Council of the European Union

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum/Mixed Committee
	(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway and Switzerland)
Subject:	EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Stategic Response 5th Biannual Update

The JHA Council approved the "EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response" at its meeting on 26-27 April 2012[1].

According to the agreed methodology (doc. 6443/13), Presidencies are responsible for coordinating the follow-up to the EU Action and its updating on a biannual basis, while SCIFA/Mixed Committee is to provide the strategic oversight of the implementation of the key actions under the Strategic Priorities. Individual Member States are encouraged to volunteer to monitor Strategic Priorities or elements within them.

For the purpose of the fifth biannual update of the "EU action on migratory pressures - A Strategic response", delegations were requested to provide their input by 6 October 2014 on the basis of the table as set out in the Annex to doc. 9277/1/14 REV 1 ADD 1 + COR 1.

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[1]   doc. 9650/12 MIGR 45 FRONT 67 COSI 25 COMIX 288.

Based on the comments received by delegations, the Commission, FRONTEX and EASO, the Presidency has prepared the attached draft updated EU Action. Taking into account requests by delegations at previous SCIFA/COMIX meetings, the document has been slightly restructured to make it more readable and concise by providing standardized nomenclature for every item, presenting information in the status/observation column in a more standardized way, deleting obsolete or no longer relevant information and including the list of acronyms. As regards the Strategic Priority Area 7 - Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean countries, the Presidency proposes for the purpose of the present updating exercise to introduce a cross reference to the activities related to the Task Force Mediterranean and the Council Conclusions adopted by the October 2014 JHA Council, in order to avoid any confusion, contradictions and overlapping.

The Presidency intends to present the final version of the updated EU Action to SCIFA/Mixed Committee for endorsement at its meeting on 12 December 2014 . For that purpose, delegations are invited to send any comments they may wish to make on the attached draft by 1 December 2014 in writing to the Presidency (gai@rpue.esteri.it) and GSC (ausra.aleliunaite@consilium.europa.eu).

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EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response

EU Action (center)

1. Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

2. Enhanced border management at the external borders

3. Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

4. Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels

5. Safeguarding and protecting free movement by prevention of abuse by third country nationals

6. Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

7. Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean countries

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7. Strategic priority : Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean countries

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ANNEX   DG D 1 A   **LIMITE**   **EN**

EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
1	**Strategic Priority Area 1**: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management			
1.1	**Challenge 1:** Preventing and combatting illegal immigration by ensuring smooth and orderly return of illegal migrants between States, including respect for the obligation of each State under customary international law to readmit its own nationals **Goal:** EU readmission agreements as tools of an effective return policy in order to tackle illegal immigration. Initiation and continuation of negotiations on EU readmission agreements with relevant third countries, including further appropriate steps when negotiations stall			
1.1.A	Operationalising Council Conclusions of June 2011 defining an EU strategy on readmission (doc. 11260/11 MIGR 118). Discussion and consideration of the use and the content of proportional, tailor-made incentives offered to those identified third countries with which EU readmission agreements are to be negotiated, in combination with the principle of conditionality applied in an appropriate manner. Clarification of Council's criteria regarding rules on accelerated procedures, transit operations, and obligations to readmit third country nationals and stateless persons, in order to assess how these issues should be taken into account on a case by case basis in EU readmission agreements with identified countries. Promotion and support of cooperation between countries of origin and transit to	PRES COM WP on Migratio n (expulsi on) / HLWG / SCIFA EEAS		EU readmission policy remains an important priority, with the emphasis on implementing those EURA's already in force and completing outstanding mandates. **EU READMISSION AGREEMENTS (EURAs)** **EURA Azerbaijan** **Developments**: signed 28 February 2014, entered into force 1 September 2014 **EURA Turkey** **Developments:** signed 16 December 2013, entered into force 1 October 2014 **EURA Cape Verde** **Developments:** signed 18 April 2013, will enter into force on 1 December 2014. **EURA Belarus** **Developments:** first round of negotiations in June 2014, second round to follow second half of 2014 **MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS (MPs)** **MP Morocco** **Developments:** expected to re-launch negotiations on a readmission agreement in end of 2014

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	develop efficient readmission mechanisms, both within regions and on a bilateral level.			**MP Tunisia** **Developments:** signed 3 March 2014, opens the way to engage in readmission negotiations with that country. COM presented the relevant recommendation to the Council in July, the Council is expected to adopt negotiating directives by the end of 2014. **MP Jordan** **Developments:** signed 9 October 2014 **DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND SECURITY (DMMS)** **DMMS Egypt** **Developments:** possibility to start are being explored, positive signs observed. **DMMS Algeria** **Developments:** developments on migratory trends could lead to consider the possibility of launching a dialogue which could also include the commitment to the negotiation and conclusion of EURA. It has to be noted that Algeria always refused to start negotiations on a readmission agreement with COM, which received negotiating directives from the Council in 2002. **HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY (HLDMM)** **HLDMM China** **Developments:** efforts to rekindle readmission negotiations, or, at least, to reinforce cooperation in the area of illegal immigration, including on return and readmission, in the framework of the dialogue launched in October 2013. **HLDMM India** **Developments:** no progress on negotiations on a draft joint declaration on a CAMM.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
		MS COM *(SE)*		**COMMON AGENDA ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY (CAMM)** **CAMM Nigeria** **Developments:** negotiations already concluded, text endorsed by Council (with elements of readmission), Joint Declaration expected to be signed on 27 November 2014. **OTHER INITIATIVES** **Pilot Project MONITOR** **Start:** 2014 **Description:** introducing a post-return system in Ukraine and Pakistan for three years under coordination of IOM, UNHCR and local partner organisations. PRES/ COM will continue to reflect on the shape of the readmission package with potential new candidates, including possible incentives and appropriate principles Reflect and possibly develop cooperation on returns, including listing the potential target countries and analysing the possible leverages both at the EU and MS level in order to improve the return cooperation.
1.2	**Challenge 2**: Ensure implementation of all EU readmission agreements to their full effect **Goal:** Full implementation of EU readmission agreements by third countries and MS alike, facilitated by practical arrangements. Ensuring effective implementation of Art. 13 of the Cotonou agreement.			
1.2.A	Further efforts by COM and MS in relation to relevant third countries aimed at the full implementation of EU readmission agreements that are not being fully implemented.	COM MS	On-going	EU institutions agencies and MS continue to apply pressure on certain third countries to fully implement EURA's. **EURA Pakistan** **Developments:** further readmission applications were examined and approved following efforts by COM and EU DEL. Situation still calls for improvement, in particular for some MS which have a large number of pending cases, the

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				issue has been discussed with Pakistan during strategic dialogue meeting on 25 March 2014. Serious problems are still being encountered regards the smooth and effective implementation of the agreement. Frontex coordinated 5 joint return flights to Pakistan and has one more planned for 2014. **Follow-up:** see JRC. Need for a call for a meeting of EU DEL Committee and take certain decision on the acceptance of the EU Travel Document by the Pakistani authorities. **EURA Sri Lanka** **Developments:** regular bilateral contacts have been increasing the impetus to implement the agreement fully.
1.2.B	Full and effective use of Joint Readmission Committees, including, where applicable, active participation of MS.	COM MS	On-going	**Joint Readmission Committees** **Developments:** - with Georgia on 4 June 2014 - with Armenia on 10 September 2014 **Follow-up:** next one with Pakistan possibly before end 2014 (pending Pakistani side reply), next one with Moldova in 2015.
1.2.C	Coherent implementation of EU readmission agreements by MS. Due attention should also be given to the implementation of bilateral readmission agreements or arrangements concluded by MS when compatible with the EU readmission agreements.	MS	On-going	The introduction in some third countries of automated systems, through EU-supported capacity building projects, is expected to greatly improve consistency in implementing EURA's in the third countries concerned.
1.2.D	Exercise pressure through diplomatic channels and other regular contacts to improve the cooperation of relevant third countries on readmission.	EEAS COM MS	On-going	Readmission is an element to which the EU attaches importance in the framework of its cooperation on migration with India and China.. In addition, the issue of illegal migration including return and readmission, is regularly addressed in each of the seven regional dialogues under the GAMM umbrella, (Rabat, MME, Prague, EaP, Budapest, CELAC, ACP). It is also evoked in the dialogue with the African Countries of the Horn of Africa (Khartoum process) that is expected to be launched by the end of 2014.

