on the outcome of the meeting held on 10-11 December 2012 in Ankara.

The **Group** had an exchange of views on this subject and in particular on the definition of an EU position in view of the Ministerial Conference.

Underlining that it constitutes one of the priorities of its work programme, the **Chair** indicated that this item will be further addressed at the next HLWG meeting.

7. **Dialogue on Migration EU-India**

The **Group** pursued its discussions on the question of the possible establishment of a CAMM with India, which was already addressed at the HLWG meeting on 26-27 November 2012.

The **Chair** indicated that this item will be further addressed at the next HLWG meeting.

8. **Situation in the Southern Mediterranean Region**

The **Chair** and the **Commission representative** provided information on the state-of-play of the dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security with Morocco and Tunisia, in particular on the preparations for the second negotiating meeting with Morocco, to be held on 14-15 February 2013 in Rabat.

The **Chair** indicated that this item will be further addressed at the next HLWG meeting.



GAMM UPDATE

18 January 2013

This document provides an updated overview of the main external migration dialogue processes implemented in the framework of the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM). The document is compiled for the information of the EU High Level Working Group on Migration and Asylum by the responsible European Commission services, in association with the EEAS.

Part 1- The Regional Processes

(A) THE PRAGUE PROCESS

The Prague Process is a framework for dialogue and cooperation between the EU and its Member States, the non-EU Schengen States and 19 partner countries to the east (Russia, Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asian countries, Western Balkan countries, Turkey).

The work of the Prague Process is based on the Joint Ministerial Declaration (Prague 2009) and the Action Plan 2012-2016, adopted at the second Ministerial Conference of the Prague Process (Poznan, 2011).

Recent and upcoming events

4 November 2011	Ministerial Conference Poznan	Adoption Action Plan 2012-2016
2-3 April 2012	SOM, Warsaw	Launch Implementation Action Plan
25-26 September 2012	1 st and 2 nd Kick-off workshops, Budapest	(a) legal migration pilot project; (b) migration and development pilot project,
30-31 October 2012	3 rd Kick-off workshop, Stockholm	International protection and and asylum pilot project
8-9 November 2012	4 th Kick-off workshop, Lvov, Ukraine	illegal migration pilot project
20 November 2012	Core Group meeting, Warsaw	
23-24 January 2013	Expert-level workshop, Florence	Theme: migration profiles
28 January-1 March 2013	Workshop of the Asylum and International Protection Pilot Project, Warsaw	Topic: Train-the-trainer session on inclusion module of EAC for Russian speaking participants
7-8 February 2013	Joint Workshop of the Legal Migration Pilot Project and the Migration and Development Pilot Project, Prague	
27-28 February 2013	SOM, Prague	
11-12 March 2013	Workshop of the Illegal Migration Pilot Project, Warsaw	Theme: exchange of experiences and best practices on return and readmission

(B) THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The Eastern Partnership is the framework for cooperation between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Joint Declarations were adopted at Eastern Partnership Summits of Prague (2009) and Warsaw (2011).

The dialogue on migration and mobility takes place in the context of the new panel on Migration and Asylum, which succeeds the work previously undertaken through the Söderköping process.

Recent and upcoming events

29-30 September 2011	Eastern Partnership Summit, Warsaw	Adoption of Joint Declaration
9 December 2011	1 st meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum, Stockholm	Adoption of Work Programme 2012
3-4 May 2012	2 nd meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum, Tbilisi	Theme: refugee status; determination process
10-11 September 2012	Expert workshop, Bucharest	Theme: country of origin information.
18-19 October 2012	3 rd meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum, Chisinau	Theme: circular migration. Adoption of Work Programme for 2013
20-21 March 2013	4 th meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum, Tbilisi	Theme: readmission, return and reintegration.
May/June 2013	Expert workshop, Kiev (tbc)	Theme: victims of trafficking in human beings
September/October 2013	5 th meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum, Prague	Theme: integration of migrants and refugees; IDP issues. Adoption of Work Programme for 2014
November/December 2013	Expert workshop, Budapest	Theme: statelessness
29 November 2013	Eastern Partnership Summit, Vilnius	

(C) THE MME PARTNERSHIP

The Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) Partnership was launched during the 2nd Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government in December 2007 in Lisbon, where the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and the First Action Plan (2008-2010) were adopted. The partnership provides the framework for dialogue and cooperation on migration issues between the EU and all African States.

A second Action Plan (2011-2013) was adopted at the third Africa-EU Summit that took place in Tripoli on 29-30 November 2010. Implementation was interrupted in 2011 due to force majeure (situation in Libya, the African co-chair of the Partnership).

