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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	MOCADEM Roundtable
N° prev. doc.:	WK 10923/2025 INIT
Subject:	Update of the Eastern Mediterranean route matrix

In view of the upcoming MOCADEM Roundtable of 26 March 2026 delegations will find attached the "Action file to follow up on the EU Action Plan for the Eastern Mediterranean route".

March 2026

ACTION FILE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE EU ACTION PLAN FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
I. Preventing irregular departures, combatting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings				
1.Strengthen comprehensive engagement with countries of origin and transit in Asia and Africa	Commission, Member States, EU DEL	Ongoing	- Support the implementation of programmes such as the Global Alliance addressing Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, and the PROTECT programme. - Continue cooperation in the comprehensive Migration and Mobility Dialogues launched with **Bangladesh** and **Pakistan** in 2023. Explore the possibility to develop with them anti-smuggling operational partnerships (ASOPs). - Continue the implementation of the EU-funded **Common Operational Partnership project** (EASTEAMS) between **Pakistan** and Member States. - Align action plan priorities with the adopted Budapest Process ministerial declaration and Call for Action (2025-2030). - 3rd **EU-AU Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting** took place in May 2025. - 7th **AU-EU Summit** took place in November 2025 in Angola. - Continue cooperation on migration and mobility in the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership established with **Egypt**.	- Implementation of the **EASTEAMS** continues; the last coordination meeting took place on 30 January 2026; and an international workshop took place in Athens on 18 and 19 June 2025. Work is ongoing to extend the project until 30 September 2026 (no-cost extension). The Memorandum of Understanding between Greece and project partners with Pakistan is in the process of being signed. - The third round of **Migration and Mobility Dialogues** with Bangladesh and Pakistan, with **Joint Working Group/Joint Readmission Committee** meetings and **Talent Partnership roundtables**, were held in Dhaka in September 2025 and in Islamabad in October 2025. - A **European Migration Liaison Officer** (EMLO) is deployed to Pakistan as of 1 May 2025. - Regarding **Egypt**, a migration programming mission at technical level took place at the end of September 2025, with further talks in January 2026, to advance on the formulation of actions to be contracted. - Approx. EUR 32 million benefiting Egypt were contracted at the end of 2025, as part of the EUR 200 million package for the country, including both bilateral and regional actions, covering protection, anti-smuggling, migration governance, assisted voluntary returns, and other support measures.

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			- Senior Officials Meeting on migration to take place tentatively in Q3 2026 in Cairo. - [redacted]	- Discussions are ongoing, in close coordination with the EU Delegation to Egypt, for the identification of remaining actions for EU support between 2024 and 2027. - On 22 October 2025 the first EU-Egypt Leaders' Summit took place in Brussels, back-to-back with a high-level economic event. - Next Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on migration to take place back-to-back with SOM on security in Cairo tentatively in Q3 2026. - Pakistan reacted positively to the call to action on a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling. It was represented at Ministerial level at the conference in Brussels in December 2025 and endorsed the Joint Declaration. - The NDICI-funded "Promoting Action and Cooperation among countries at global level against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Smuggling of Migrants (PACTS)" was signed with **UNODC** on 15 July 2024. The project organised the 1st Global Forum of Prosecutors: 4-6 December 2024, Vienna; an Expert Consultation on the Smuggling of Migrants Legislative Guide and Model Legislative Provisions on 4-5 June 2025, Vienna; and a Global Forum for Human Trafficking Survivors - 24-25 June 2025, Vienna, among other activities. - [redacted]

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2.Implement the measures of the toolbox on transport operators	Commission, Member States, Frontex, Eurocontrol	Ongoing	- Explore the possibility to post **liaison officers** at key airports along the route to strengthen operational cooperation and to facilitate exchange of information with airlines and competent national authorities. - [redacted]	- **Toolbox** presented by the Commission on 6 June 2023. - The toolbox has been activated with discussions with partner countries, in particular Türkiye and Pakistan. [redacted]
3. Continue cooperation with Türkiye to counter migrant smuggling	Commission, Europol, EUROJUST	Ongoing	- Continue engagement with Türkiye on all matters regarding migration on the basis of the **2016 EU-Turkey statement**. - Support the implementation of Türkiye's **Integrated Border Management Strategy**, the operationalisation of the National Coordination and Risk Assessment	- Cooperation with Türkiye continues in the framework of the EU-funded **SCOPE II action**. On 19 November 2025, a strategic meeting took place in Budapest confirming ongoing support to combat document fraud and countering the online dimension of migrant smuggling. Among others, the project contributed to the participation of Türkiye in the EMPACT Operational Action Plan 2024-2025 on migrant smuggling. Work is