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1.2.E	Further efforts by COM and MS to ensure that partner countries fully implement Article 13 of the Cotonou agreement, including through targeted dialogues with priority countries and follow-up on the recommendations as they are agreed	COM MS	On-going	**EU ACP** **Developments:** experts recommendations on readmission endorsed in April 2012 by Ministers EU-ACP. A regional seminar on readmission has been held on 29-30 April 2014, to provide for expert exchanges on specific issues.
1.3	**Challenge 3**: Enhancing the capacity of countries of origin and transit to manage mixed migration flows **Goal**: To equip the countries of first asylum with the necessary means to be able to guarantee refugees protection that meets international standards. To assist third countries to better manage mixes migratory flows. To avoid secondary movements. To establish MPs with relevant third countries.			
1.3.A	Strengthening the use of Regional Protection Programmes and similar national initiatives aimed at long-term capacity building in the field of international protection, in order to provide protection to persons in need thereof as soon as possible after the initial displacement, and as close as possible to their home areas. Thus, enabling asylum seekers to apply for and find effective protection in their region of origin.	COM MS Frontex	On-going	**Regional Development and Protection Programme Syria** **Developments**: RDPP (Middle East covering Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq was launched in July 2014 with the Danish International Development Agency as leading partner **Follow-up**: the first activities along each of the four main thematic components are starting to be rolled out. **VEGA Concept** **Responsible agency**: Frontex **Description:** goal is to enhance effective protection measures for vulnerable persons (children and victims of THB) at external air, sea and land borders, within a law enforcement oriented approach to fight against THB. Cooperation with EU and non-EU agencies and IO will be extended (Europol, FRA, Interpol, UNHCR, IOM) **Outcomes/results**: - VEGA Children Handbook (countermeasures to identify children at risk) - JO VEGA Children (validation of handbook)
1.3.B	Building capacity in third countries in order for them to better tackle the challenges of mixed migratory flows.	COM MS	On-going	Capacity-building in third countries is already a key element of the existing MPs with Moldova, Cape Verde, Georgia, Armenia, Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia. COM, EASO and MS will continue to identify new actions and initiatives aimed at strengthening third countries' capacities, especially in view of the

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				implementation of the new financial instrument agreed in the context of MFF .
1.3.C	Improving availability and access to means for self-reliance in third countries of first asylum, in order to avert secondary movements.	COM MS	On-going	See point 1.3.B above on Moldova.
1.3.D	Contributing to enhancing local employment opportunities in countries of origin.	COM MS	On-going	**MP Moldova** **Developments:** within project "Better managing the mobility of health professionals in the Republic of Moldova", government of Moldova launched negotiations with ES, PT, FR, DE and Israel to sign bilateral agreements between health institutions, to promote legal migration, circular migration and return.
1.4	**Challenge 4:** Prevention of illegal immigration from the Southern Mediterranean countries **Goal**: To extend dialogues DMMSs with the Southern Mediterranean countries with a view to establishing MPs.			
1.4.A	Implementing the European Council Conclusions of 23-24 June 2011 and of 2-3 March 2012 emphasising the need to establish and to expand a structured dialogue on migration, mobility and security with the southern Mediterranean countries. Cooperation should be founded on a performance - based approach and on appropriate conditions.	COM MS HLWG	2012 and onwards	See 1.1
1.4.B	To consider launching Dialogues on migration, mobility and security leading towards Mobility Partnerships with Jordan and, once possible, with other Southern Mediterranean countries (with priority given to Egypt and Libya).	COM MS HLWG	2012 and onwards	See 1.1 for Egypt and Jordan **Lybia:** due to recent developments regarding migration pressure from Libya on Southern Mediterranean borders, the need to urgently launch a dialogue with Libya has been repeatedly underlined by several MS. The current security situation however is not conducive to the start of such a dialogue**.**
1.4.C	Building on existing cooperation, MS-third countries regional networks of cooperation in the Mediterranean should continue also	MS COM Frontex	On-going	**Seahorse Mediterranean Network** **Responsible agency**: EUROSUR **Budget/funding**: EC

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	within the framework of Eurosur.			**Developments**: launched at kick off conference on 19 September 2013 in Madrid. Other countries could join (Tunisia, Egypt) in the near future. Libyan coastguards have been trained on operational issues by MS (search and rescue, fundamental rights). **Follow-up**: next technical meeting in November 2014, 3rd Steering Group in 1st quarter of 2015. **Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Mandate:** develop mutually beneficial risk analysis and intelligence partnerships with African countries in the field of border security. **Developments:** two workshops were held, as well as one meeting with ILOS based in the region. **Follow-up:** a third joint annual AFIC report will be launched in October 2014. Frontex regularly invites selected third countries to take part in the EPN meeting, in order to become familiar with Frontex - coordinated joint maritime activities.
1.5	**Challenge 5:** Ensuring that the fight against illegal immigration is taken into account when developing dialogues with Eastern partners (including the EaP countries and non-EU Prague Process partners) **Goal:** To enhance further the level of political and operational cooperation with the EaP countries in the JHA areas. To ensure mobility in a secure and well managed environment			
1.5.A	Conclude agreements on Mobility Partnerships with relevant third countries.	COM MS *(PL)*	On-going	**MPs with Eastern Partnership countries (Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan)** **Developments:** successfully launched **MP Azerbaijan** **Developments:** signed in December 2013, first exchanges between the EU and Azerbaijan on future project took place at the beginning of 2014. **Name of the framework**: GAMM (Belarus)

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				Responsible party: COM **Developments**: in COM implementation report 2014, Belarus is listed as a potential country with which MP could be envisaged. Video-conference between DG HOME and Belarus in July 2014, during which Belarus confirmed its interest to start negotiations in September 2014. Belarus provided a draft annex listing projects they are interested in. The issue of the launch of a dialogue on migration and mobility, which could lead to a MP is currently being considered by the Council.
1.5.B	Further cooperation and coordination in the prevention of and the fight against illegal immigration, organised crime, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and terrorism.	COM MS *(PL)*	On-going	**JAIEX WP** **Developments:** work on mapping cooperation and projects with Eastern countries on illegal immigration in connection to organised crime, THB, money laundering and others. **MP Armenia** **Developments**: activities have been carried out within the Targeted Initiative for Armenia, focused on returns and the prevention of illegal immigration, involving a number of MS (BE, BG, CZ, DE, NL, PL, FR, RO). THB: systematically included in all migration and mobility dialogues conducted, both at regional and bilateral levels, as well as in all MPs. Cooperation has also been reinforced through the on-going visa liberalisation dialogue with Ukraine, and Moldova and, Georgia. **Moldova- Eurojust Cooperation agreement** **Developments:** signed 10 July 2014. **Georgia-Europol Strategic Partnership agreement** **Developments**: in negotiation. **Eastern partnership cooperation in the fight against illegal immigration - Supporting the implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan (EaP-SIPPAP)** **Responsible party:** HU