Recent and upcoming events

29-30 November 2010	Africa-EU Summit, Tripoli	Adoption of Action Plan 2011-2013
1-2 December 2011	Thematic meeting, Johannesburg	Theme: Trafficking in Human Beings
18 January 2012	8 th Meeting of the MME Implementation Team, Brussels	
8 March 2012	Africa-EU Joint Expert Group, Brussels	Re-launch of the implementation process
10-11 May 2012	Thematic meeting, Nairobi	Theme: migrants' rights: female migrants and domestic workers
5-6 July 2012	African Union Commission-Regional Economic Committees (RECs) meeting, Addis Ababa	Theme: enhancing migration, mobility, employment and higher education in the RECs

25-26 October 2012	Thematic meeting, Barcelona	Theme: access to international protection for asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs
14-15 February 2013	Joint Task Force, Addis Abeba (tbc)	MME working programme for 2013 and discussions for the new action plan

(D) THE RABAT PROCESS

The Rabat process was launched at the first Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development that took place in July 2006 in Rabat. The process aims to enhance dialogue and cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination along the West African migration route. A second Ministerial meeting took place in 2008 in Paris. The third one was held in Dakar in November 2011, where the Strategy for 2012-2014 was adopted.

Recent and upcoming events

23 November 2011	Third Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, Dakar	Adoption of the Dakar Strategy 2012-2014
5-6 June 2012	Steering Committee and SOM, Madrid	Adoption of a Roadmap for Implementation of the Dakar Strategy
21 February 2013	Steering Committee, Brussels	State of play and preparation of the 2013 Senior Official Meeting

(E) THE BUDAPEST PROCESS

The Budapest Process was initiated in 1991 as a consultative forum, currently containing of more than 50 governments and 10 international organizations, aiming at developing comprehensive and sustainable systems for orderly migration. The process focuses on three priority regions: the South-East European Region, the Black Sea Region and the Silk Routes Region. The GAMM Council Conclusions of May 2012 make specific reference to the latter.

Recent and upcoming events

17 November 2011	SOM, Ankara	
18 November 2011	1 st intergovernmental meeting on the Silk Routes Project, Ankara	
25-26 April 2012	Working Group on the South-East European Region, Zagreb	
28-29 June 2012	Working Group on the Silk Routes Region, Tbilisi	Theme: migration and development
27-28 September 2012	1 st Preparatory Meeting for the Ministerial Conference, Izmir	
12-13 November 2012	Working Group on the Black Sea Region, Sofia	
10-11 December 2012	2 nd Preparatory Meeting for the Ministerial Conference, Ankara	
4-5 March 2013	3 rd Preparatory Meeting for the Ministerial Conference, Budapest	
18 April 2013	4 th Preparatory Meeting for the Ministerial Conference, Istanbul	
19 April 2013	Ministerial Conference, Istanbul	

(F) THE ACP-EU MIGRATION DIALOGUE

The ACP-EU Migration Dialogue was launched in June 2010 through a Joint Declaration of the ACP-EU Joint Council. The dialogue is based on Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement. In May 2011 it was decided to further deepen the dialogue, focusing in particular on the subjects of remittances, visa and readmission, with the specific aim to strengthen the operational aspects of ACP-EU cooperation on these topics.

A series of expert meetings took place to this effect, both at expert and Senior Official / Ambassador level, in view of reporting back to the ACP-EU Joint Council of 2012. A joint report including recommendations on remittances, visas and readmission has been adopted in June 2012 at the ACP-EU Joint Council of Vanuatu.

Recent and upcoming events

14 February 2012	First Expert meeting, Brussels	Theme: remittances.
15 February 2012	Second Expert Meeting, Brussels	Theme: visa
24 April 2012	Third Expert meeting, Brussels	Theme: readmission
14-15 June 2012	Joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers, Vanuatu	Endorsement of the report and recommendations of 2012 dialogue
March 2013	ACP-EU Ambassadors meeting, Brussels	Agree on follow-up to Vanuatu report.
1 st semester 2013	Expert meeting, Brussels (tbc)	Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 dialogue
1 st semester 2013	Expert meeting, Brussels (tbc)	Mobility of skilled persons and fighting smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.

(G) THE EU-CELAC MIGRATION DIALOGUE

The EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAC) Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration was launched in June 2009 following the mandate of the EU-LAC Lima Summit. The commitment to further develop the Dialogue was renewed at the sixth EU-LAC Summit held in Madrid in May 2010. The Madrid Action Plan includes migration among the six key areas for cooperation between the two regions.