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			Centre (NACORAC), and the enhancement of passenger screening at airports.
			- Reinforce Türkiye's participation in **regional initiatives** and projects targeting the Silk Route countries.
			- Negotiate the remaining EUR 195 million for **refugee support and migration management** under the 2025-2027 envelope.
			  - Engagement of Türkiye in the EMPACT Operational Action Plan on Migrant Smuggling for 2026-2027.
			  - Following the July 2025 EU-Türkiye High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Security, engagement at senior official level will continue on cooperation with EU Agencies (Frontex, Europol), migrant smuggling, border management and readmission.
			- Continue support for the establishment of the International Migration Cooperation Centre in Istanbul.
				underway to facilitate a no-cost extension of the project for an additional 18 months.
				- Türkiye increased its participation in the **OAP Migrant Smuggling 2026-2027**, from 3 operational actions in the previous cycle, to 6 actions currently supported. Turkish investigators with support of EU Member States have joined several ongoing investigations supported by Europol.
				- **Airport security** project focusing on passenger screening currently under implementation by IOM.
				- EUR 5 million project to strengthen the capacity of the Turkish gendarmerie against **migrant smuggling** was signed in December 2025.
				- Adoption on 15 December 2025 of the **EUR 1.15 billion multiannual package on refugee assistance and related support for 2025- 2027**. It includes a EUR 161 million top up to the 'Support to Türkiye's Efforts to Strengthen Border Management at the Eastern and Southeastern Border' project, which will establish a modernised border surveillance system with border control equipment, aligned with confirmed needs on the eastern, southern and south-eastern borders. It also includes a EUR 150 million project on voluntary returns 'Enhancing protection response for sustainable voluntary returns to Syria', which will cover the delivery of cash assistance support inside Syria.
				- The **International Migration Cooperation Centre** in Istanbul is financed under AMIF and implemented by ICMPD. The Centre will enhance regional cooperation, support operational collaboration, and promote data-driven policy development across the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans.

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4. Enhance cooperation between EUROPOL, Frontex and EUROJUST, and build synergies between the EMPACT OAP on migrant smuggling and SCOPE II and EASTEAMS projects	Commission, Europol, Frontex, and EUROJUST	Ongoing	- Increase participation and information-sharing of all relevant partners in the **EMPACT 2026-2029 policy cycle** and its Operational Action Plans (OAPs). - Build **synergies** between the EMPACT OAPs and SCOPE II and EASTEAMS projects. - Continue to support **regional cooperation** among countries both on judicial and law enforcement aspects using EUROJUST and EUROPOL expertise.	- A **workshop** on "Stronger Together: Enhancing EU and International Collaboration through the EASTEAMS COP Project", took place on 18–19 June 2025, at the Centre for Security Studies in Athens, with the participation of the Commission, Europol, Frontex, INTERPOL, IOM, UNODC, and Pakistan. The workshop facilitated the exchange of best practices, explored opportunities for collaboration and synergies in the fight against migrant smuggling. - **Frontex** leads 2 Operational Actions, co-leads 3, and participates in a further 11 in the 2026-2027 Migrant Smuggling OAP. - In 2025, **Frontex** coordinated 7 Joint Action Days (JAD) all with a focus on migrant smuggling. **EUROJUST** co-leads 1 operational action of OAP Migrant Smuggling 2026-2027 and participates in the implementation of 8 actions. **EUROPOL** leads 4 Operational Actions, co-leads 7, and participates in 4 further actions.
5. Provide support to targeted information and awareness raising campaigns on the risks of irregular migration to the EU	EU DEL, Member States	Ongoing	- Convene the **European Migration Network** (EMN) Information and Awareness Raising Campaigns Working Group (INFO WG) to identify actions supporting knowledge exchange and coordination between Member States and EU bodies. - Under a new AMIF call for proposals, **new campaigns** will be implemented for 36 months (starting in April 2026) along the Eastern Mediterranean route (in Türkiye, Iraq, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Libya, Egypt and Sudan). They will also include engagement with diaspora communities in Italy, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands. - A new innovative tool was launched at the 2nd International Conference on the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling on 10 December 2025, the	- The 16th meeting of the **EMN INFO WG** took place in November 2025 in a hybrid format (in Vienna and online), back-to-back with the EMN Austria National Conference 2025. Attendees included representatives from 19 Member States, DG HOME, INTPA, ENEST, and EU delegations. Next meeting is scheduled to take place in Q2 2026. - Implementation of PARIM II (targeting Pakistan), MIRAMI (Iraq), and PATHWAYS (EMR-WBR) under AMIF, to raise awareness of the **risks of irregular migration** while promoting legal pathways, was finalised in March/April 2025. - **GARRI** test interventions are planning to start in **Pakistan** as of March 2026, to prevent migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings and irregular migration through Central Asian countries *en route* to the EU, followed by **Bangladesh** (potentially from mid-April 2026), focusing on the role of