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				Framework: EaP/Prague Process **Description:** strategic and operational cooperation in the EaP region in the area of prevention of cross-border crimes. **Outcomes/results:** several study visits have been organised in 2014 in Romania, Latvia, Hungary and Slovakia. **Follow-up:** the next study visit will take place in Poland in October 2014. **Panel on Migration and Asylum** **Framework:** EaP **Outcomes/results:** workshops were organised in 2014 in Moldova (Detention), in Lithuania (Smuggling of Human Beings), in Poland (Labour Migration). **Follow-up:** the next expert meeting will be held in the Netherlands (Credibility of Assessment in Asylum Procedure) in December 2014. **Legal Migration PP and Development PP** **Framework:** Prague Process **Outcomes/results:** the concluding joint workshop was held in Prague on 25/26 September 2014. For the Legal Migration PP, a study visit in Finland was organized on 3/5 June 2014 and an expert mission (Belarus). Result of the projects include a joint Handbook focusing on legal and circular migration **Illegal Migration PP** **Framework:** Prague Process **Outcomes/results:** the concluding workshop was held in Warsaw on 8/9 July 2014. dissemination of Prague Process Handbook and Guidelines on Concluding Readmission Agreements and Organising Returns – a useful tool for the Prague Process Participating countries. **MP Moldova (EaP)** **Developments:** workshop on fighting illegal migration and migration management for the representatives of the Republic of Moldova was organised in Warsaw in September 2014.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				MP Georgia (EaP) **Developments:** workshop on ensuring fundamental rights of migrants, including rights of migrants in detention, on ensuring respect for the CJEU and ECHR and on cooperation with NGOs with regards to monitoring of Human Rights was organised in Warsaw in September/October 2014. **Asylum PP** **Framework:** Prague Process **Outcomes/results:** the concluding conference was held in Berlin in March 2014. **National Contact Points** **Framework:** Prague Process **Outcomes/results:** the second meeting was held in Warsaw on 25 June 2014, focusing on cooperation in asylum and the establishment of a common system.
1.5.C	Convening meetings at ministerial level to ensure appropriate political guidance and coordination.	MS *(PL)*	On-going	Ministerial Meeting on Eastern Partnership in Justice and Home Affairs was held on 7-8th of October 2013 in the margins of JHA Council in Luxembourg.
1.5.D	Implementing Technical Assistance in Eastern Partnership countries	Frontex (project partners: WCO, IOM, ICMPD)		**Frontex-EaP IMB Capacity Building** **Responsible agency**: Frontex **Duration: from** July 2014 to July 2017 **Description:** goal is to ensure border security and to facilitate legitimate movements of persons and goods at borders with the EU and within the region, while giving the necessary attention to fight against corruption and respect for human rights.
1.6	**Challenge 6:** Prevention of illegal immigration via the Western Balkans **Goal**: Intensify cooperation primarily with Serbia, to prevent and fight increased illegal immigration pressure on the Hungarian-Serbian border. Enhance the EU's policy response to illegal migration in the region. Continue assisting the relevant authorities of the Western Balkan countries, in particular Serbia, to strengthen their capacity to combat illegal immigration. Ensure appropriate coordination of activities carried out at EU level and MS' bilateral activities in third countries of origin and transit in the region			
1.6.A	Frontex should make full use of its recently	Frontex	On-going	Frontex Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis provides analytical inputs to

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	expanded mandate to step up assistance for border control activities at the Hungarian-Serbian border.	*(HU, AT)*		operational activities in the region**.** **RABIT Exercise** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Description:** border control measures **Outcomes/results:** the exercise was carried out on the Hungarian-Serbian and Romanian-Serbian borders in July and August 2014 to test the RABIT mechanism. It was followed by JO Neptune. **JO Focal Points Land** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Duration: from** 1 April 2014 **to** 31 December 2014 **Outcomes/results:** the operation is being implemented at designated HU, RO, BG, CO and EL border crossing-points with WB countries. Observers from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania are being deployed. **Flexible Operational Activities** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Outcomes/results:** 4 months (May-June, September-October) of activities are being implemented at the border between Serbia and HU, RO and CO. Observers from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania are being deployed. **Project Coordination Point 2014** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Outcomes/results:** the operation is being implemented at Albanian-Montenegrin and Serbian-FYROM borders. Experts from MS are being deployed as observers to Murriqan, Albania and Tabanovce, FYROM.
1.6.B	Implementation of the Action Plan with Serbia, to implement joint operations, law-enforcement training, legislative alignment, develop migration and asylum capacities and establish a Common Contact Point –	MS COM *(HU)*	On-going	In the context of the multi-annual policy cycle and OAPs led by MS, relevant activities are being implemented. **Serbia-Europol Operational agreement** **Developments**: signed in January 2014**.**

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	making full use of IPA Projects.			**Responsible party:** Hungarian Office of Immigration and Nationality **Start:** 2013 **End:** 2014 **Description:** capacity building of the Serbia country of origin unit and Serbian migration and asylum system. Hungarian-Serbian joint border patrol has started from end of August 2014. The Hungarian-Serbian Common Contact Point has been operating since July 2014 (Röszke BCP, Hungary)
1.6.C	Provide IPA assistance and continue monitoring of the further development of border, migration, asylum and visa systems in Western-Balkan countries.	COM MS *(HU, AT)*	On-going	Commission in the process of designing, for the current multi-annual financial perspective new IPA projects on the rule of law with a regional focus.
1.6.D	Develop cooperation at all levels with Western Balkan countries in combating criminal organisations dealing with smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.	MS COM *(SI, AT)*	On-going	**"Use of Joint Investigation Teams (JIT) to fight Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans at the local level" (JIT THB WB)** **Responsible party:** MS (SI, BG) **Framework:** JIT **Start:** 01.08.2013 **End:** 31.07.2015 **Budget/funding:** ISEC **Description:** The general objective of the project is to promote and develop coordination, cooperation and mutual understanding among Law Enforcement Agencies, other national authorities and related Union bodies. **Outcomes/results:** Expected results of the project are enhanced cooperation amongst practitioners, dissemination and use of vital information on JITs and THB raised awareness about the use of JITs and mutual understanding amongst practitioners and competent institutions. **Follow-up:** Deliverables planned include special guidelines for practitioners (to be distributed to all participants in local languages), different THB scenarios for workshops as well as narrative reports published available on-line.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
1.6.E	Enhance inter-agency cooperation, notably between Frontex, Europol and EASO in accordance with their mandates, to address cross border crimes related to illegal immigration and contribute to assisting asylum capacity in Western Balkan countries.	Frontex Europol EASO COM *(HU)*	On-going	EASO and Frontex signed a Working Arrangement in 2012; the two Agencies continue to develop closer ties and strengthen their strategic and operational cooperation. Inter alia they cooperate at the level of the management Board, within the JHA Agencies Network, in their respective analysis networks, in matters related to training and they implement joint operational RABIT and emergency support exercises. **FIMATHU** **Responsible agency:** Europol (AT, HU) **Framework:** Europol Focal Check Points **Start:** 2011 **Description:** the project aims at countering the facilitation of illegal immigration into AT and HU and disrupt and dismantle the illegal immigration networks operating via the Western Balkans as well as in other European countries. **Outcomes/results:** Several raids were organised, notably in January 2013 during which 103 facilitators were arrested in 10 European countries. The project is still ongoing, a number of smaller partial arrest operations in some individual investigations are being carried out. participants meet regularly and ongoing criminal investigations into FII via the WB are being discussed. Interagency cooperation is a part of each joint operation coordinated by Frontex. Thus general and detailed roles and/or the contribution of the relevant agencies (Europol, EFCA, EMSA, etc) are described in each particular Operational plan before implementation of the activities. Furthermore, agencies are regularly invited to take part in the EPN meetings organized by Frontex in order to present an update on their activities. Frontex is stepping up its activities in view to concluding an operational Working Arrangement with Europol by the end of 2014**.**
1.6.F	Support voluntary return to and reintegration programmes in Western Balkan countries, as appropriate and in a	MS, COM Frontex	On-going	**DCAF (Democratic Control of Armed Forces)** **Developments:** 10th Annual DCAF Ministerial Review Conference on Cooperation in the Field of Border Security in Southeast Europe on 9 April