Recent and upcoming events

8 May 2010	VI EU-LAC Summit, Madrid	Adoption Madrid Action plan 2010-2012
24 May 2012	6 th EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Migration, Brussels	
28 November 2012	7 th EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Migration, Brussels	
26-27 January 2013	EU-CELAC Summit, Chile	
5 June 2013	8 th EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Migration, Brussels	

Part 2- The bilateral dialogues

(A) ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES

Albania

A Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) entered into force on 1 April 2009. A readmission agreement and a visa facilitation agreement entered into force in 2008. In 2010 Albania was granted the visa free regime by the EU.

Recent and upcoming events

24 May 2011	Joint Readmission Committee, Tirana	
27-28 May 2011	JHA Subcommittee, Tirana	
26/27 April 2012	JHA Subcommittee, Brussels	

Bosnia Herzegovina

On 16 June 2008 the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) which will enter into force once its ratification process has been completed. On 1 January 2008 the visa facilitation and readmission agreements entered into force. In 2010 Bosnia was granted the visa free regime by the EU.

Recent and upcoming events

3 May 2012	High Level meeting on Home Affairs matters, Brussels	
1 st semester 2013	Joint Readmission Committee	

Croatia

The EU-Croatia Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) entered into force in 2005. At the end of June 2011 the accession negotiations with Croatia were closed. The Accession Treaty was signed in December 2011. Accession is foreseen for 1 July 2013.

Recent and upcoming events

16 May 2011	JHA Subcommittee, Brussels	
9 March 2012	JHA Subcommittee, Zagreb	

Kosovo¹

Associated to the Stabilization and Association Process dialogue (SAP) since 2003, the SAP dialogue was launched in 2009. The main purpose of this dialogue is to accompany and monitor Kosovo's reforms and the EU approximation process, in particular with regard to the priorities defined in the European Partnership adopted by the European Council on 18 February 2008. In February 2012 the Council took note of the intention of the Commission to launch a feasibility study in view of an SAA. In January 2012, the Commission has launched and will conduct, in reinforce consultation with Member States, a visa liberalization dialogue with Kosovo.

Recent and upcoming events

19 January	Official Launch of Visa Dialogue	
7-8 February 2012	SAP dialogue on Justice, Freedom and Security, Pristina	
30 May 2012	Structured dialogue on the Rule of Law, Brussels	
14 June 2012	Hand-over of the Visa Road Map, Brussels	

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

14 June 2012	First SOM Meeting, Brussels	
13 July 2012	SAP dialogue, plenary, Brussels	

Montenegro

The EU-Montenegro Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) entered into force in 2010. Agreements between the EU and Montenegro on Visa Facilitation and Readmission took effect on 1 January 2008. In 2009 Montenegro was granted a visa-free regime by the EU.

Recent and upcoming events

2 nd semester 2012	Joint Readmission Committee	
3-4 December 2012	JLS Subcommittee, Podgorica	
4th quarter 2013	JLS Subcommittee, Brussels	

Serbia

The EU-Serbia Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) was signed in 2008 but is still in the process of ratification. On 18 February 2008 the Council adopted the new European partnership for Serbia which sets out priorities for Serbia's European perspective. Readmission and Visa Facilitation Agreements entered into force in 2008. In December 2009 Serbia was granted visa liberalisation by the EU.

Recent and upcoming events

18-22 June 2012	JLS Subcommittee, Belgrade	
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Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia entered into force in 2004. In 2008 the Council adopted the Accession Partnership for the country. A Visa Facilitation agreement and Readmission agreement with the EU has been in force since 2008. In 2009 the country was granted a visa-free regime by the EU.

Recent and upcoming events

13 May 2011	Joint Readmission Committee, Skopje	
14 September 2011	JHA Subcommittee, Skopje	
19 October 2011	SAA Committee, Brussels	
23-24 July 2012	SAA Council	
30 November 2012	JLS Subcommittee, Brussels	
4th quarter 2013	JLS Subcommittee, Skopje	

Turkey

In 2008 the Council adopted a revised Accession Partnership with Turkey. Negotiations on the EU-Turkey readmission agreement are finalized. Turkish authorities expressed the readiness to sign the readmission agreement upon reception of the Roadmap on visa liberalization announced by the Council conclusions of 21 June 2012.

