

Implementing the Bratislava Roadmap

October 2017

The Bratislava Roadmap - One Year On

Real solutions to real problems

The Bratislava Roadmap emerged from the Leaders' debate in September 2016. In March 2017, the Rome Declaration broadened the scope and set additional priorities for the longer term.

One year on, the EU has made significant progress and can demonstrate tangible results. The Bratislava method is working. The attached table shows that many tasks have been completed, and many others are on track. Some tasks however have progressed slower than expected, and a few require a fresh push, including at the highest level.

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	= done
	= on track
	= efforts still needed
	= insufficient

THE BRATISLAVA ROADMAP	MEASURES TAKEN AND RESULTS ACHIEVED	STATUS
MIGRATION AND EXTERNAL BORDERS		
<p><i>In Bratislava, Leaders agreed to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - never allow return to uncontrolled flows of last year and further bring down number of irregular migrants 	<p>The numbers of irregular migrants have been cut dramatically - by the end of 2016 arrivals were 72% lower than 2015, and numbers continue to decline in 2017.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure full control of our external borders and get back to Schengen 	<p>The EU and its Member States have undertaken great efforts to ensure full control of the external borders. The European Border and Coast Guard is now fully operational. The Entry/Exit system is under way, ETIAS is under negotiation, and systematic border checks for all persons, including EU nationals, are in place. More work is needed to get fully back to Schengen.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - broaden EU consensus on long term migration policy and apply the principles of responsibility and solidarity 	<p>Much progress has been made on the future of the asylum system, but work on the application of the principles of responsibility and solidarity is still ongoing.</p>	

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<p><i>The Leaders set out a number of specific measures:</i></p> <p>a) full commitment to implementing the EU-Turkey statement as well as continued support to the countries of the Western Balkans</p>	<p>➤ EU-Turkey statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The statement holds, irregular arrivals to Greece remain low. ○ Returns from Greece to Turkey however need to be increased. ○ As of October 2017, 49 projects under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey have been contracted worth around EUR 1.67 billion, out of which EUR 883 million has been disbursed. Contracting will reach EUR 3 billion by the end of 2017. According to current project planning, disbursements will reach EUR 1 billion in November and EUR 1.6 billion in December. ○ Over 10 000 refugees have been resettled from Turkey. 	
	<p>➤ Western Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA) has deployed officers in the Western Balkans and the Commission is working on border cooperation agreements with Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, which would allow the deployment of European Border and Coast teams with executive powers in the territory of these countries. ○ The EU has been using all possible tools to help the Western Balkans cope with the refugee crisis. Since the steep increase of arrivals in summer 2015, this assistance has amounted to over EUR 100 million allocated mainly through Special Measures (EUR 65 million), Regional programmes (EUR 13 million) and Humanitarian aid (EUR 29 million). In addition, over EUR 200 million were mobilised since 2007 through Pre-Accession programmes supporting reforms, such as migration and border management in the Western Balkans. Support to Serbia has also been provided through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. 	

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<p>b) commitment today by a number of Member States to offer immediate assistance to strengthen the protection of Bulgaria's border with Turkey, and continue support to other frontline States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding via the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulgaria: EUR 170 million in emergency assistance and EUR 97 million under the national programmes ○ Greece: EUR 371 million in emergency assistance and EUR 537 million under the national programmes ○ Italy: EUR 150 million in emergency assistance, and EUR 634 million under the national programmes ➤ EBCGA and European Asylum Support Office (EASO) deployment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1032 officers in Greece (EBCGA 905, EASO 127) ○ 212 in Bulgaria (EBCGA) ○ 455 in Italy (EBCGA 393, EASO 62) ○ 147 in Spain (EBCGA) ➤ As frontline Member States, Greece and Italy continue to receive additional support from the Commission and EU agencies. 	
<p>c) before the end of the year, full capacity for rapid reaction of the European Border and Coast Guard, now signed into law</p>	<p>EBCGA was launched in October 2016. It assists Member States at the external borders with over 1 700 border guards, although some shortfalls remain. Rapid Reaction Pools of staff and equipment are in place, to be deployed in case of emergency.</p>	
<p>d) migration compacts for cooperation and dialogue with third countries to lead to reduced flows of illegal migration and increased return rates, to be assessed by the December European Council</p>	<p>A dialogue is ongoing with Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Ethiopia under the Partnership Framework, as well as with other countries in West Africa and Asia, such as Afghanistan and Bangladesh.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Operational arrangements and/or agreements on returns have been completed with several countries. Nevertheless, the coverage remains incomplete and returns and readmissions continue to remain unsatisfactory. ➤ Cooperation with Niger has resulted in a significant reduction of migrants transiting from that country into Libya. ➤ Enhanced support to these efforts is being provided through CSDP missions and operations in third countries, particularly in Libya and the Sahel region. 	