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	manner which avoids the risk of creating pull factors.	IOM *(HU)*		2014 has examined the possibility to arrange common joint return flights by WB countries. **European Migration Network Regional Experts' Group** **Developments:** first meeting in February 2014, discussion on reintegration programmes and sustainable return to WB. **BORDAIRPOL - Support of cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe** **Framework:** Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) **Start:** 2013 **End:** 2016 **Description:** to assist Southeast European Countries' border police on international airports in their efforts to counteract irregular migration and to fight against terrorism and crime ensuring high level of security on sustainable and permanent basis. **Outcomes/results:** a practical Work Programme is being implemented and could be completed in connection with this project. Frontex: developing cooperation with WB airports, including them in EU joint operational activities. **Coordination Points** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Outcomes/results**: will continue to activate Coordination Points at WB airports and at EU Focal Point airports having direct flight connections for exchanging border guards in coordinated operational activities. **Flight Tracking Operational PP** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Description**: new alerting system in major WB airports is being tested to potentially start the development of a system that will complement available technology (APIS) with human factor provided by EU Officers working at

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				third countries airports. **Outcomes/results:** Preliminary meetings with Albanian, FYROM and Serbian authorities were positive. **Follow-up:** after development the system will contribute to EUROSUR.
1.7	**Challenge 7:** prevention of illegal immigration via the Western Mediterranean and the African Atlantic coast **Goal:** Ensure that illegal immigration pressure in the area stays under control and does not develop negatively			
1.7.A	Efforts to maintain and develop the current effective handling of the situation should continue, in order to ensure that illegal immigration in this area stays under control and does not develop negatively.	Frontex, MS *(ES)*	On-going	**Joint Operations (Indalo, Minerva, Hera)** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Outcomes/results:** continued support from Frontex. JO EPN-Indalo and EPN-Minerva (West Mediterranean), JO EPN-Hera (North Africa coast, maintains deterrent effect on migration flows towards Canary Islands)In addition, Frontex facilitates MS coordination in the EPN areas. Frontex supports national efforts of Southern Mediterranean countries, by facilitating initiatives such as EPN Common Patrols as a part of the EUROSUR. IOM: implementing a Program of Support of voluntary return and reintegration of irregular migrants (from Morocco to their countries of origin). The program is receiving support from MS (Belgium, Netherlands and Spain), and other countries. This project is included in the Annex of the MP with Morocco.
1.7.B	To make the most of the Rabat Process (Euro African Dialogue on Migration and Development) notably through the participation of EU MS in the thematic workshops			Last Thematic Meeting: took place in Paris on 24/25 April 2014, under the presidency of France and the ECOWAS, focused on "Migrants in a crisis context". In June 2014, a Comité de Pilotage (COPIL) meeting and a Senior Official Meeting (SOM) took place in Rabat, followed by a COPIL meeting in September in Rome in order to prepare the Rome Declaration and Programme, to be adopted at the IV Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development on 27 November 2014.
1.8	**Challenge 8:** To address migratory pressures via the 'Silk Routes', including prevention of illegal immigration and combatting THB			

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
1.8.A	Efforts to develop the 'Silk Routes Partnership' should continue, including development of concrete projects to address illegal immigration, improve border management, enhance international protection, combat THB, and mitigate the negative impacts of migratory flows on EU MS and partner countries.	MS, COM	On-going.	**Bridging Measures for Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region** **Framework:** Silk Routes Partnership/Budapest Process **Description**: prepare the ground for operational actions to strengthen migration management in the Silk Routes region. **Outcomes/results:** Scoping missions to Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan have taken place, and migration training has been delivered to officials from all three countries. **Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process** **Framework**: Silk Routes Partnership/Budapest Process **Start:** 01 February 2014 **End:** 31 January 2017 **Budget/funding:** current budget is €3.76 million with €2.6 million of EU funding **Description**: to deliver concrete actions to strengthen the migration management capacities of the Silk Routes countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, and contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration on A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration. **Outcomes/results:** kick-off conference took place in Budapest on 2-3 June 2014, project is being implemented, regional and national capacity building trainings, workshops, technical assistance are being organised. **Follow-up:** meeting of the WG of Silk Routes countries on 11-12 November 2014 in Dushanbe. In 2015 country specified pilot projects will be launched.
1.9	**Challenge 9:** Improving the functioning of ILO networks			
1.9.A	Follow-up on the amendment to the ILO Regulation on improved coordination and cooperation, particularly in terms of data sharing between ILO's posted in third countries.	MS, Frontex	On-going	**ILO Network** **Developments:** a more strategic and enhanced use of the deployed MS ILO's has been discussed with MS to make use of the full potential of the network, in particular in view of fighting against smuggling, trafficking and organised crime. **Follow-up:** Close cooperation in gathering and exchanging information between the ILOs, MS authorities, EU agencies and EU Delegation to support situational awareness and complement the situational picture should be

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				ensured.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
2	**Strategic Priority Area 2:** Enhanced border management at the external borders			
2.1	**Challenge 1:** Strengthening political guidance and the legal framework regarding border control **Goal:** Strengthening of the political Schengen governance			
2.1.A	Implementation of reg. 1053/2013 on Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism (SEM) by the COM	COM	On-going The transition period between the new and old SEM expires on 26 November 2014.	**Schengen Committee** **Developments:** established in December 2013. MAP 2014-2019 has been adopted in June 2014, standard questionnaire has been adopted in July 2014. AP 2015 is to be adopted by 31 October 2014. The Schengen Committee has been summoned five times since its establishment to control the exercise of the COM's implementing powers.
2.1.B	Consolidation of the European Border Surveillance System(EUROSUR),	EP, MIXED COM, PRES		**EUROSUR** **Developments:** operational from 2 December 2013 for 19 Schengen MS (south/east external borders). All MS defined their border sections and Frontex attributed impact levels to them to better identify hot-spots and routes used for irregular migration and cross-border crime. Frontex and EMSA intensified their cooperation providing information (from ship reporting systems, satellite imagery) to MS, in order to detect vessels with migrants in distress. MS continue to upgrade their national coordination centres, increasing interagency cooperation. **Follow-up:** will become operational for remaining 11 Schengen MS in December 2014.
	the Smart Borders Package		Smart Borders Package: mid-	**Smart Borders Package** **Developments:** adopted by COM 28 February 2013. COM initiated proof of concept to address issues raised by legislators during first examination of proposals for Entry-Exit System and Registered Traveler Program, and