Recent and upcoming events

15 March 2012	Dialogue on Migration and Security, Ankara	MoU with Frontex was initialled.
12 April 2012	EU-Turkey Association Committee	
28 May 2012	Signature of the memorandum of Understanding with FRONTEX by Turkish authorities	
21 June 2012	Initialling of the readmission agreement by Turkey	

21 June 2012	Adoption of Council conclusions on developing EU-Turkey dialogue and cooperation framework in JHA issues	The Commission was invited to take steps towards visa liberalization as a gradual and long-term perspective in parallel with the signature of the readmission agreement
22 June 2012	EU-Turkey Association Council	
14 December 2013	Meeting between Commission Services and Turkey on the signature of the readmission agreement and the contents of the Roadmap towards a visa-free regime.	Handing over of the draft of the Broader dialogue and cooperation framework on Justice and Home Affairs with Turkey

(B) SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

<p>Morocco <i>The EU-Morocco Association Agreement entered into force in 2000. Meetings of the EU-Morocco Social Affairs and Migration Working Group are supposed to take place once a year. Negotiations on an EU-Morocco readmission agreement with Morocco are formally ongoing since 2003 but de facto stalled since June 2010.</i></p> <p><i>An EU delegation visited Morocco on 13 October 2011 and launched with the Moroccan authorities the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security. Finalisation of the readmission agreement and the negotiation of a visa facilitation agreement between the EU and Morocco are to be included in this partnership.</i></p> <p>Recent and upcoming events</p>		
13 October 2011	1 st Meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security, Rabat	Launch of the MMS Dialogue
6 December 2011	2 nd meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security, Rabat	Information seminar on MMS Dialogue for relevant Moroccan ministries. Meeting with representatives of the civil society.
28 May 2012	3 rd meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security, Rabat	Joint analysis of the proposals put forward by Morocco in the non-paper sent in April 2012. Establishment of a calendar for the negotiation of the MP.
17 July 2012	Transmission by the EU side of the Draft Political Declaration of the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership	
18-19 October 2012	1 st session of negotiations on the draft Political Declaration, Rabat	
6 December 2012	JLS Subcommittee, Rabat	
12 December 2012	Transmission by the EU side of the revised Draft Political Declaration of the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership	
3 January 2013	Transmission by the Moroccan side of their comments on the revised Draft Political Declaration of the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership	
January 2013 (tbc)	2 nd session of negotiations on the draft Political Declaration, Rabat.	
30 January 2013	JLS Sub-committee, Rabat	
4 February 2013	Sub-committee on Social affairs and Migration	

<p>Tunisia <i>The EU-Tunisia Association Agreement entered into force in 1998. Meetings of the EU-Tunisia Social Affairs and Migration Working Group are supposed to take place once per year. This meeting did not take place in 2011.</i></p> <p><i>An EU delegation visited Tunisia at 6 October 2011 and launched with the Tunisian authorities the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security. A visa facilitation and a readmission agreement between the EU and Tunisia are to be part of this partnership.</i></p> <p>Recent and upcoming events</p>		
31 May 2011	Exploratory Talks	Meeting to explain MMS Dialogue to Tunisian stakeholders
6 October 2011	1 st Meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security	Launch of the MMS Dialogue
26 March 2012	2 nd meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security, Rabat	First discussions on the possible contents of the MP
11 May 2012	Transmission by the EU side of the Draft Political Declaration of the EU-Tunisia Mobility Partnership	Tunisian authorities have not yet sent their comments and counterproposal to the draft received on 11 May 2012
19 November 2012	9 th EU-Tunisia Association Council, Brussels	Political agreement on the EU-Tunisia Privileged Partnership, mentioning also the engagement to conclude and implement a Mobility Partnership;
23 November 2012	Transmission by the Tunisian side of their comments on the revised draft Political Declaration of the EU-Tunisian Mobility Partnership	

<p>Egypt <i>Relations between the European Union and Egypt are governed by an Association Agreement since 2004.</i></p> <p>Recent and upcoming events</p>		
16 June 2011	Exploratory Talks	Meeting to explain MMS Dialogue to Egyptian stakeholders
14-15 November 2012	EU-Egypt Task Force	Reiteration by the EU of the offer to start the EU-Egypt Dialogue on migration, mobility and security

Jordan		
<i>Relations between the European Union and Egypt are governed by an Association Agreement since 2004.</i>		
Recent and upcoming events		
12 December 2012	Mission to launch the EU-Jordan Dialogue on migration, mobility and security, Amman	
25-28 February 2013 (tbc)	First experts' mission to Jordan in the framework of the Dialogue on MMS	

Libya		
<i>In 2008, negotiations of an EU-Libya Framework Agreement started, aiming to include also provisions related to migration, mobility, borders and international protection. In October 2010 a Joint Press Release was agreed on the EU-Libya cooperation on borders, mobility, migration and asylum, followed by a Senior Officials meeting on 15 February 2011. Negotiations of the Framework Agreement and discussions on the basis of the Joint Press Release were suspended in February 2011.</i>		
Recent and upcoming events		
28 September 2012	First steering committee meeting of the Sahara-Mediterranean project since the resumption of the project	Project co-funded by EU and implemented by Italy. It aims to support Libya on border management and other migration matters. The project was suspended in February 2011.
November 2012	Fact finding mission to Libya to explore possibilities for further EU-Libya cooperation on border management issues	
15 January 2013	Presentation to the Political and Security Committee on the results of the fact finding mission.	Proposals on the possible contents of a CSDP operation aimed at developing the integrated border management in Libya

(C) EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Armenia

EU relations with Armenia are governed by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which entered into force in 1999. In July 2010, the EU and Armenia launched negotiations on a future EU-Armenia Association Agreement to succeed the PCA. An EU migration mission visited Armenia in 2008. A Mobility Partnership was signed on 27 October 2011.

