

German-Italian-French non-paper:

A more active and comprehensive external migration policy of the European Union

Germany, Italy and France are convinced that Member States have a strong role to play in the implementation of the European Council Statement, the Roadmap and the European Agenda on Migration. We are ready to support the High Representative in her endeavours towards a more active and comprehensive external migration policy of the European Union.

We emphasize the importance of the decision of the Foreign Affairs Council to set up the EU naval operation EUNAVFOR MED to disrupt the business model of human migrants' smugglers in the Southern Central Mediterranean as part of the EU comprehensive migration response. We stress the importance of a sound legal basis in international law for each of the three phases of the operation. In this regard we look forward to continued exchange with Libyan authorities and to progress in the deliberations of the UN Security Council. We stress our determination to dismantle the criminal networks that facilitate human trafficking, a degrading and horrifying practice.

Germany, Italy and France strongly believe that a successful external EU migration policy must go beyond humanitarian assistance, search and rescue operations and border management. As the example of Libya clearly demonstrates, a broader foreign and security policy approach is needed. We have to tackle a cross-cutting challenge with far-reaching implications on foreign, trade and development policy and our efforts at stabilizing the crises in our Southern Neighbourhood.

We must make full use of all the instruments at our disposal in a comprehensive way within the EU Comprehensive Approach. We therefore commit to the following:

- **We reaffirm our commitment to partnership-based dialogue and cooperation with the countries of origin and transit of migratory flows, as the only sustainable instrument for the effective management of the migratory phenomenon in the medium and long term.** In this framework the migration dialogues with the African Countries play a crucial role. We are looking forward to broaden and deepen our cooperation in the field of migration at the EU-Africa Summit in Malta later this year. At the Summit, we should also discuss the relationship between migration and mobility and their impact on development, the promotion of fair trade and the strengthening of security cooperation as well as return and readmission issues. This summit should also be used in order to enhance capacity building in support of security and development. Germany, Italy and France will support the HR/VP in the preparation of this important meeting by using our diplomatic networks to garner the support of African states, the African Union and regional organizations. We will build upon experience gathered from our close cooperation within the framework of the EU-Africa dialogue on migration, as well as the Rabat and Khartoum Processes.
- **Germany, Italy and France are committed to strengthening cooperation with key transit countries in the Sahel on integrated border and migration management.** We are ready to work with partners to bolster regional capacity building to dismantle the criminal networks at the points of departure of migratory flows. In particular, the CSDP missions EUCAP Sahel Mali and EUCAP Sahel Niger are essential. We welcome a EUCAP Sahel Niger permanent deployment to Agadez, so that the mission can work even more closely with Nigerien authorities in the fight against smuggling and trafficking in human beings.
- **We will continue our strong engagement in the Khartoum Process with the countries along the Horn of Africa, one of the main migration routes towards Europe.** Our countries have shared since the beginning the objectives of this new initiative, launched during the Italian Presidency of the EU, developing also a Italian-German action plan which

will contribute to its implementation. We believe that adequate funding should be foreseen in order to keep the effectiveness of the EU-Africa migration dialogues. The financial schemes that the Commission has put at the disposal of these initiatives need to be streamlined, also building on already existing activities, and concrete projects started as soon as possible. In the medium term, for the sake of clarity and availability of funding, we must reflect on a possibly dedicated financial scheme.

- **We attach great importance to the other instruments of the EU put in place to promote the external dialogue in the field of migration and asylum: Mobility Partnerships, Common agendas on migration and mobility, as well as the Regional Development and Protection Programmes.** These instruments should reinforce European support to the capacity building of origin and transit countries in the field of border and migration management in full cooperation with the African partners. Italy, Germany and France are directly involved in the RDPP for Northern Africa, fully convinced of the importance to strengthen the link between migration, international protection and development.
- **We must increase the effectiveness of return and readmission policies.** Dialogue with countries of origin and transit of migrants should include, when appropriate, issues such as readmission and integration of migrants profiting of voluntary return programmes.
- **In line with the European Agenda for Migration,** we should not only look at the short term but also to measures aimed at tackling a structural phenomenon such as migration. A strengthened EU policy on legal migration, coupled with further efforts by the Member States, is of paramount importance.

These proposals should demonstrate the specific added value of foreign policy approaches to migration, namely contributing to fighting the root causes of migration and stabilizing fragile countries of origin and transit. Our migration policy goals should also relate to other relevant horizontal foreign policies such as counter-terrorism, maritime security, water and climate policy and a reviewed European Neighborhood Policy which also considers the neighbors of our neighbors. We must also make better and more targeted use of European Development Cooperation and its contribution towards the reduction of poverty, insecurity, inequality and unemployment as the driving factors for involuntary migration.

European Foreign Ministers will need to play an active role in the implementation of a comprehensive migration policy.