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
			2016	completed in 2014 a technical study preceding PP to be carried-out by EU-LISA in 2015.
			Frontex sea operations: 2014	Frontex sea operations regulation was adopted on 13 May 2014 and it entered into force on 17 July 2014.
2.2	**Challenge 2:** Preventing and combatting illegal immigration by ensuring strong and efficient external border control **Goal:** Strengthening the security and control at the Schengen external borders. Implementation of the Frontex regulation. Enhance inter-agency cooperation and cooperation between agencies and MS. Strengthening identification of illegal immigration routes inside the Schengen area.			
2.2.A	COM to present regular reports to the European Parliament and to the Council on the functioning of the Schengen area.	COM	Bi-annual	**Schengen area** **Developments:** 5th bi-annual report was presented at JHA Council in June 2014. **Follow-up:** 6th bi-annual report to be adopted by COM before December 2014 JHA Council meeting.
2.2.B	Frontex to offer the coordination and organisation of joint operations, improve cooperation with other agencies and competent border control authorities of MS and implement the new Frontex regulation.	Frontex	On-going	**Joint Operations (Pegasus, Alexis)** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Description:** Pegasus to tackle treats affecting the external air borders of EU, Alexis to respond to the perceived vulnerabilities/needs of EU airports. **Outcomes/results:** carried out at third-country airports Interagency cooperation with Europol and Interpol is planned. **EPN** **Mandate:** meetings provide a forum for practitioners to discuss common solutions related to the maritime domain. It involves partner authorities from MS, EU institutions and agencies, international associations and others, and third country partner organizations. **Developments:** Inter-agency cooperation initially established in the context of JO EPN-Indalo has been extended to all maritime operations in line with the EUROSUR Regulation

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
2.2.C	MS should, where relevant, make use of passenger data for improving border controls and combating illegal immigration	MS	On-going	**API systems** **Responsible agency:** Frontex, MS **Outcomes/results**: support from Frontex for MS to roll out their API systems, best practice guidelines for the harmonization and use of API in border control have been developed. **Passenger Intelligence Model** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Description:** system to screen persons of interests while complying with applicable regulations to achieve a more efficient border control while improving passenger experience. **Follow-up:** will be finalised in 2014, disseminated and presented to MS in a workshop in December 2014.
2.2.D	Develop cooperation at the appropriate levels with countries of origin and transit, on combating illegal immigration and criminal organisations dealing with smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.	MS, Frontex, Europol	On-going	Frontex reported that the implementation of relevant working arrangements with third countries (e.g. Nigeria) did receive attention during the period, but that limited human and financial resources, hindered attention to this on a larger scale. A project regarding capacity building, trainings etc. on issues related to illegal migration, border management and returns will be launched within 2014, by Greece-Bulgaria-Turkey.
2.2.E	Improve co-operation through exchange of information and best practices in order to identify and curb illegal immigration routes inside the Schengen Area, including air routes.	MS COM	End 2013 and onwards	**Responsible agency:** Frontex **Description:** trends and analysis of secondary intra-Schengen movements. **Outcomes/results**: - developed a set of indicators for regular monitoring of secondary intra-Schengen flows - provided technical support to COM (first report and analysis of available data at the end of 2013, update in September 2014) - data on secondary movements provided on monthly basis (not all MS able to collect all indicators) - contributes to the bi-annual report on the functioning of the Schengen area. - provides analysis of the main trends (routes, nationalities) to PRES operations such as Aphrodite, Perkunas and Mos Maiorum (data collection on people

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				detected for illegal border crossing and/or further movement within Schengen after crossing). **Follow-up:** plans to regularly include analysis on secondary movements in the FRAN Quarterly reports, as of quarter 02/2104. Joint TRA on Intra-Schengen secondary movements in the autumn of 2014 with Europol.
2.2.F	Improving the situational picture of migration pressures, by taking into account modi operandi used for secondary movements within the EU.	MS Frontex	On-going.	The EDF risk analysis network now covers secondary movements across air and sea borders
2.2.G	Enhance inter-agency cooperation, notably between Frontex, EASO and Europol. Cooperation between Europol and Frontex should also concern serious crimes at the external borders.	Frontex, Europol EASO	On-going	Frontex: - RA on cross-border crime, inputs from Europol. - ARA, inputs from Europol and EASO - mutual exchange of information in analytical networks with EASO. - contributes to the SOCTA - develops operational cooperation in respective operations (including trainings) with EASO EASO: - meetings of the EASO-Frontex group on referral procedures in 2014, 2 field visits - PP with Frontex, Europol, Eurojust and COM, hosted by Italy and Malta (to learn more about the phenomenon of facilitation of persons seeking international protection) - joint project with Frontex (to promote participation of Morocco and Tunisia in their activities, Frontex aims at liaising with border guard authorities of those countries) Europol: -invited to take part in all maritime JO and EPN meetings

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
3	**Strategic Priority Area 3:** Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey			
3.1	**Challenge 1:** Ensuring effective border controls are in place at the Greek-Turkish border **Goal:** To fight illegal border crossings by ensuring that efficient measures are in place for the detection, prevention and interception of illegal migrants at the Greek-Turkish border. Increase capacity in Greece by introducing sustainable measures to reduce illegal immigration			
3.1.A	Swift conclusion of negotiations of a working arrangement between Frontex and the competent Turkish border control authorities.	Frontex *(DK, FR, EL)*	2013	**Memorandum of Understanding Frontex-Turkey** **Mandate:** to establish practical cooperation between Frontex and Turkish border authorities (risk analysis, training, research, exchanges of experience and best practices) **Developments:** signed in May 2012. In March 2014, the two parties agreed on a cooperation agenda to implement a series of activities within this framework.
3.1.B	Fully implement the findings of the 2010 Schengen evaluation reports.	EL *(DK, FR)*		JHA Council of June 2014 concluded that all major recommendations were followed up and shortcomings solved. Significant improvements were registered in the cooperation with Turkey, in particular at land border. Some improvements are still necessary for enhancing the cooperation at sea.
3.1.C	Intensify monitoring of the National Action Plan "Greece – Schengen".	Council *(DK, FR)*	On-going	**Greek National Action Plan** **Developments:** on 9/10 October 2014 on the basis of COM Staff Working document (14027/14), the JHA Council took note of the state of play of the implementation of the action plan on migration and asylum which will be finalised end 2014. Continued efforts will be needed after 2014 in order to enable Greece to operate sustainable border management, migration and asylum systems
3.1.D	Continue support for Operations Poseidon Sea and Attica through increased contributions from MS.	Frontex, MS *(DK, FR)*	2012 and onward	**Joint Operations (Poseidon Sea, Poseidon Land, Project Attica, search and rescue)** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Outcomes/results**: - JO Poseidon Sea 2014 launched on 1 May 2014, due to large number of migrants approaching Greek Aegean Islands, a new First Reception Centre was opened on Lesvos Island. - International Coordination Centre under JO Poseidon Land has operated in Sofia since 6 November 2013 due to displacement of the migratory pressures. JO Poseidon Land 2014 launched on 27 March 2014. - JO Attica launched on 31 March 2014 (permanent deployments of screening experts and interpreters in Samos and Lesvos).