On 19 December 2011 Council adopted negotiating directives for the EU-Armenia agreements on visa facilitation and readmission and authorised the Commission to start negotiations. Negotiations started in February 2012 and were closed at the technical level in July 2012, after three rounds of negotiation.

Recent and upcoming events

25 November 2011	EU-Armenia Cooperation Council	
7 December 2011	Conference on Mobility Partnership organised by ICHD and IOM, Yerevan	
28 June 2012	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee , Yerevan	
8 October 2012	EU-Armenia Cooperation Committee, Brussels	
18 October 2012	Visa Facilitation Agreement and Readmission Agreement initialled in Brussels	
22-23 October 2012	Conference on Armenia-EU Mobility Partnership, Brussels	
17 December 2012	Signature of the Visa Facilitation Agreement in the margins of the EU-Armenia Cooperation Council	

Azerbaijan

EU relations with Azerbaijan are governed by the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) which entered into force in 1999. Since July 2010 the EU and Azerbaijan are negotiating an Association Agreement to succeed the PCA. An EU migration mission visited Azerbaijan on 16 and 17 June 2011 to further enhance cooperation and dialogue with Azerbaijan on migration issues.

On 19 December 2011 Council adopted negotiating directives for the EU-Azerbaijan agreements on visa facilitation and readmission and authorised the Commission to start negotiations.

Azerbaijan has expressed its wish to conclude a MP with the EU.

Recent and upcoming events

1-2 March 2012	1 st round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Baku	
31 st May/ 1 st June 2012	2 nd round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Brussels	
6-7 November 2012	3 rd round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Baku	
19-20 November 2012	Justice, Freedom and Security and Human Rights and Democracy Subcommittee , Baku	
21 November 2012	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Committee, Brussels	

7 December 2012	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council, Brussels	
12-13 March 2013	4 th round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Brussels	

<p>Georgia <i>EU-Georgia bilateral relations are regulated by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) which entered into force on 1 July 1999. The negotiations for an EU - Georgia Association Agreement to succeed the PCA were launched in Batumi on 15 July 2010. An EU migration mission visited Georgia in 2009. The Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Georgia was signed in November 2009. Readmission and Visa Facilitation Agreements entered into force on 1st March 2011.</i></p>		
<p>Recent and upcoming events</p>		
13 March 2012	3 rd visa facilitation Committee and joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
12-14 March 2012	Commission/EEAS expert's mission to Georgia	<i>In loco</i> assessment of the implementation of the VFA and RA
4 June 2012	Launch of visa free dialogue, Brussels	
25 June 2012	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee , Tbilisi	
26 June 2012	Human Rights Dialogue, Tbilisi	
17-21 September 2012	EU Expert mission to Georgia	Mission took place with participation of 4 experts from EU MS, in view of completing the gap analysis for the preparation of Georgia's Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP)
19 October 2012	EU-Georgia Cooperation Committee, Brussels	
17 December 2012	Presentation of draft Georgia's Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) in the Council (COEST)	
18 December 2012	EU-Georgia Cooperation Council, Brussels	

Republic of Moldova

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with Moldova went into force in 1994. Negotiations on the Association Agreement to succeed the PCA were launched on 12 January 2010. The EU-Moldova visa facilitation and readmission agreements entered into force in January 2008. A Mobility Partnership was signed in June 2008.

In June 2010 a visa dialogue was opened, examining conditions for visa-free travel of Moldovan citizens to the EU. The Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation was endorsed by the Council on 16 December 2010 and subsequently presented by the Commission to the Moldovan authorities on 24 January 2011.

The first progress report on the implementation by Moldova of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) was presented on 16 September 2011. The Second Progress Report was issued on 9 February 2012. The third report was adopted on 22 June 2012. On 3rd of August the Commission has sent the report to the European Parliament and the Council on possible migratory and security impacts of future visa liberalisation for the Republic of Moldova on the EU. The second phase of the visa dialogue was launched on 19 November 2012. Assessment of the second phase will take place in February 2013, and the logic of the assessment system and the expectations of Member States will require the preparation of probably two progress reports in the course of 2013, if possible before the Vilnius EaP Summit of 29 November 2013.