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			Global Alliance Rapid Response Initiatives (GARRI). It will deliver agile and context-specific communication responses to emerging trends and specific patterns in migrant smuggling, in cooperation with EU delegations and local actors. This pilot initiative will be integrated with EUR 5 million (AMIF) into the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) until 2029 and implemented by ICMPD.	intermediaries and recruitment agencies that may exploit or facilitate irregular migration and trafficking in human beings when relevant. If emergencies and/or new situations arise during this testing period or afterwards, the Commission will activate GARRI as foreseen.
6. Continue offering safe and legal avenues to protection, including resettlement	Commission, EUAA	Ongoing	- Continue to support Member States and Associated Countries' efforts on resettlement and humanitarian admission through the operational assistance of the **EUAA Resettlement Support Facility** (RSF) in Istanbul. - A EUR 60 million project to strengthen Türkiye's international and temporary protection processes is being implemented by UNHCR (contract signed in December 2025).	- Under the **2024-2025 EU resettlement and humanitarian admission scheme**, 14 Member States collectively[1] provided 61,000 pledges for resettlement and humanitarian admission combined. Implementation is ongoing. The **first Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Plan (2026-2027)** was adopted in December 2025. The Plan aims to further embed resettlement and humanitarian admission within the comprehensive approach, including its external dimension. Efforts to operationalise the Plan will continue.
7. Continue efforts to create legal migration and mobility opportunities	**Commission**	**Ongoing**	- The next **Talent Partnership** Roundtables with **Bangladesh** and **Pakistan** are planned to take place in the second half of 2026 in Brussels (previous ones were held in Dhaka in September 2025 and Islamabad in October 2025). Talent Partnerships are being implemented with the support of **NDICI-funded actions**. The contract of the NDICI-action in Bangladesh was signed and launched on 8 July 2024 in Dhaka and since then Bangladeshi nationals are being trained in several sectors, including tourism and hospitality. The action is implemented by ILO and is to date making good progress. The contract of the NDICI-action in	- In March 2025, the the Commission adopted the Union of Skills communication with a pillar on "attracting, developing and retaining talent" to the EU. - The political agreement between the European Parliament and Council on an EU Talent Pool was reached in November 2025. The European Parliament adopted its first reading position at the plenary on 10 March 2026. It will be the first EU-wide matching platform between EU employers and non-EU citizens living outside the EU. - The Second Talent Partnership Roundtable with Egypt took place in December 2025 back-to-back with the "EU-EG National

[1] Resettlement pledges submitted by Member States for 2024-2025_en.pdf (europa.eu)

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			Pakistan to be implemented by DE (GIZ) was signed in November 2024. Implementation was launched in February 2025. - EU-Bangladesh next Joint Commission meeting is planned for 2026. [redacted] - In **Egypt**, the third Roundtable is expected to take place in December 2026. Under the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), labour mobility schemes and training activities have been launched under the Talent Partnership. Under MPF a Technical Assistance project was finalised in April 2025 to develop a diagnostic assessment on legal constraints, qualification requirements, and working conditions in the transport sector in EU Member States and Talent Partnership countries including Egypt.	Technical Forum on Supporting mobility of workers in the tourism and hospitality sector" under the Talent Partnership. - In Egypt, the contract for an EUR 8 million project to streamline and strengthen residence permit processes, with a focus on humanitarian residence permits, was signed with IOM in December 2025. - All projects build on and complement actions funded under the NDICI-Global Europe instrument, notably the programme 'Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa' (THAMM Plus).
8. Explore with Member States the possibility to further streamline Schengen visa procedures and to facilitate processing	Member States, Commission	Ongoing	- **Facilitate the processing of Schengen visa procedures** by Schengen consulates in Türkiye (ongoing), [redacted] - The Commission is monitoring the implementation of the new rules on issuing of multiple entry visas, notably via the Local Schengen Cooperation.	- The EU facilitated access to visas for Turkish travellers (through the adoption of more generous rules for issuing of multiple entry visas to Turkish nationals in July 2025). - This topic was on the agenda of the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Security in July 2025. Turkish authorities have officially welcomed the EU decision on the issuing of multiple entry visas. - In addition, an unprecedented number of visa applications from Turkish nationals are being processed by Schengen consulates: 1.2 million in 2025, up from 1.1. million in 2024.