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				- under Poseidon Regional Programme, Frontex continues to support the deployment of interpreters and debriefers from MS through capacity-building activities (workshop, trainings) with Greek and Bulgarian officers. - with regards to search and rescue operations at Greek/Turkish sea borders, cooperation between JRCC Piraeus and MRCC Ankara is effective.
3.1.E	Swift implementation of the Greek Asylum and Migration Management, focusing on increased operational capacity at the border, notably by optimising synergies between the different actors involved, including the Task Force on Greece.	EL COM MS EASO *(DK, FR)*	On-going	**Asylum and Migration Action Plan (Greece)** **Developments:** exercise has been taken forward (regular meetings with greek authorities) in cooperation with interested MS and other stakeholders. Last meeting with interested MS and EU agencies on the revised Greek Action Plan took place on 2 October 2014. EASO provides support in: training of 1st and 2nd instance asylum, training on nationality establishment, in the field of the European Asylum and Migration Funds, on the collection and analysis of statistical data and in the field of country of origin information.
3.2	**Challenge 2**: Combatting illegal immigration transiting Turkey to enter the EU **Goal**: To obtain the effective engagement of the Turkish authorities to prevent illegal immigration transiting through their territory towards the EU external borders. To sign and conclude the EU-Turkey readmission agreement. Intensify trilateral cooperation between Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey for joint border management and police cooperation			
3.2.A	Enhancing capacity to generate situational awareness on illegal migration via Turkey.	Frontex	On-going	**Responsible agency:** Frontex **Framework:** TU-RAN Initiative **Outcomes/results**: Frontex and Turkey launched analytical activities for the purpose of joint risk analysis in 2013. Several workshops were organised and regular quarterly reports were initiated. Regular monthly information exchange is in place as of 2014, based on model used in other risk analysis networks. In 2014, TU-RAN activities focus on consolidation and quality of data and further development of joint reports.
3.2.B	Continue assisting the Turkish authorities in strengthening their capacity to combat illegal immigration, through IPA and bilateral MSs' funding.	CO MS *(DK, FR)*	On-going	COM has been continuing to co-finance new IPA projects, contributing directly and indirectly to combating illegal migration in Turkey, and more generally to improving the management of migration. New projects are also under preparation under IPA 2014 and 2015.
3.2.C	Continue promoting the reform of border, migration, asylum and visa	COM *(DK, FR)*	On-going	**Dialogue on visa liberalisation - Turkey** **Developments:** initiated in parallel with signature of EURA Turkey with the

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	systems in Turkey			presentation of the "Roadmap towards visa-free regime". Field visits and technical discussions took place in March-June 2014 to: - analyse how Turkey fulfils benchmarks set in the roadmap - identify weaknesses of Turkish legislation and administration in border management, migration and asylum and reforms/measures to address them **Follow-up:** COM will report on Turkey's fulfilment of the Roadmap's benchmarks matter on 20 October 2014**.** **Responsible party:** Swedish Migration Board/ Directorate General of Migration Management **Duration: from** October 2014 **to** December 2015 **Brief description:** to strengthen capacity of DGMM to manage migration in line with EU standards **PP "Strengthening capacities in the areas of asylum and international protection: quality and training in the asylum processes"** **Framework:** Prague Process Targeted Initiative **Outcomes/results**: to be implemented during autumn 2014.
3.2.D	Develop cooperation at the appropriate levels in order to combat organised crime facilitating the smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of human beings.	MS Frontex, Europol *(DK, FR)*	On-going	At JHA Council on 6-7 June 2013, it was agreed that one of the nine priorities for the policy cycle 2014-2017 will be illegal immigration. Frontex continues to develop and implement activities which contribute to the prevention and combating of cross border crime by supporting national authorities in cases of smuggling and trafficking in human beings. This includes the identification of facilitators and potential victims. In this regard, Frontex actively contributes to the regional ILOs meetings in Turkey since 2012. These meetings contribute to the updating of the situational picture of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings in Turkey, and Frontex continues to participate in these meetings.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
3.2.E	Continue and step up the dialogue with Turkey launched on 15 March 2012, on cooperation within the JHA area.	COM *(DK, FR)*	On-going	See 3.2.C
3.2.F	Develop cooperation between Europol and Turkish Police.	Europol *(DK, FR)*	On-going	An Europol representative participated to the experts' meetings of the visa liberalization dialogue in May 2014. **Turkey-Europol cooperation** **Developments:** still a lack of the operational agreements between EP and Turkey. FP Checkpoint tries to enhance the cooperation with Turkish authorities through the EMPACT Illegal Immigration OAP 2014 (and will pertain in OAP 2015) by participation and strong support of the action point 5.2 – Enhancing the MS LO Network in Turkey.
3.2.G	Frontex should make full use of its recently expanded mandate and strengthen its operational cooperation with the competent Turkish border control authorities.	Frontex *(DK, FR)*	On-going	**Cooperation Plan Frontex-Turkey** **Developments:** agreed in February 2014, foresees activities that will be implemented from 2014 to 2016 (risks analysis, training, research and developments, others). Several activities already took place in 2014.
3.2.H	Establishment of a trilateral common contact centre for cooperation between police, border and customs officials from BG, EL and Turkey, in coordination with Frontex and Europol within their respective mandates.	BG EL Turkey *(DK, FR, BG)*	On-going	**Common Contact Centre for Police and Customs cooperation at border checkpoint "Kapitan Andreevo"** **Developments:** consultations between representatives of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey on the draft agreement for the establishment of the centre were held in Sofia on 12 September 2013. Consensus on the draft, signature awaited.
3.2.I	Enhance cooperation with the relevant Turkish authorities, in order to ensure the implementation of escorted transit and assisted voluntary return projects via Turkey.	MS COM *(DK, FR)*	On-going	**Broader Dialogue and Cooperation Framework on JHA with Turkey** **Developments:** have been proposed to Turkey in December 2012 following Council conclusions of June 2012. Includes proposition to develop cooperation on joint return flights. **Protocol Bulgaria-Turkey for implementation of EURA Turkey** **Developments:** under preparation

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target Date	Status/Observations
4	**Strategic Priority Area 4:** Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels			
4.1	**Challenge 1**: Prevent an increase in unfounded asylum application as a direct consequence of introducing a visa free regime for a third country and decrease the number of over-stayers in the Schengen area **Goal:** Decrease the number of unfounded asylum applications from visa free third countries.			
4.1.A	Assess the expected impact on migration and risks to the EU's internal security before launching a visa liberalisation dialogue with third countries.	COM Frontex EASO Europol MS	On-going	Frontex provides inputs to the COM on potential impact of visa liberalisation. **Visa liberalisation (Peru, Colombia, Georgia)** **Developments:** EASO published a report on the possible risk of unfounded use of the asylum system of certain MS by citizens of Peru, Colombia and Georgia in the context of visa liberalisation (http://easo.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/BZ0213708ENC.pdf). EASO published in 2013 a comparative analysis of asylum applicants from the Western Balkans focused on trends, push and pull factors and responses by MS.
4.1.B	Continued monitoring of the effects of current visa free regimes with the assistance of Frontex and EASO, in accordance with their mandates and in close cooperation with the third countries in question.	COM MS Frontex EASO *(BE)*	On-going	**Post-Visa Liberalisation Monitoring Mechanism (PVLMM) for WB** **Developments:** in place in accordance with COM statement of 8 November 2010. Frontex supports the mechanism and provides four-weekly updates to the COM. This report is an essential instrument for discussions with MS on monitoring the implementation of the visa free regime. EASO also inputs to this mechanism in regard to asylum.
4.1.C	Improved information campaigns on the rights and obligations that follow a decision on visa free travel in the third countries.	MS COM	On-going	
4.2	**Challenge 2:** Combatting and preventing illegal immigration caused by visa liberalisation **Goal:** Decrease the level of illegally staying work force			
4.2.A	Make use of accelerated procedures and swift returns in full respect of EU and international standards as regards	MS *(SI)*	On-going	