Recent and upcoming events

24 November 2011	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee, Brussels	
27 February 2012	4 th Visa dialogue SOM	
23 May 2012	Joint Visa Facilitation Committee and Joint Readmission Committee, Chisinau	
18 June 2012	MP Local Cooperation Platform, Chisinau	
26 June 2012	EU-Moldova Cooperation Council, Brussels	
27 June 2012	Signature of the amending Visa Facilitation Agreement	
27-28 June 2012	Conference and policy workshop on Mobility Partnerships, Brussels	Co-organised by the European Commission, the Republic of Moldova and ICMPD
21 November 2012	EU-Moldova Cooperation Committee, Brussels	
22 November 2012	Mobility Partnership High Level Meeting, Brussels	
28 January 2013	Senior Officials Meetings, Brussels	
February 2013	Expert missions to Moldova for the evaluation of the implementation of the 2 nd phase of the VLAP	

Ukraine

The Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) entered into force in 1998. Negotiations on an EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (AA) started in September 2008. Negotiations on the AA were finalized in 2011. The Readmission and Visa Facilitation agreements were concluded in 2008. An EU migration mission visited Ukraine in September 2010.

In 2008 a visa dialogue was opened, examining conditions for visa-free travel of Ukrainian citizens to the EU. The Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation was endorsed by the Council on 10 November 2010 and presented by the EU to Ukraine at the EU-Ukraine Summit on 22 November 2010. The First Progress Report on the implantation of the Action Plan was issued by Commission services and EEAS in September 2011 and the 2nd Progress Report on 9 February 2012.

Recent and upcoming events

14 December 2011	4 th round of negotiations on amending the visa Facilitation Agreement	
19 December 2011	EU-Ukraine Summit	
17 April 2012	Visa Dialogue SOM	
14-15 May 2012	Joint Visa Facilitation Committee and Joint Readmission Committee, Kiev	
31 May 2012	EU-Ukraine Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee, Kiev	
15 November 2012	EU-Ukraine Cooperation Committee, Brussels	
25-26 February 2013	EU-Ukraine Summit	

Belarus

An EU migration mission visited Belarus in 2009. On 28 February 2011 the Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements with Belarus. The Commission submitted a formal invitation to the Belarusian authorities in June 2011 and reiterated several times (e.g. through Council Conclusions in March and October 2012) its readiness to launch negotiations for visa facilitation and readmission agreements which would enhance people-to-people contacts to the benefit of the Belarusian population at large. So far the Belarusian authorities have not answered the invitation of June 2011 to start negotiations.

The EU continues to impose travel restrictions on Belarusian officials and companies linked to the regime in reaction to the deterioration of the country's record on human rights, democracy and rule of law.

The European Dialogue on Modernization (DoM) with Belarusian Society was launched in March 2012

Recent and upcoming events

(D) RUSSIA

Russia

The EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) came into force in 1997. Ministerial meetings for Freedom, Security and Justice area (PPC) are organized regularly. New comprehensive EU-Russia Agreement is under negotiations.

The Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force on 1 June 2007. Joint Committees under both agreements are held twice a year. On 11 April the Council adopted the mandate for the renegotiation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement but the negotiations are still ongoing (the last outstanding issue is the visa waiver for service passport holders).

The Visa dialogue was launched in 2007 and in this context, on 15 December 2011, the Parties agreed on a list of Common Steps which would need to be implemented before the talks on EU-Russia visa waiver might be launched. Senior Officials are monitoring the progress of the Dialogue during regular meetings (SOM).

In May 2011 Russia and EU launched a Dialogue on Migration and agreed the parameters of this new cooperation format. The Dialogue will focus on legal migration, migration and development, asylum and other forms of international protection, as well as on combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings.

To better steer the dialogue and set out clear priorities, the EU and Russia endorsed the Work Plan for the EU-Russia Dialogue on Migration 2011-2012 at the Russia-EU Permanent Partnership Council on Freedom, Security and Justice on 10-11 October 2011 in Warsaw and the Work Plan for the EU-Russia Dialogue on Migration 2013-2014 at the Russia-EU Permanent Partnership Council on Freedom, Security and Justice on 3 October 2012 in Nicosia.

