

Guinea

EU engagement to date

Guinea agreed with the EU on Good practices for the efficient operation of the return procedure in July 2017, in the framework of the dialogue on cooperation on irregular migration¹³. Four EU-Guinea Joint Working Groups have taken place to date. The Guinean authorities have participated in a familiarisation visit and consular seminar organised by Frontex to support the implementation of the Good practices. Since the conclusion of the arrangement, Frontex has supported the organisation of identification missions to Member States, with mixed results. The follow-up to identification requests and operational cooperation with the authorities on the spot is ensured by the EURLO, deployed in Abidjan with a mandate on Guinea and Ivory Coast. In addition, Guinea has concluded Best practices for return operations with Frontex and a working arrangement with the Agency is currently being negotiated. Article 13 of the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement, to which Guinea is party, prescribes the commitment of the partner countries to cooperate with the EU in readmitting its own nationals.

Cooperation on readmission:

In 2019, 9 720 Guinean nationals illegally staying in the Member States were issued return decisions and 275 effectively returned to Guinea resulting in a **return rate** of 3%. Member States submitted 454 readmission requests to the Guinean authorities, who issued 249 travel documents resulting in an **issuance rate** of 55%.

A total of 13 Member States reported having approached the authorities of Guinea for readmission matters related to its nationals in 2019.

According to four Member States representing more than one third of return decisions issued to Guinean nationals, the relevant provisions of the existing **EU arrangement** are often to always respected by Guinea. According to three Member States representing around 2% of the return decisions issued to Guinean nationals the relevant provisions of the existing EU readmission arrangement are never or almost never respected. The remaining six responding Member States, including three that use a bilateral arrangement in place, did not report on the respect of the provisions of the EU arrangement.

In total, five Member States reported having **bilateral agreements/arrangements** in place with Guinea that in one case is no longer implemented because the EU arrangement is used and in another case is implemented together with the EU arrangement. For three of the four Member States using their bilateral arrangement, the relevant provisions are often respected, while for one, representing almost half of the return decisions issued to Guinean nationals, bilateral provisions are not respected.

¹³ Document partagé entre les représentants du Gouvernement Guinéen et de l'Union Européenne portant sur la coopération en matière de migration irrégulière.

The overall cooperation with Guinea in the **identification and issuance of travel documents procedures**, and the results they deliver varies, depending on the agreement/arrangement used as a basis.

Among the seven Member States that base their cooperation on **identification** on the EU readmission arrangement, cooperation is assessed as good or very good by two Member States representing 40% of all return decisions issued to Guinean nationals. The other five Member States, representing 3 % of return decisions issued, assess the cooperation as average or poor.

For the three Member States basing their cooperation on identification on bilateral instruments, two, representing more than half of all decisions issued, assess the cooperation as poor or very poor. The remaining Member State, with return decisions issued below 1% assesses the cooperation as good.

Six Member States have an established routine for cooperation on identification with Guinean diplomatic missions that is effectively implemented for three of them and rarely implemented for the other three.

According to five Member States, the Guinean authorities are available to organise short or long-term identification missions, the outcomes of which is assessed as good or acceptable in four cases.

Among the seven Member States that base their cooperation for **issuance of travel documents** on the EU readmission arrangement, three, accounting for 40 % of all return decisions issued, assess that the issuance of travel document takes place often or very often in a timely manner. Of the remaining four, accounting for 3% of all return decisions issued, three Member States assess it as poor and the other one had no experience to share.

For the three Member States basing their cooperation on issuance of travel documents on bilateral instruments, one, representing 10% of return decisions issued indicates that issuance of travel documents is timely, while the other two, representing almost half of all decisions issued, assess that it is not.

Returns by charters flights are accepted by Guinea according to seven of the responding Member States, and not accepted according to six.

In general, Member States have assessed the **overall cooperation on return and readmission** as stable or improving since 2015.

With a total of 9 720 Guinean nationals ordered to leave in 2019, Guinea ranks 10th amongst visa-bound third countries whose nationals have been issued return decisions in the Member States. Overall, about a third of the Member States interact with Guinea on readmission and practices are being consolidated in most Member States. The provisions of the EU arrangement are often respected for the largest part of the caseload, while this is not the case for the bilateral arrangements. The identification process and issuance of travel documents processes and their results vary greatly depending on the arrangement used as a basis. The cooperation is satisfactory and timely for Member States representing

about half of the return decisions issued, using the EU arrangement as a basis, and less satisfactory or poor for Member States representing the other half of return decisions issued, who used bilateral tracks in 2019. Cooperation could be improved further by extending the better practices, developed along the EU arrangement, to all requesting Member States, in particular by reducing the time for the identification and issuance of travel documents, thus encouraging a higher number of readmission requests potentially resulting in a higher return rate.