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target Date	Status/Observations
	manifestly unfounded claims in case of abuse of visa liberalisation.			
4.2.B	Gradual steps towards visa liberalisation with selected third countries while fully involving the Council on a case by case basis.	COM and Council	On-going	Visa dialogue is on-going with Turkey. The relevant dialogue with Russia is currently suspended. Visa liberalisation Action Plans on-going with Kosovo, Georgia and Ukraine.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
5	**Strategic Priority Area 5:** Safeguarding and protection free movement by prevention of abuse by third country nationals			
5.1	**Challenge 1:** To improve understanding of abuse of free movement rights by third country nationals ad organised crime aiming at facilitating illegal immigration **Goal:** To gather, analyse and share data on fraud and abuse at the EU level. To agree on a common methodology for gathering data, based on consultation of the EMN study on "Misuse of the Right to Family Reunification: Marriages of Convenience and False Declarations of Parenthood". To improve dissemination of information, intelligence and best practices between MS to deter and investigate abuse of free movement rights. To improve information sharing within MS (between the different authorities involved in registering marriages, social and legal protection of children, deciding on applications for residence, awarding social benefits and job centres). To identify and direct action required to tackle abuse			
5.1.A	Improve understanding of the possible abuse of family reunification rights experienced by MS	PRES COM MS *(DE, NL, UK, AT)*		**Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification** **Developments:** COM adopted on 3 April 2014 guidelines (COM(2014) 210 final) for the application of the directive. COM adopted on 26 September 2014 a handbook addressing marriages of convenience between EU citizens and non-EU nationals prepared by the COM in cooperation with MS in the framework of the FREEMO expert group (COM(2014) 604 final and SWD(2014) 284 final). Given the parallels with the operational aspects of combatting potential abuses and fraud of the right to family reunification, this handbook may, mutatis mutandis, be referred to for guidance on addressing marriages of convenience between two non-EU nationals in the context of Directive 2003/86/EC, in particular on investigation tools and techniques and on cross-border cooperation. New action in the operational Action Plan 2015 of the EMPACT project on organized illegal immigration.
5.1.B	Consider whether and to what extent Europol, in line with its mandate and within the scope of EU crime priorities, could gather and analyse data on the facilitation of sham marriages and EU documentation fraud by organised criminal groups.	PRES COM Europol *(DE, NL, UK, AT)*	2013	**Europol initiatives regarding documentation fraud on sham marriages** **Developments:** Initial discussions with Europol on data gathering and analysis on sham marriages and documentation fraud to identify the type of data and its level of usefulness. AT and UK have been liaising with Senior Specialists of Europol Organised Crime Network division on further work. Europol gave a presentation on this topic at SCIFA in April 2013, and completed a report on marriages of convenience (submitted to COM), providing examples and recommendations for assessing the threat more acutely. Europol Checkpoint Target Group SNOW (dedicated to exchange/analyse information on organised crime groups facilitating sham marriages) provided

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				analytical and operational support to several JI by NL-UK (FRY/GELDERMALSEN) and by FR-PT-UK (JUSTES NOCES).
5.1.C	Improve the gathering and analysis of data on EU documentation fraud and detected facilitators, for the purposes of strategic priority V.	MS COM Frontex *(DE, NL, UK, AT)*	On-going	**EU Document Fraud Risk Analysis network EDF RAN** **Responsible agency:** Frontex **Developments:** established and managed by Frontex, Europol also takes part in it. Analytical products from this network are distributed to MS and Europol (EDF ARA in particular). More data has been gathered on document fraud resulting in improved analysis. Analytical findings from this network are incorporated into more general Frontex analyses like the FRAN Quarterlies and the ARA. Frontex Annual Risk Analysis 2014 on Document Fraud was released in May 2014.The options on the way forward resulting from the feasibility study on extending the scope of the EDF data exchange were presented to the EDF network in October 2013, and have been put on hold for future consideration. **Checkpoint Target Group RAIN** **Responsible agency:** Europol **Developments:** dedicated to exchange and analysis of information related to large-scale travel document production. RAIN supports several on-going investigations focusing on print shops in EU MS.
5.1.D	Identify desired EU actions to tackle abuse and continue to support existing work to tackle trafficking of human beings and organised crime aiming at facilitating illegal immigration.	COM MS *(DE, NL, UK, AT)*	On-going	
5.1.E	Make effective use of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) to investigate sham marriages and EU document fraud.	PRES COM *(DE, NL, UK, AT)*	On-going	**Operation Fry** **Outcomes/results**: UK and NL have jointly presented periodic updates on this operation to FREEMO. **Follow-up:** Suggestions include: highlight relevant JIT operating on territory by MS, consider conferences/seminars to share information/best practices, investigate the possibility to fund JITs.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
5.1.F	Further develop the existing work of national contact points established in the context of the FREEMO expert group and prepare a handbook on marriages of convenience, including indicative criteria to assist in the identification of sham marriages.	MS COM *(DE, NL, UK, AT)*	On-going	See 5.1.B
5.1.G	Make full use of the national contact points established in the context of the FREEMO expert group for queries in individual cases.	MS *(DE, NL, UK, AT)*		The list of national (both operational and policy) contact points within FREEMO is being continuously updated and is readily accessible on CIRCA.
5.2	**Challenge 2:** To prevent the fraudulent acquisition and use of free movement rights by third country nationals **Goal:** To ensure that travel documents used within the EU, including their issuance and validation, meet minimum security standards, with a particular focus on ID an residence cards			
5.2.A	Implement enhanced security standards for EU documentation for legal stay (residence cards etc.), together with secure issuing processes, on the basis of improved source documents (residence cards etc.) including the ability to take biometrics for third country nationals, and work towards common validation standards at borders and domestic controls.	MS, COM, Article 6 Committee *(DE, NL, UK, AT)*	On-going	**Article 6 Committee on technical specifications for documents Developments:** following discussions, suggestions include: consider the link between abuse of free movements rights by TCNS and the abuse of source documents issues in/outside the EU, continue work in the think tank on false documents to produce report containing recommendations for possible minimum security standards for source documents. In consequence, establishment of Single Points of Contact (enable the exchange of certificates between MS, access fingerprints on chips in documents) by COM decision C(2011)5478. MS are progressing with its implementation. Agreement reached to allow MS to use the Biometric Residence Permit card format as a residence card with wordings suggested. Work is on-going on improvements to the security design of the Uniform Format Visa and Residence permit.
5.2.B	Improve the security of the application and issuance processes for identity/EU			

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	documentation.			
5.2.C	Improving the targeting of irregular movement of third-country nationals within the Schengen area, notably through enhancing knowledge on secondary movements given the widespread distribution of persons detected staying illegally in the EU.			

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
6	**Strategic Priority Area 6:** Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices			
6.1	**Challenge 1:** Ensuring that all MS have efficient migration management systems in place, in order to be prepared for fluctuating migration pressures **Goal:** Putting in place a sustainable and credible EU policy to approach the management of migration and ensuring contingency measures are in place for unexpected flows of migration. Developing an early warning system based on data received by MS.			
6.1.A	Ensure that EU legislation in the field of asylum and migration is fully implemented including the Return Directive and the Directive on Employers' Sanctions. This will also facilitate the efficient and effective operation of immigration systems, including processing and returning illegal migrants.	MS *(DK)*	On-going	**Return Directive** **Developments:** has been implemented by all MS. COM submitted a communication on EU Return Policy (8415/14) on 28 March 2014, setting out a program of work for next years. Council supported the approach (Conclusions on EU Return Policy of June 2014, 9936/14) and pointed out the need of a more effective implementation of existing rules. **Employers' Sanction Directive** **Developments:** COM adopted its first report on the implementation of the directive on 22 May 2014. COM is carrying out an organised programme of work on the transposition of the Employers' Sanction Directive and will open EU pilot when necessary.
6.1.B	Ensuring statistical data and analysis is in place.	COM MS EASO Frontex *(DK)*	On-going	**EASO/Eurostat asylum statistics (EPS)** **Developments:** dialogue between Eurostat and EASO on availability of asylum statistics remains ongoing, led to the revision of the Eurostat guidelines on migration statistics in regards to asylum. EASO began on 1 April 2014 direct data collection from MS under 4 indicators (asylum applications, withdrawals, pending cases and decision) on a monthly basis. Quality data will be integrated into its regular analytical products (a restricted monthly report to EASO Management Board members, a public quarterly report and its annual report on the Situation of Asylum in the EU). **EMN Bulletin** **Description:** provides an overview of the latest published statistics, and analysis of and statistics on topics of relevance to policy-makers. **Outcomes/results:** e.g. study on illegal migration: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/irregular-