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of visa applications				
9. Reinstate the temporary scheme of short-stay tourist visits from certain Turkish areas to Greece	Greece, Commission	Ongoing	- Promote **people-to-people contacts** between Greece and Türkiye. - Presentation of concept and information to Member States about next steps on implementation. - [redacted] The Commission will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the scheme.	- The implementation of the temporary scheme of short-stay tourist visits from certain Turkish coastal areas to selected Greek islands in the Eastern Aegean started on 30 March 2024 for the first 5 islands (Chios, Lesvos, Kos, Rhodes and Samos) and on 30 April for the remaining 5 islands (Kalymnos, Kastellorizo, Leros, Limnos and Symi). [redacted]
II. Strengthened border management				
10. Support border management capacities at Türkiye's borders	Commission, Frontex	Ongoing	- Effectively implement the EUR 220 million support to increase Border Surveillance Capacity at Türkiye's Eastern border with Iran. Contract the EUR 50 million top up to this project. - Contract the EUR 58 million project, implemented by IOM, which will provide additional search and rescue boats to the Turkish coastguard. - Continue engagement with other countries as relevant, notably in the framework of ongoing border management projects.	- BMVI project supporting Türkiye's border management at its western borders started implementation on 1 July 2024 (EUR 10 million for July 2024 – June 2027). - The programme 'Support to Türkiye's Efforts to Strengthen Border Management at the Eastern and Southeastern Border' will receive an additional EUR 161 million following its adoption in December 2025. It aims to reduce irregular migration levels and enhance the protection of migrants by strengthening the capacities of the Turkish authorities to manage the country's land borders with modern surveillance equipment. With this top up, the total investments into this project will amount to EUR 431 million. The project is scheduled to end in December 2028.

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11. Reinforce and improve border management and control at EU external land and sea borders	Frontex, Member States	Ongoing	- Make efficient use of **pre-arrival information**, efficient **border checks procedures and registrations**, adequate **infrastructure and equipment**, in full respect of Union and international law. - Starting in 2024, the **new set-up of the Frontex Standing Corps** with a new command structure is being implemented in the Member States. Implementation will continue. Decentralised command with more decision powers in the field will allow for more flexibility and increase the capacity both in the field and in Frontex HQs. - In the long term, this will allow for more efficient and effective use of resources in support of the Member States in the Mediterranean as well as other regions.	- [redacted] - The action "Integrated Border Management in the Silk Route countries" (EUR 12 million, implemented by ICMPD), implemented in Bangladesh, Iraq, Pakistan, ended with a closing conference in December 2024. [redacted].
12. Continue to support regional cooperation among partners in the Southern neighbourhood	Commission, EEAS, EU DEL, Frontex	Ongoing	- Promote **cooperation among partners** in the Southern neighbourhood, notably Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. - EUR 6.5 million "EU4BorderSecurity project", implemented by **Frontex**, is ongoing in the Southern Neighbourhood until December 2029. - Concerning **Lebanon**: "BRIDGE – Integrated Border Management IV" (EUR 7 million) is ongoing building on previous EU support to enhance border governance, contribute to the security and stability of border communities and reinforce rights-based approach and interagency coordination in Lebanon. As part of the package adopted in August 2024, EUR 25 million were allocated to "EU for Enhanced border security in Lebanon", with ongoing negotiations of particular projects in support of land and sea border management - Concerning **Jordan**: The Sharaka II programme (EUR 20 million, AAP 2024) includes support for Eastern	- On 1 August 2024, the Commission adopted EUR 500 million for 2024 and 2025 to support **Lebanon**'s stability, security and reforms. This also includes support to the security sector and border management. Frontex has a mandate to start negotiating a Working Arrangement with the Lebanese authorities. - [redacted] - On 9 April 2025 **Europol and Egypt** signed a Working Arrangement providing for a structured and enhanced exchange of information (non-personal data) on transnational, serious and organised crime. With this, the Egyptian Ministry of Interior will be able to deploy a liaison officer to Europol's headquarters. - On 9-10 April 2025, the **EUROMED** Police Project (jointly implemented by Europol and CEPOL) organised the EU-MENA Expert Workshop on Serious and Organised Crime in Lisbon.

