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### **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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of: High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration (HLWG)

on: 19 June 2012

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Subject: Summary of discussions

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#### **1. Implementation of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility**

The **Commission representative** presented the state of play of dialogues and processes under the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, on which the Group had an exchange of views. The GAMM update is set out in Annex I to this Note.

In the framework of this item, specific information was provided by:

- a) **ES** on the outcome of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the Rabat process held on 6 June 2012 in Madrid (ES). The Roadmap agreed by the Madrid SOM is set out in 11387/12 ASIM 74 COAFR 166.
- b) The **Commission representative**, on the outcome of the meeting of the Steering Group of the EU-US Platform for Cooperation on Migration and Refugee issues, held on 18 June 2012 in Brussels.

- c) **HU**, on the Working Group and 2nd Intergovernmental Project on the Silk route Region of the Budapest process, held on 28-29 June in Tbilisi.
- d) The **Commission representative**, on the state of play of the preparations for the meeting of the EU-India High Level Dialogue on migration, held on 2 July 2012 in New Delhi.
- e) the **Commission representative**, in relation to the ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration, on the outcome of the ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Council, held on 14-15 June 2012 in Vanuatu. The **Group** had an exchange of views on this subject.
- f) The **Chair**, on the fact that the invitation of the Andean countries - presented at the VI EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Migration, held on 24 May in Brussels - to consider a lifting of the visa requirements to which their nationals are currently submitted will be the subject of an exchange of views in one of the relevant Council Working Parties.

## 2. **Situation in the Southern Mediterranean countries**

The **Chair** and the **Commission representative** provided information on the state-of-play of the dialogues on migration, mobility and security with Morocco and Tunisia, including in relation to the meeting held on 28 May 2012 in Rabat as well as its follow-up.

The **Group** had an exchange of views on next steps.

## 3. **EU-Russia migration dialogue**

The **Commission representative** provided information on the state-of play of the preparations for the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in the framework of the EU-Russia Migration dialogue, held on 25 June 2012 in Brussels.

#### **4. International fora on migration and development**

The **Group** had a discussion on the future EU engagement in the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) and the preparations for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2013, on the basis of a joint SE-Presidency Note (see Annex II to this Note).

#### **5. Asylum and international protection**

The **Group** had a thematic debate on the perspectives for future dialogue and cooperation with third countries in the area of asylum and international protection following the approval of the GAMM Conclusions, on the basis of a Presidency paper (see Annex III to this Note).

In particular, following presentations by **DK** and **UNHCR representatives**, the **Group** considered ways to implement the elements of asylum and international protection within the framework of the GAMM.

#### **6. Draft concept for strategic discussions and prioritization**

The **Group** pursued the discussion started at the previous meeting on a concept for strategic discussions and prioritization in the HLWG on the basis of a Presidency Note (see Annex IV to this Note), with a view to reaching possible agreement on a draft concept.

#### **7. AOB**

The **incoming Cyprus Presidency** made a presentation of its programme.

It underlined that its programme will focus on the further implementation of the renewed Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, presented by the Commission and endorsed by the Council, with emphasis on establishing and strengthening cooperation with key countries of origin.

It also pointed out that it will continue all the on-going dialogues and regional processes on migration related issues while at the same time maintaining geographical balance.

In this context special attention will be given to the dialogues on migration, mobility and security with the countries of the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean, with a view to establishing the Mobility Partnerships with Tunisia and Morocco and possibly other countries.

In order to reinforce the dialogue with Asian countries in the framework of ASEM, it is planning to organize the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEM Conference of Directors-General on Immigration and Management of Migratory Flows in Cyprus on 30-31 of October 2012.

Moreover, in the framework of the EU-CELAC Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on migration, it intends to organize the VII High Level Meeting on Migration on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November in Brussels.

