

Côte d'Ivoire

EU engagement to date

Cote d'Ivoire agreed on the "Joint document on the procedures for identification and readmission of migrants presumed to be Ivorian nationals staying irregularly in the EU" in 2018. The Ivorian authorities have participated to a familiarisation visit and consular seminar organised by Frontex to support the implementation of the Good practices. Two Joint Working Groups have taken place, the last one in January 2020. To support the cooperation on identification, Cote d'Ivoire has deployed four liaison officers in its EU embassies. The follow-up to identification requests and operational cooperation with the authorities on the spot is ensured by the EURLO, deployed in Abidjan. Article 13 of the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement, to which Côte d'Ivoire is party, prescribes the commitment of the partner countries to cooperate with the EU in readmitting its own nationals.

Cooperation on readmission

In 2019, 8 280 Ivorian nationals staying illegally in the Member States were issued return decisions and 280 effectively returned to Ivory Coast, resulting in a **return rate** of 3%. Member States submitted 306 readmission requests to Ivorian authorities, who issued 170 documents resulting in an **issuance rate** of 56%.

A total of 11 Member States reported having approached the authorities of Ivory Coast for readmission matters related to its nationals in 2019.

According to three Member States, representing more than three quarters of all readmission requests made in relation to Ivorian nationals, and almost two thirds of return decisions issued, the relevant provisions of the existing **EU readmission arrangement** are always or very often respected by Ivory Coast. At the same time, five Member States representing less than 5% of all readmission requests and 3% of return decisions report that the provisions are rarely or almost never respected.

Three Member States, representing more than three quarters of all readmission requests, consider the cooperation in the **identification procedures** good or very good, while three Member States qualify it as average. The five remaining Member States report an overall poor or very poor cooperation with Ivory Coast on identification, with delays in issuing travel documents too.

A total of nine Member States have an established routine for cooperation on identification with Ivorian diplomatic missions, which in six cases is effectively implemented.

Evidence accepted includes not only valid or expired passports, but also very often other documents that can support identification.

For most Member States consular interviews are always or very often performed upon their request with, on average, satisfactory outcomes.

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According to four Member States, Ivorian authorities are available to organise short or long-term identification missions, often for two Member States and rarely for the other two. All four qualify the outcomes of the identification missions as good.

According to five of the responding Member States the **issuance of travel documents** very often takes place in a timely manner. Those Member States represent close to two-thirds of all the return decisions issued in relation to Ivorian nationals.

According to four Member States, returns by **charters flights** are accepted by Ivory Coast, while one reports charter flights not being accepted (the rest of the responding Member States have not attempted to return by charter). One Member States reports restrictions on the number of returnees and the issuance of the landing permit.

In general, Member States have assessed the **overall cooperation on return and readmission** as good or improving in particular after the signature of the EU arrangement.

With a total of 8 280 Ivorian nationals ordered to leave in 2019, Ivory Coast ranks 15th amongst visa-bound third countries whose nationals have been issued return decisions in the Member States. Overall, a third of the Member States engage on readmission cooperation with Ivory Coast and practices are gradually being built following the EU readmission arrangement. The provisions of the latter are generally respected for those dealing with the largest part of the caseload of Ivorian nationals ordered to leave, with identification processes conducted successfully for those representing three quarters of return decisions issued, including through interviews. Issuance of travel documents is timely for two thirds of requesting Member States. This is not applied for Member States with smaller caseload, who report the opposite. Cooperation could be improved further by consolidating and extending the better practices on identification and issuance of travel documents and the acceptance of charter flights to all requesting Member States. This would encourage a higher number of readmission requests potentially resulting in a higher return rate.