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			borders integrated management and enhance Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) coordinated response in the area. Under the 2025-2027 AAP, adopted in September 2025, the Action "Support to Jordan Integrated Border Management and Enhance internal security" foresees to reinforce border management methodologies, enhance capacity to respond to security challenges and improve reaction to security threats by procurement of advanced equipment.	The workshop facilitated dialogue between representatives from Europol, MSs, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The online dimension of migrant smuggling was a key point of interest in the workshop. The EUROMED Police Project team will explore additional activities on tackling migrant smuggling online with partner countries.
13. Provide assistance to Greece in establishing the NIMSS, to Cyprus in making operational the new National Coordination Centre and to update the coastal surveillance system, and to Bulgaria to update the coastal surveillance system	Commission, Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria	Ongoing	- Keep supporting the **implementation of the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI)** in each of those countries paying particular attention to the achievement of the goals mentioned. The Commission prioritises swift implementation.	- Under the **Greek** BMVI programme EUR 80 million have been earmarked for the development of the National Integrated Surveillance System (NIMSS). The project includes 35 fixed and two mobile surveillance stations, two command & control centres and software and telecommunication infrastructure. - Under the **Cypriot** BMVI programme, EUR 2 million have been allocated to upgrade the communications systems of the Joint Rescue Coordination Center through the purchase of advanced communications workstations and telecommunications equipment to increase its capabilities to monitor migration flows as well as coordinate, control and direct SAR operations. Under the BMVI Specific Action "Electronic surveillance systems at the external sea border (sea border e-surveillance)" related to sea border surveillance for MSs with external maritime borders, an additional EUR 29.9 million have been allocated to Cyprus for the enhancement of its sea surveillance system. In addition, under the Specific Action "REACTION: REal-time ArtifiCial InTelligence for BOrders Surveillance via RPAS data aNalytics to support Law Enforcement Agencies, Greece and Cyprus implement in partnership the project led by the Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum (HMMA) aiming to

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				integrate, validate, and demonstrate a fully functional, next generation, holistic border surveillance and awareness platform, providing pre-frontier situational awareness beyond remote areas as an effective mean for early identification of critical situations. The platform will also be integrated and interconnected with the already installed information platforms for proactive actions. Approximately EUR 1,3 million has been allocated to Cyprus for this purpose. - Approximately EUR 3.5 million have been allocated under the BMVI programme in **Bulgaria** for the update and maintenance of the coastal surveillance system (2023-2025). Additionally, Bulgarian BMVI programme was allocated in December 2024 with EUR 20 million under the Specific Action Sea Border E-Surveillance for (estimated) 11 new radars and 11 modern new thermal imaging / daylight cameras as well as the modernisation/replacement of other relevant equipment and systems at the Black Sea.
14. Foster the reinvigoration of cooperation between Frontex and Türkiye	Frontex	**Ongoing**	- [redacted]	- On 13 January 2025, an introductory meeting to FIELDS took place online between Frontex and the TNP. FIELDS was presented to representatives of TNP that will discuss with their hierarchy potential involvement. - A new Frontex Liaison Officer in Türkiye has been deployed in 2025 - On 25-26 June 2025 the Director of Strategy Governance and external relations at Frontex, visited Ankara for the Senior Officials Meeting and met with PMM counterparts.

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			- Keep supporting the implementation of the BMVI project to strengthen border control and the NACORAC capacity building project.	
15. Improve situational awareness at the sea borders in cooperation with Frontex and ensure that assistance to persons in distress at sea is swiftly provided	Frontex, Commission, Member States	**Ongoing**	- Greece and Cyprus to continue and step-up constructive participation and joint work in the framework of the **European Contact Group on Search and Rescue** to enhance sea border surveillance in both countries. - Enhance cooperation by collecting and exchanging information, using the integrated framework EUROSUR. - Provide assistance to improve the external border control, and maritime search and rescue, e.g. via the BMVI funded European Multinational Mission Surveillance Project (EMMOS).	- Last Search and Rescue Contact Group meetings took place in April 2024 and 16 July 2025. - Exchange of information using EUROSUR would require a new Working Arrangement between Frontex and the country concerned. For EU Member States, this exchange would require a bilateral or multilateral agreement (between a given Member State and a third country). - BMVI funding can be taken into consideration for search and rescue operations in situations which might arise during border surveillance operations at sea but cannot provide financial support for search and rescue as such, which is a Member State competence.
III. Enhance return and readmission cooperation				
16. Promote full and effective implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement and readmission agreement	Commission, EEAS, Council	Ongoing	[redacted] - Continue to reiterate the need to reactivate returns under the provisions of the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement. - Continue to call for the full implementation of the EU-Türkiye Readmission Agreement	- [redacted]

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17. Strengthen national operational and infrastructural capacities to step up returns from the EU	Commission, Frontex, Member States, EUDEL	Ongoing	- Further support the development and implementation of national IT return case management systems based on the RECAMAS model. - Further support and develop standing corps deployments (Frontex Return Escort and Support Officer - FRESO and Return Specialists) in Eastern Mediterranean region. - Deliver return-related trainings for national escorts and monitors, on the use of FAR - Frontex-Assisted Returns, and on return and reintegration counselling. - Encourage engagement with international stakeholders like IOM to enhance cooperation on returns and readmission.	- Cyprus and Greece are in the process of developing their national IT return case management system aligned with RECAMAS. Cyprus estimates to have the system operating by the end of 2026. - Frontex supported Cyprus with identification missions that were followed up with issuance of travel documents. - Cyprus and Greece are benefiting from FRESO/Return specialists including for return counselling deployments and trainings. Cyprus and Greece are the Member States with the largest deployment of Frontex Return Specialists in 2025, and the number is maintained for the beginning of 2026. - 5 FRESO are deployed to Greece since February 2025, supporting forced returns. - The number of Return Specialists deployed to Greece has increased to a total of 6 deployments supporting the implementation of the EU Reintegration Programme (EURP). - Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria benefitted from the AMIF Specific Action call, published in October 2024, to incentivise the implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns. Approximately EUR 15 million has been allocated to these three Member States. -[redacted] - Frontex is providing technical and operational assistance to Cyprus both on scheduled flights (forced and voluntary returns) and charter flights (FRESOs and aircrafts).