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				migration/0a_emn_synthesis_report_irregular_migration_publication_april_2013 _en.pdf **Frontex statistics** **Developments:** under the lead of COM, established a list of regular indicators for monitoring of intra-Schengen secondary movements, provides support for the exchange of information on this topic. Update on analysis/reports on this topic available under 2.2.F. Frontex also introduced regular reporting on passenger flow along the external borders.
6.1.C	EASO will develop an early warning system based on data received by MS, which will include tailor-made assistance for MS asylum systems.	MS, Eurostat, COM *(DK)*		**EPS/GPS (Group for the Provision of Statistics)** **Responsible agency:** EASO **Outcomes/results:** EASO designed in cooperation with Eurostat, DG Home and Frontex a table of proposed 22 asylum indicators to provide a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the CEAS. GPS has been established, and at a meeting in June 2014 the GPS analysed the implementation of stage II of EPS (i.e. the collection and analysis of the 4 first instance indicators noted above). The GPS comprises experts nominated by MS responsible in regard to asylum data-collection and statistics. It will operate in a similar way to Frontex FRAN. EASO and Frontex have begun weekly video conferences aimed at sharing information to better understand the link between irregular migration and seeking asylum.
6.1.D	Closely monitor developments in respect of migration movements from Syria.	EASO *(DK)*		**Syrian crisis/RDPP** **-** on-going monitoring of the situation by COM, EASO, IOM and UNHCR (including monthly Bordernet conferences set up by COM with Frontex, Europol and EASO). - RDPP in the Middle East was launched in July 2014 (see I.3.A). Increased support from EASO and Frontex to monitor migratory flows to the EU has been asked. - MS provided solidarity measures by stepping up financial support to Syria and gaining experience from the implementation of EUREMA PP. - Practical Cooperation meeting on Syria in March 2013 organised by EASO. - statistical analysis of the flow by EASO (wide differences in MS' treatment of the influx, characteristics of the applicants). **Follow-up:** EASO will hold a conference on Syria and Iraq in November 2014.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
6.2	**Challenge 2:** Maximising the potentials of a common EU approach in the field of return, both voluntary and forced, in compliance with existing EU acquis **Goal:** To increase numbers of returns of illegal migrants and to develop swift, sustainable and effective return using a common EU approach, including more effective joint return operations			
6.2.A	Ensuring that MS share best practices on return (both voluntary and forced) and encouraging cooperation between the stakeholders in the field.	MS Frontex IOM COM WP on Migration (expulsion)	2014	**EMN REG (Return Experts' Group)** **Developments:** met four times in 2014 already**.** An overview of the in-kind and in-cash assistance to support return of irregular migrants is in preparation. Exchange of best practices towards specific regions/countries was initiated (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Western Africa). **Follow-up:** will produce a directory of all the AVR programmes and reintegration programmes **EURINT** **Outcomes/results:** development of phase 2 with selected EU partners to improve structural co-operation between MS and third countries to increase commitment in terms of re-documentation and return.
6.2.B	Exploring the opportunities to make joint return operations more effective and to make more effective use of detention capacities. This should include capacity building, coordination and organisation of joint return operations.	MS, Frontex	On-going	Frontex organized: - Project Attica: capacity-building in the field of return for Greek police forces, training and information sharing - Standardised trainings for MS/SAC Return Officers-Escort Leaders

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
6.2.C	MS to regularly inform Frontex of their needs for assistance or coordination by the agency. Frontex should draw up a rolling operational plan to provide MS with the necessary operational support.	MS, Frontex	On-going	**Rolling Operational Plan (RoP)** **Description:** platform for identifying needs of MS for operational assistance and coordination and the planning of such operational support **Outcomes/results:** adopted by Frontex management board in 2012.
6.2.D	Frontex should enhance cooperation with third country authorities on best practices on acquisition of travel documents and return – and regularly report back to the Council and the Frontex Management Board on results achieved.	Frontex	On-going	Frontex intends to identify Best Practice in cooperation with relevant authorities in Nigeria. This best practice will later serve as a skeleton for further best practices with other relevant third countries.
6.2.E	Support voluntary return programmes, improve operational co-operation on assisted voluntary return programmes.	MS COM	On-going	See above (in A)

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
7	**Strategic Priority Area 7**: Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean countries			
7.1	**Challenge 1:** Strengthening capacities of Southern Mediterranean countries as regards migration management **Goal:** Enhance operational cooperation between the responsible authorities of South Mediterranean countries, MS and EU agencies			
	Regarding activities under this strategic priority, reference is made to the Task Force Mediterranean-(TFM) related documents, in particular the Communications by the Commission on the Task Force Mediterranean of December 2013 (doc. 17398/13) and June 2014 (doc. 10067/14), as well as the JHA Council Conclusions of October 2014 that build on the work done by the TFM (doc. 14141/14).			

ACRONYMS

ACP: Africa Caribbean Pacific
AFIC: Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community
API: Advance Passenger Information
ARA: Annual Risk Analysis
CAMM: Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility
CEAS: Common European Asylum System
CELAC: Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CIRCA: Communication and Information Resource Centre Administrator
CJEU: Court of Justice of the European Union
COM: Commission
COPIL: Comité de Pilotage
DCAF: Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DGMM: Directorate General of Migration Management
DMMS: Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security
EaP: Eastern Partnership
EDF: European Union Document-Fraud
EDF RAN: European Union Document-Fraud Risk Analysis Network
EEAS: European External Action Service
EFCA: European Fisheries Control Agencies
EMN: European Migration Network
EMPACT: European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats
EMSA: European Maritime Safety Agency
EPN: European Patrols Network
EPS: Early warning and Preparedness System
EURA: EU Readmission Agreement
EURINT: European Return Fund
FP: Focal Point
FRAN: Frontex Risk Analysis Network
FREEMO: Expert Group on the right to free movement of persons
GAMM: Global Approach on Migration and Mobility
GPS: Group for the Provision of Statistics
HLDMMS: High Level Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security
HLWG: High Level Working Group
ICMPD: International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ILO: Immigration Liaison Officer
IOM: International Organisation for Migration
IPA: Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
ISEC: Prevention of and Fight against Crime
JIT: Joint Investigation Team
JO: Joint Operation
JRC: Joint Readmission Committee
JRCC: Joint Rescue Coordination Center

MARRI: Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative
MME: Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment Partnership
MP: Mobility Partnership
MRCC: Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center
MS/SAC: Member States/Schengen Associated Countries
OAP: Operational Action Plan
PP: Pilot Project
PRES: Presidency
RA: Risk Analysis
RDPP: Regional Development and Protection Programme
RPP: Regional Protection Programme
SCIFA : Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum
SOCTA: Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment
TCNs: Third Country Nationals
THB: Trafficking of Human Beings
TU-RAN: Turkey-Frontex Risk Analysis Network
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WB: Western Balkans
WCO: World Customs Organisations
WG: Working Group
WP: Working Party

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