



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS
Directorate B – International Affairs, Returns and Visa
B.3 – Return and Readmission

Readmission Expert Group meeting

22 May 2026
09:30-12:30 (CET)
Webex

Minutes

- **Introductory remarks:** COM updated Member States on the new General Scheme of Preferences Regulation, the Council's 18 May 2026 decision to end restrictive visa measures in respect of Ethiopia, Global Europe, and the ongoing work on the EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement, the 7th annual assessment under Article 25a of the Visa Code, and the proposal for the digitalisation of case management in the field of returns.
- **Article 25a follow up:**
 - **Senegal:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
 - **Guinea:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
 - **Somalia:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
 - **The Gambia:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
- **India:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
- **Algeria:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
- **Georgia:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
- **Bangladesh:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
- **Syria:** COM and Member States provided an update on cooperation.
- **Meetings debrief and discussion:**
 - **Egypt:** COM debriefed Member States on Director Nielsen's mission to Egypt, which took place on 19 May 2026.

- **Update on bilateral negotiations on return and readmission:** One Member State reported that it is concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with Rwanda and negotiating another one with Burundi. Another Member State reported that it is negotiating an Implementing Protocol with Albania.
- **AOB:** Point was raised a potential return data workshop.
- **Upcoming meetings:**
 - 19 June 2026: Readmission Expert Group meeting (in-person, Brussels)
 - 17 July 2026: Readmission Expert Group meeting (VTC)