

Comoros

EU engagement to date

The Commission has so far not engaged with the Comoros on readmission cooperation, as no specific issues have been raised by Member States so far and the country was not prioritised for EU level engagement due to a relatively low number of return decisions issued annually to their nationals. Article 13 of the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement, to which Comoros is party, prescribes the commitment of the partner countries to cooperate with the EU in readmitting its own nationals.

Cooperation on readmission

In 2019, 670 Comorian nationals staying illegally in the Member States were issued return decisions and 20 effectively returned to Comoros resulting in a **return rate** of 3%. Member States submitted 15 readmission requests to Comorian authorities, who issued 13 travel documents resulting in an **issuance rate** of 87%.

Three Member States reported having approached the authorities of Comoros for readmission matters related to their nationals in 2019. Out of these three one was confronted with a single readmission case. One Member State, accounting for 94% of irregularly staying Comorian nationals ordered to leave, has a **bilateral agreement/arrangement** on readmission in place with Comoros, whose relevant provisions are often respected. This Member State assessed the overall cooperation with Comoros in the **identification procedures** as good and has an established routine for cooperation on identification that is always/almost always effectively implemented with diplomatic missions. Consular interviews are often performed upon request as necessary, with acceptable outcomes.

The other Member State assessed cooperation on identification as average, with interviews rarely conducted upon request, and if so, with unsatisfactory outcomes.

Evidence accepted includes valid or expired passports, information extracted from the VIS, as well as birth certificates, also as photocopies, all of which is accepted often to always.

For the Member State issuing most of the return decisions to Comorian citizens, the **issuance of travel documents** always/almost always takes place in a timely manner. The other Member State stated that this is rarely the case.

Returns by **charters flights** were not attempted in 2019. Certain restrictions are applied in case of returns by **scheduled flights**, namely transit visa requirement for escorts.

In general, the two Member States have assessed the **overall cooperation on return and readmission** as stable or average.

With a total of 670 Comorian nationals ordered to leave in 2019, Comoros ranks 51st amongst visa-bound third countries whose nationals have been issued return decisions in the Member States. Overall, for the single Member State managing 94% of the caseload of Comorian nationals ordered to leave, Comorian authorities cooperate well for identification and issuance of travel documents on the basis of the bilateral agreement in

place, and there are no significant obstacles to return. This level of cooperation could be extended to the other requesting Member States.