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<p>e) work to be continued to broaden EU consensus in terms of long term migration policy, including on how to apply the principles of responsibility and solidarity in the future</p>	<p>Common European Asylum System reform</p> <p>The Council and the EP are close to an agreement on the reform of EASO with the exception of the provisions relating to the Dublin Procedure Regulation and Resettlement.</p>	
	<p>Trilogues between the co-legislators are also ongoing on the Eurodac Regulation and the Qualifications Regulation. Trilogues are expected to start on Reception Conditions Directive and the new Resettlement Framework by the end of the year. On the Asylum Procedures Regulation work continues at technical level.</p>	
	<p>The Council has not reached agreement on the Dublin system, notably as regards the principles of responsibility and solidarity, while progress has been made on other provisions at technical level.</p>	

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INTERNAL SECURITY		
a) intensified cooperation and information-exchange among security services of the Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work to improve the exchange of information has been a priority over the last year. In December 2016 the Commission presented a proposal to strengthen the Schengen Information System (SIS). ➤ The reinforcement of Europol's capacities, which, alongside the entry into force of the new Europol Regulation on 1 May 2017, should further establish the law enforcement agency as the genuine EU hub for information exchange on serious cross-border crime and terrorism. ➤ The Commission's proposals on interoperability are expected at the end of 2017. 	●
b) adoption of the necessary measures to ensure that all persons, including nationals from EU Member States, crossing the Union's external borders will be checked against the relevant databases, that must be interconnected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As a result of an amendment to the Schengen borders code adopted in March 2017, all persons crossing the Union's external borders, including nationals from EU Member States, are now systematically checked against the relevant databases. ➤ An Entry/Exit System will allow a better detection of document and identity fraud. A provisional agreement was reached with the European Parliament and should be confirmed in Plenary in October. ➤ Proposals to extend the existing system on the exchange of criminal records (ECRIS) to third country nationals and for a stronger mandate for EU-LISA, the agency for operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice are under active negotiation. An agreement between Member States on the latter is expected by the end of 2017. ➤ In June 2017 the High Level Expert Group on information systems and interoperability made a comprehensive set of recommendations. The Commission was subsequently invited by the June European Council to put forward proposals based on the work of the High Level Expert Group. These proposals are near completion. 	●

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<p>c) start to set up a Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) to allow for advance checks and, if necessary, deny entry of visa-exempt travellers</p>	<p>The Council reached a general approach on ETIAS in June 2017. Trilogues will start as soon as the EP mandate is confirmed. The European Council's guidance is to conclude by the end of 2017.</p>	
<p>d) a systematic effort against radicalisation, including through expulsions and entry bans where warranted as well as EU support to Member States' actions in prevention</p>	<p>Various initiatives are in place at EU level and a High Level Expert Group on radicalisation has been put in place to coordinate them. The first results of its work are expected by the end of 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Online radicalisation: in June 2017 the European Council called on industry to improve the automatic detection and removal of content that incites terrorist acts. ➤ In September 2017, the Commission issued guidelines to encourage online platforms to be more active in tackling illegal content online. 	

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EXTERNAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE		
<p>a) December European Council to decide on a concrete implementation plan on security and defence and on how to make better use of the options in the Treaties, especially as regards capabilities</p>	<p>European cooperation on Defence has advanced significantly in a number of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The European Council agreed on the need to launch an inclusive and ambitious Permanent Structured Cooperation in the area of defence by December 2017. ➤ The military planning and conduct capability (MPCC) has been established, while work continues on the review of civilian priorities, civilian and military rapid reaction, including on common costs for the deployment of EU Battlegroups, and on enhancing intelligence and situational awareness. ➤ Work on the implementation of the European Defence Action Plan is ongoing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The implementation of the European Defence Fund is underway in order to support collaborative research in defence and joint development and acquisition. A Preparatory Action on defence research has been launched, and the proposal for a European Defence Industrial Development Programme to support development efforts is currently being discussed by both the Parliament and the Council. ○ Work on the implementation of the other strands of the European Defence Action Plan is also ongoing. Additionally, EIB funding is being mobilised to support investments in dual use technology and (cyber)security . 	
<p>b) start implementing the joint declaration with NATO immediately</p>	<p>EU-NATO cooperation is advancing on the basis of a list of 42 specific actions related to hybrid threats, cybersecurity, maritime coordination, strategic communication, capabilities, exercises and partners' capacity-building. Reports on the progress achieved and a number of potential additional actions will be presented in December 2017.</p> <p>The first parallel and coordinated exercise between NATO and the EU in response to a hybrid scenario took place in late September and early October.</p>	