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				- Frontex supports deployments of EURLOs in key third countries to render assistance in return.
18. Support the use to the maximum extent of the Action Plans on returns agreed between Frontex and Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria	Frontex, Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria		- Continue to provide expertise and operational support to Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria for using to the maximum extent the support available under the Action Plans. - Sustain cooperation between Frontex, the Commission and Member States within the framework of the dedicated Working Groups on Returns and continue building sufficient, future-proof capacities. - The tripartite (Member States, COM, Frontex) Working Groups on Returns for Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria, hold meetings on a regular basis.	- The Action Plan between Frontex and Bulgaria (signed June 2023), Greece (signed March 2023) and Cyprus (signed March 2022) on cooperation in the field of return are being implemented and so far, resulted in a significant increase in return and reintegration counselling. - In 2025, Greece ranked 3rd at EU level for number of returns using the EURP. - Cyprus has become one of the top Member States in voluntary returns by scheduled flights carried out with Frontex support, with the vast majority of returns carried out on a voluntary basis (92% in 2023, around 97% in 2024 and 2025). In 2025, Cyprus was the second top Member State for returns, with over 95% of returns implemented by Cyprus being voluntary ones. - Number of returns has increased in BG with regards to Frontex supported scheduled flights returns, notably by making use of Frontex EURP programme.
19. Under the Bulgaria pilot project, enhance returns through, *inter alia,* the deployment of return	Frontex, Commission, Bulgaria	Ongoing	- Continue working via the EU-Bulgaria Cooperation Framework established in March 2024 building on the success of the pilot project to improve returns. - Support Bulgarian engagement with third countries on non-voluntary returns.	- Under the EU-Bulgaria Cooperation Framework on border and migration management, Bulgaria, the Commission and the EU Agencies continue the implementation of and consolidate identified tools and best practices established through the Pilot project in Bulgaria. Thanks to the effective cooperation between Bulgarian authorities, Frontex and the Commission in 2024, the number of returns from Bulgaria have doubled compared to 2023, and were on an increasing trend in 2025, the vast majority being voluntary returns.

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specialists and interpreters				- The deployment of return specialists and interpreters with the support of Frontex to support return and reintegration counselling continues. - Besides EURP, the new assisted voluntary return programme under the 2021-2027 AMIF, aiming at increasing return incentives and reintegration assistance to beneficiaries was signed in September 2024.
20. Coordinate joint diplomatic outreach vis-à-vis third countries of origin and transit, in particular in South Asia and in Africa	Commission, EEAS, Member States, EUDEL	Ongoing	- **Continue the EU's regular outreach to the main countries of origin and transit with support from EUDs and Member States represented on the ground.** - Take concrete steps to improve readmission, in the framework of the existing EU readmission agreements and arrangements, and of Article 25a of the Visa Code. - Raise readmission issues with third countries' governments in a coordinated manner. - Regularly assess the performance on readmission and returns with third countries along the migratory route.	- The 7th Article 25a report is in preparation, foreseen to be adopted by Q3 2026. - Ongoing continuous outreach on readmission with relevant countries.
21. Support sustainable reintegration in the countries of origin	Member States, Commission, Frontex, EUDEL	Ongoing	- Take specific measures to address the social, psychological, and professional reintegration of returnees in the origin countries and coordinate support accordingly, including with Member States. - Promote a consistent usage of the **EU Reintegration Programme (EURP)** in the Member States around the Eastern Mediterranean. This may also include the participation of these Member States in return and reintegration counselling activities supported by Frontex, such as deployment of Return Specialists, or participation in training activities.	- Support the implementation of the NDICI-funded PROTTASHA II in Bangladesh (EUR 20 million). - The NDICI-funded action (EUR 7 million) on Sustainable Reintegration of Returnees and Improved Migration Management in Pakistan was adopted in November 2023. Contract was signed in November 2024, and implementation is ongoing. - The EURP is active in the Eastern Mediterranean area in Türkiye and Egypt. It is also active in many countries of origin of migrants on the Eastern Mediterranean Route (i.e. Pakistan, Bangladesh). EU Member States are actively using the programme. [redacted]