Recent and upcoming events

14 December 2011	1 st meeting of the Migration Dialogue, Moscow	Theme: International protection
14-16 March 2012	Kick off meeting between the experts for implementation of the list of Common Steps	
30 March 2012	2 nd meeting of the Migration Dialogue, Budapest	Theme: Irregular migration
3-4 June 2012	Russia-EU Summit	Stock taking statements on the VFA negotiations and state of implementation of the list of Common Steps under the visa dialogue
25 June 2012	SOM Visa Dialogue	Exchange of comments on the respective written reports of the EU and the Russian side on the implementation of the list of Common Steps
25 June 2012	SOM Migration Dialogue, Brussels	
10 July 2012	11 th Joint Readmission Committee	
3 October 2012	16 th JLS Permanent Partnership Council	Ministerial Meeting on JLS related issues
26 October 2012	3 rd meeting of the Migration Dialogue, Saint Petersburg	Theme: migration and development
31 October	SOM Visa Dialogue	Review of the state of play of the implementation of the Common Steps
10 December 2012	12 th Joint Readmission Committee	
21 December 2012	EU-Russia Summit	
7 February 2013	4 th meeting of the Migration Dialogue, Bratislava	Theme: Legal migration

(E) AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Cape Verde

In 2007 the EU and Cape Verde agreed on a Special Partnership Agreement. An EU migration mission visited Cape Verde in May 2007. The Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Cape Verde was signed in 2007. Visa facilitation and readmission agreements have been concluded and initialled.

Recent and upcoming events

6-7 June 2011	Political dialogue meeting at ministerial level, Praia	
22 November 2011	Final round of negotiations on Visa Facilitation Agreement, Brussels	Conclusions of negotiations <i>ad referendum</i>
23 November 2011	Final round of negotiations on Readmission Agreement, Brussels	Conclusions of negotiations <i>ad referendum</i>
24 April 2012	High Level Meeting, Brussels	Both agreement are initialled
26 October 2012	Visit of President Barroso to Cape Verde	Signature of the visa facilitation agreement.

Ghana

An EU migration mission visited Ghana in June 2007. In 2010 the EU proposed Ghana to start discussions on the conclusion of a Mobility Partnership (MP).

Recent and upcoming events

23 January 2012	Information Workshop on MP and the possible Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM), Accra	First contacts with Ghanaian authorities to explain the possibilities of a closer cooperation and listen to their expectations.
3 July 2012	Political dialogue, co-chaired by vice-President of Ghana and the EU HoD, Accra	Agreement on setting up a working group with a view to proposing concrete steps to enter into a CAMM.

Nigeria

An EU migration mission visited Nigeria in April 2008. For the time being, five Dialogues on migration and development have been organized in the last years, under the umbrella of the EU-Nigeria Ministerial meetings

Recent and upcoming events

29 June 2010	EU-Nigeria Senior Official Meeting	
27 January 2012	5 th Dialogue on Migration and development	
March 2013 (tbc)	6 th Dialogue on Migration and development	Possibility to discuss establishment of CAMM

<p>South Africa <i>South Africa and the EU entered into a Strategic Partnership in 2007. An EU migration mission visited South Africa in September 2008. Since then, in the frame of the Joint Cooperation Council, a Migration Dialogue Forum is organized. In July 2011, the discussions focused on trafficking in human beings and Asylum policy (exchange of best practices).</i></p> <p>Recent and upcoming events</p>		
18-19 July 2011	EU-SA Joint Cooperation Council, Brussels	Migration Dialogue Forum, with a special focus on THB and Asylum.
15 September 2011	EU-South Africa Summit, Kruger Park	Visa facilitation was expressly mentioned by SA President
17 July 2012	EU-SA Joint Cooperation Council, Migration Dialogue	Video Conference meeting to cover several issues of interest to both parties: explanation of the GAMM, Asylum, THB, Migration and Development and first discussion on the next steps towards reinforcing the migration dialogue between SA and the EU.
18 September 2012	EU-SA Summit, Brussels	

(F) ASIAN COUNTRIES

<p>China <i>The EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership came into force in 2003. China signed an Approved Destination Status (ADS) Agreement in 2004, facilitating the entry of Chinese tourists into EU Member States and including provisions on readmission. Formal negotiation of an EU readmission agreement, based on 2002 negotiating directives, has not started yet. Negotiation of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, including an article on readmission and visa cooperation, started in 2007.</i></p> <p><i>At the 14th EU-China Summit in February 2012 both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of facilitating mobility for Chinese and EU citizens, and strengthen cooperation on illegal immigration, as well as to pay special attention to the question of mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports. The 15th EU-China Summit reiterated these objectives, while calling for the launch an EU-China High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility.</i></p> <p>Recent and upcoming events</p>		
13-17 June 2011	Technical mission, Beijing	China reiterates its request for an EU visa waiver for diplomats
14 February 2012	14 th EU-China Summit, China	
20 September 2012	15 th EU-China Summit	
April/May 2013 (tbc)	EU-China High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility, Brussels (t.b.c.)	