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH		
a) in December: decision on extension of the European Fund for Strategic Investment in light of evaluation	EFSI has triggered EUR 225 billion in investment and supported over 300 000 jobs. Provisional agreement on its extension was reached between the co-legislators in September 2017.	
b) Spring 2017 European Council: review progress as regards delivering on the different Single Market strategies (including Digital Single Market, Capital Markets Union, Energy Union)	The Spring 2017 European Council reviewed progress on all single market strategies, and since then has regularly reverted to the issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the Digital Single Market, the co-legislators have reached a deal on the release of the 700 MHz band - critical for the future of wireless connectivity, especially the roll-out of 5G. Roaming surcharges for EU citizens also ended by the agreed date of 15 June 2017. Cross-border portability is now ensured, making it easier for European citizens to access their films, e-books and other subscribed online content when they travel abroad. By implementing the Marrakesh Treaty, the EU has also improved access to published works for people who are blind or visually impaired. And the newly-adopted wifi4EU initiative seeks to provide free Wi-Fi hotspots in local communities across the EU. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The European Council in June 2017 broadened the DSM strategy to "Digital Europe" which seeks to fully capture the variety of issues that need to be addressed in our digital transformation. In September 2017, Leaders held an informal meeting in Tallinn dedicated to Digital Europe, giving new impetus to work in this area. ➤ Despite many achievements, a number of complex and important files are still being negotiated and will require careful attention if the 2018 deadline is to be respected (for instance on geo-blocking, on contract law reform, on copyright and on e-Privacy). An additional Telecommunications Council will be held on 24 October to accelerate progress. In addition, the Commission's very recent proposals (for instance on the free flow of non-personal data and on cybersecurity) will require sustained work in order to advance swiftly. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In relation to the Capital Markets Union, the EU adopted a number of essential elements for its completion including the Prospectus Regulation, which protects investors while improving access to debt capital markets across the EU; rules on securitisation, which aim to free up capital for economic growth through a simple, transparent and standardised securitisation market, and revamped rules on European Venture Capital Funds and European Social Entrepreneurship Funds, as part of efforts to stimulate venture capital investments in the EU and improve access to finance for small and growing companies and social enterprises. ➤ In addition, in June 2017 the Commission adopted the mid-term review of the Capital Markets Union and identified new initiatives to drive forward the objectives of the Capital Markets Union, including the Review of the European Supervisory Authorities, adopted in September 2017. 	●
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The EU has also advanced in its ambition to build an Energy Union. Most significantly, it has ratified the Paris Climate Agreement. It has also reinforced the security of its gas supply, also thanks to the Decision on inter-governmental agreements. This will enable the Union to deal more quickly and efficiently with any gas supply crises. ➤ Measures to increase energy efficiency are expected to be agreed with the EP in early 2018, while the other elements in the clean energy package should be in place before next summer. ➤ Negotiations on the review of the emissions trading system (ETS) are in their final stages; trilogues are starting on LULUCF and are to due to start on effort-sharing. 	●

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c) October European Council to address how to ensure a robust trade policy that reaps the benefits of open markets while taking into account concerns of citizens

- The EU has agreed on a new **antidumping** methodology in order to fight dumping in important sectors, including steel. In parallel, work is on-going on modernising the **EU's trade defence instruments**.
- In September 2017 the Commission proposed a Regulation to screen Foreign Direct Investment that would threaten security and public order in the EU.
- While the EU's ambition to agree on TTIP has not been realised, after considerable efforts to accommodate a variety of concerns, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (**CETA**) with Canada was adopted and is being provisionally applied since 21 September 2017.
- Trade talks have been concluded with **Vietnam**; an agreement in principle has been reached with **Japan**, and talks are moving forward with **Mercosur**. Trade talks with **Mexico** are also picking up pace, and negotiations on trade and investment agreements continue with a number of partners. The EU should soon be opening negotiations for the establishment of a **Multilateral Investment Court** and for FTAs with **New Zealand** and **Australia**.



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d) in December - decisions on EU support for Member States in fighting youth unemployment and on enhanced EU programmes dedicated to youth

- In December 2016 the European Council called for the **Youth Guarantee** to continue; welcomed the increased support for the **Youth Employment Initiative** and called for work to be taken forward on initiatives relating to youth mobility, education, skills development and the **European Solidarity Corps**.
- In the framework of the MFF mid-term review, the co-legislators added another EUR 1.2 billion to the Youth Employment Initiative, which was matched by EUR 1.2 billion from the European Social Fund.
- The co-legislators are currently reviewing the proposal for a Regulation on the European Solidarity Corps.
- Work is ongoing in the Council to adopt Recommendations on:
 - the tracking of graduates to improve **long-term knowledge** of their career paths;
 - a European Framework for **Quality and Effective Apprenticeships** to establish clear criteria for quality apprenticeships and raise the attractiveness of vocational education and training.
- The Commission adopted in December 2016 a package on **Investing in Youth** followed in May 2017 by two Communications on the modernisation of Higher education and on improving and modernising school education and supporting continued national reforms of education and training systems.