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Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
			- Take concrete steps to further enhance and support the capabilities of the relevant national entities within the Eastern Mediterranean region, thereby ensuring the development of a well-coordinated and strong functioning national return & reintegration referral mechanism, in order to create sustainable reintegration for returnees in their countries of origin.	[redacted] - On 17 January 2025, a data-sharing agreement was signed between the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA) and IOM, establishing a referral mechanism for voluntary return cases in the context of the EU Reintegration Programme (EURP). This mechanism sets the framework for information exchange and cooperation between MoMA, IOM, and the Frontex Return Specialists. The agreement became operational at the beginning of March 2025. - NDICI-funded actions linked to tackling Iraq's root causes of fragility/ migration/ displacement as well as reintegration capacities are ongoing and upcoming with AAPs for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025 adopted and work ongoing for the AAP 2026-2027. - AMIF-funded IRMA plus III (Caritas AT, project EUR 1.04 million) on sustainable reintegration and RESTART IV (EUR 3.98 million, IOM) programme to strengthen voluntary return continue to be implemented. - As part of efforts to support sustainable reintegration in countries of origin, the EU EURP was officially launched for Syria on 2 June 2025. The programme is now operational for voluntary returns, with reintegration support delivered by two Reintegration Partners on the ground (IRARA and ETTC). - EUR 80 million cross-border programme *EU support for Safe Returns and a Stable Future for Syrian Refugees* is being implemented in Lebanon (EUR 40 million) and Syria (EUR 40 million) by UNHCR, IOM, and ILO in support of durable solutions to the protracted displacement of Syrians, including safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable returns. In Syria, the programme supports sustainable reintegration of returnees.

LIMITE

Action	Lead actor(s)	Status	Way ahead incl. timeline	Comments
				- A EUR 95 million project on voluntary returns from Türkiye to Syria is being implemented by UNHCR. In December 2025, the Commission adopted a EUR 150 million top-up to this project to enhance the protection response for sustainable voluntary returns to Syria. This top up includes a component that would provide for the delivery of cash assistance support in Syria.
IV. Ensure efficient migration management, improve asylum procedures and support sufficient reception capacity				
22. Continue cooperation with Türkiye on strengthening its asylum and reception systems	Commission, EUAA		- Cooperate with Türkiye in line with the Common European Asylum System and EU standards, and through the Roadmap for Cooperation between the EUAA and Türkiye's Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). - Maintain EU support in improving asylum procedures. - Maintain operational grants to the PMM for the management of removal centres. - Request from Türkiye full access to removal centres for monitoring purposes, including with regards to their alignment with European standards. - Continue supporting assisted voluntary returns and reintegration (AVRRs) and other alternative detention measures. - EUAA to provide regular updates on the status of cooperation with entities, institution, and government bodies dealing with asylum procedures.	- On 2 July 2025, the three-year 2025-2028 EUAA-Türkiye Roadmap for Cooperation was adopted. Implementation started in September 2025.

LIMITE

ANNEX I - Member States actions

- Description of the action with the following details (content of the action – indication of the link to the Action file objectives, overall budget, timeframe, key implementors)

Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
Title of the action	***Link to the Action file objectives***	***Indicative budget***	***Foreseen timetable***
AT *IRMA plus III (Caritas AT):* Support sustainable reintegration in the countries of origin (under AMIF)	*Action 23*	EUR 1,04 million	Continue to be implemented
AT *RESTART IV (IOM) -* Strengthening voluntary return (under AMIF)	*Action 23*	EUR 3,98 million	Continue to be implemented
DK Regional Migration Governance Programme. With a focus on Türkiye and the Western Balkans	*Action 24: Ensure efficient migration management, improve asylum procedures and support sufficient reception capacity*	EUR 40,2 million	2025 - 2029
DK Regional Migration Governance Programme on the Mediterranean	*Action 24: Ensure efficient migration management, improve asylum procedures and support sufficient reception capacity*	EUR 40,2 million	2024 - 2029
DK	*Actions 7 & 24: Preventing irregular departures, combatting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and ensuring efficient*	EUR 53,6 million	2024 – 2029