India

The EU-India Co-operation Agreement (CA) entered into force in 1994. In 2004 the EU and India entered into a Strategic Partnership. The EU-India Joint Action Plan was agreed in 2005 at the Summit in The Hague and revised in 2008 at the eighth EU-India Summit in Marseille. This plan aims to promote among others people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges. After the first EU-India migration dialogue meeting held in 2006, the December 2010 EU-India Summit emphasised the importance of movement of people, and agreed to deepen cooperation by establishing a regular, comprehensive and structured dialogue on migration issues.

The 12th EU-India Summit discussed possible ways to facilitate mobility – a recurring Indian request – in parallel with preventing and combating irregular migration.

Recent and upcoming events

22 October 2010	EU-India High Level Dialogue Meeting on Migration, Brussels	
10 February 2012	12 th EU-India Summit, India, Delhi	
2 July 2012	EU-India High Level Dialogue Meeting on Migration and Mobility, Delhi	Possible ways to strengthen cooperation with India were discussed, including the establishment of a EU-India working group on migration and mobility and of a CAMM.
Second quarter 2013	13 th EU-India Summit, India, Brussels	India is again expected to table proposals in relation to visa facilitation/liberalisation. Possibility to discuss and reach a political agreement to establish a CAMM

(G) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

USA

Relations between EU and the US have been formalized in 1990, in the Transatlantic Declaration, and further developed in the New Transatlantic Agenda which outlined a new framework for cooperation including a number of areas for joint action. An EU-US Joint Statement endorsed by the EU-US JHA Ministerial Troika in October 2009 (the so-called "Washington Statement") sets out common values and foundations of EU-US cooperation in the JHA area until 2014 and includes a commitment to enhance both political and operational cooperation in various JHA issues.

Further to this commitment cooperation has been developed on migration and asylum issues in the context of the EU-US Cooperation Platform on Migration and Refugee issues, launched in 2010. Activities include areas such as unaccompanied minors, biometrics, refugee resettlement, trafficking in human beings, development of capacity building for migration management in third countries and contribution of the Diaspora to the development of countries of origin of migration.

Recent and upcoming events

20-21 June 2012	EU- US JHA Ministerial Meeting, Copenhagen	US confirmed President Obama's wish to see Poland integrated in the VWP as soon as possible under US law.
25-26 July 2012	EU- US JHA SOM, Nicosia, Cyprus	Discussions on the revision of the action plan of the EU-US platform on migration and on other issues of common interest (visa reciprocity, GFMD, entry/exit systems, joint demarches on readmission issues)
27 November 2012	6 th meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU-US Platform for cooperation on migration and refugee issues, Brussels	Discussions were mainly devoted to streamline the Action Plan and to cooperation on international migration fora, in particular in the HLD as well as on asylum and resettlement issues.
6-7 February 2013	EU-US Senior Officials Meeting, Dublin (tbc)	
14-15 May 2013	EU-US JHA Ministerial Meeting, Dublin	

Part 3- The Global Process

(A) GLOBAL FORUM FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The GFMD is an initiative of the UN Member States to address the migration and development nexus in practical and action-oriented ways. It is an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led process that marks the culmination of more than a decade of international dialogue on the growing importance of the linkages between migration and development.

This intergovernmental process emerged after the General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006. The first meeting of the GFMD was held in Brussels in July 2007.

Recent and upcoming events

21-22 November 2012	GFMD Summit meeting, Mauritius	Theme: "Enhancing the human development of Migrants and their contribution to the development of communities and States"
12-16 May 2014 (tbc)	GFMD Summit meeting, Sweden	

(B) HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The second UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) will take place on 3-4 October 2013 during the UN General Assembly in New York. The purpose of the HLD is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximise its development benefits and minimise its negative impacts. In addition to a plenary debate, the HLD brings ministers and delegates together in informal round table discussions on themes such as the costs and benefits of migration, human rights of migrants, mainstreaming of migration issues in development planning and promoting intra-regional labour mobility.

The first HLD was held on 14-15 September 2006.

Recent and upcoming events

24 January 2013	High Level Dialogue Series, New York	RT 1: International migration, sustainable development and the post-2015 development framework.
Third week of February 2013 (tbc)	High Level Dialogue Series, New York	RT 2: Migrant rights, migrant smuggling, human trafficking and ensuring regular, orderly and safe migration.
Third week of April 2013 (tbc)	High Level Dialogue Series, New York	RT 3: Partnerships and cooperation, integrating migration into development policies and promote coherence.
June 2013 (tbc)	High Level Dialogue Series, New York	RT 4: International and regional labour mobility and its impact on development.

3-4 October 2013	High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, New York	Theme: "Identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications".
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Compiled by DG HOME/02
18 January 2013