LIMITE

Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
Title of the action	***Link to the Action file objectives***	***Indicative budget***	***Foreseen timetable***
The Whole of Route Programme	*migration management, improving asylum procedures and supporting sufficient reception capacity*		
DK CAPACITY: The Danish Migration Management Programme	*Action 19: Enhance return and readmission cooperation*	EUR 57,6 million	2024 – 2029
DK Strengthening the Capacity of National Border Management Agencies in Lebanon	*Action 14: Strengthened border management*	EUR 1,34 million	2024 - 2026
DK Climate Change and Migration Data Programme	*Action 24: Ensure efficient migration management, improve asylum procedures and support sufficient reception capacity*	EUR 23,45 million	2023 - 2026
DK Empowering sustainable livelihoods: Enhancing the reintegration of returnees for long-term prosperity in Iraq	*Action 23: Enhance return and readmission cooperation*	EUR 1,34 million	2023 – 2026
IT Resettlement Programme with Türkiye (mostly Syrians): Continue offering safe and legal avenues to protection, including resettlement or longer version	*Action 8* The Programme managed by the Resettlement Unit of Ministry of Interior in cooperation with UNHCR and the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management, which, through EUAA, has allowed 446 refugees from Türkiye (mostly Syrians)* to be resettled in Italy since 2015.		

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Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
Title of the action	***Link to the Action file objectives***	***Indicative budget***	***Foreseen timetable***
	The 2024-2025 pledge amounted to 300 refugees to be resettled from Turkey in Italy by 30 June 2026. Italy intends to continue including Türkiye in the 2026-2027 pledges. To fulfil its commitment to the European Commission, Italy is supported by IOM and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). Specifically, Italy has been using the EUAA Resettlement Support Facility in Istanbul. In 2023, the Italian Resettlement Unit coordinated pre-departure procedures with the support of the EUAA; monitored fingerprinting at the Italian Consulate in Istanbul and, supervised medical checks conducted by the EUAA and delivered the Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) course for refugees at the Resettlement Support Facility. In June of this year, the Resettlement Unit conducted a PDO session for the 53 beneficiaries of the resettlement program who will arrive in Italy in the coming months, informing them of the rights and responsibilities of refugees in Italy. The programme continues to be implemented. **Resettlement from Türkiye has always primarily included Syrian citizens. Due to the changing political context in Syria, the National Asylum Commission ordered the suspension of applications for international protection submitted by Syrian citizens on December 10, 2024. Consequently, the resettlement program from Turkey currently does not include Syrian citizens.*		
IT Thematic Working Group Meeting of the Budapest Process on 'Legal Pathways for Migration' in Istanbul: Continue	*Action 9* In May 2024 our Embassy in Türkiye chaired the Thematic Working Group Meeting of the Budapest Process on 'Legal Pathways for Migration' in Istanbul. Our Ministry of Labour also attended the		

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Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
Title of the action	***Link to the Action file objectives***	***Indicative budget***	***Foreseen timetable***
efforts to create legal migration and mobility opportunities	meeting, as well as the Piedmont region for the ANOLF project with Pakistan.		
SE Resettlement to Sweden	*Action 8* *Resettlement of 100 Afghan women and girls from Türkiye as part of the annual resettlement quota 2025.*		2025

LIMITE

ANNEX II - Common messages

- The EU and Member States are intensifying their engagement with countries of origin and transit in a coordinated manner, notably:
    - in the framework of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling and the Joint Declaration presented for endorsement on the occasion of its 2nd International Conference;
    - through mutually beneficial partnerships, with the objective of strengthening their capacity for border management, preventing irregular flows, breaking the business model of smugglers and human traffickers (including through strategic information campaigns), ensuring visa alignment, enhancing operational cooperation with airlines and other carriers, and increasing returns.
- The EU has stepped up its action to prevent irregular departures and loss of life, to reduce pressure on EU borders and on reception capacities, to fight against migrant smugglers, and to increase returns. These are the priorities we share with countries of origin and transit along the Eastern Mediterranean route, to be implemented in full respect of human rights of all migrants.
- The EU and Member States make the best possible use of consultations in cooperation regional fora with third countries, as well as of funding under NDICI Global Europe, Facility for Refugees in Turkey, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and other relevant instruments.
- The EU continues to support partners in addressing root causes of irregular migration and regarding safe, regular and orderly migration.
- Cooperation with international organisations, notably the IOM and UNHCR, is to be further strengthened.
- The EU reiterates the importance of the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement and the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement.
- [redacted]
- Türkiye's own constructive engagement is instrumental in advancing the various areas of cooperation; ranging from the stabilising role it plays in the region to the responsibility of hosting millions of Syrian refugees over the years.
- On Syria, the EU supports a peaceful and inclusive political transition, laying the foundations for a much needed, sustainable socio-economic recovery which will also contribute to creating the conditions for the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable returns of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their homes and communities.
- Although since December 2024 around 1.5 million Syrians returned to Syria, there are still genuine obstacles keeping many of them from returning at this stage. The EU is committed to helping to create the conditions for safe, dignified and sustainable returns to Syria and stands ready to support those who voluntarily wish to return. Concerning the return of persons without the right to stay in the EU, the return of convicted criminals and persons that pose a security threat will be a priority.