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**GAMM UPDATE**

15 June 2012

This document provides an updated overview of the main external migration dialogue processes implemented in the framework of the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM). The document is compiled for the information of the EU High Level Working Group on Migration and Asylum by the responsible European Commission services, in association with the EEAS

**Part 1 - The Regional Processes****(A) THE PRAGUE PROCESS**

*The Prague Process is a framework for dialogue and cooperation between the EU and its Member States, the non-EU Schengen States and 19 partner countries to the east (Russia, Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asian countries, Western Balkan countries, Turkey).*

*The work of the Prague Process is based on the Joint Ministerial Declaration (Prague 2009) and the Action Plan 2012-2016, adopted at the second Ministerial Conference of the Prague Process (Poznan, 2011).*

***Recent and upcoming events***

3 November 2011	SOM, Poznan	Preparation Ministerial Discussion composition core group
4 November 2011	Ministerial Conference, Poznan	Adoption Action Plan 2012-2016
2-3 April 2012	SOM, Warsaw	Launch implementation Action Plan

## **(B) THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP**

*The Eastern Partnership is the framework for cooperation between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Joint Declarations were adopted at Eastern Partnership Summits of Prague (2009) and Warsaw (2011).*

*The dialogue on migration and mobility takes place in the context of the new panel on Migration and Asylum, which succeeds the work previously undertaken through the Söderköping process.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

29-30 September 2011	Eastern Partnership Summit, Warsaw	Adoption of Joint Declaration
9 December 2011	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum, Stockholm	Adoption of Work Programme 2012
3-4 May 2012	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum, Tbilisi	Theme: refugee status determination process
September 2012	Workshop, Bucharest	Theme: country of origin information.
October 2012	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum, Warsaw/Chisinau	Theme: circular migration Adoption of Work Programme for 2013
January/February 2013	4 <sup>th</sup> meeting Panel on Migration and Asylum Tbilisi	Theme: readmission, return and reintegration,

## **(C) THE MME PARTNERSHIP**

*The Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) Partnership was launched during the 2nd Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government in December 2007 in Lisbon, where the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and the First Action Plan (2008-2010) were adopted. The partnership provides the framework for*

*dialogue and cooperation on migration issues between the EU and all African States.*

*A second Action Plan (2011-2013) was adopted at the third Africa-EU Summit that took place in Tripoli on 29-30 November 2010. Implementation was interrupted in 2011 due to force majeure (situation in Libya, the African co-chair of the Partnership). .*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

29-30 Nov. 2010	Africa-EU Summit, Tripoli	Adoption of Action Plan 2011-2013
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1-2 December 2011	Thematic meeting, Johannesburg	Theme: Trafficking in Human Beings
18 January 2012	8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MME Implementation Team, Brussels	
8 March 2012	Africa-EU Joint Expert Group, Brussels	Re-launch of the implementation process
10-11 May 2012	Thematic meeting, Nairobi	Theme: Migrants' Rights: Female Migrants and Domestic Workers
5-6 July 2012 (tbc)	AUC-RECs meeting, Addis Ababa	Theme: Enhancing Migration, Mobility, Employment and Higher Education in the RECs
1 <sup>st</sup> half of October 2012 (tbc)	Thematic meeting, Barcelona	Theme: International protection of refugees and asylum seekers

**(D) THE RABAT PROCESS**

<p><i>The Rabat process was launched at the first Euro-African Ministerial conference on Migration and Development that took place in July 2006 in Rabat. The process aims to enhance dialogue and cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination along the West African migration route. A second Ministerial meeting took place in 2008 in Paris. The third one was organised in Dakar in November 2011, where a Strategy for 2012-2014 was adopted.</i></p>		
<p><b>Recent and upcoming events</b></p>		
23 November 2011	Third Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, Dakar	Adoption of the Dakar Strategy 2012-2014
5-6 June 2012	Steering Committee and SOM, Madrid	Adoption of a Roadmap for Implementation of the Dakar Strategy
November 2012 (tbc)	Steering Committee	Implementation of the Dakar Strategy

## **(E) THE BUDAPEST PROCESS**

*The Budapest Process was initiated in 1991 as a consultative forum, currently containing of more than 50 governments and 10 international organizations, aiming at developing comprehensive and sustainable systems for orderly migration. The process focuses on three priority regions: the South-East European Region, the Black Sea Region and the Silk Routes Region. The GAMM Council Conclusions of May 2012 make specific reference to the latter.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

17 November 2011	SOM, Ankara	
18 November 2011	1 <sup>st</sup> intergovernmental meeting on the Silk Routes Project, Ankara	
25-26 April 2012	Meeting on Balkan Routes, Zagreb	
28-29 June 2012	3rd meeting of the Silk Routes Working Group, Tbilisi	Theme: Migration and Development
19 April 2013	Ministerial Budapest Process, Istanbul	

## **(F) THE ACP-EU MIGRATION DIALOGUE**

*The ACP-EU Migration Dialogue was launched in June 2010 through a Joint Declaration of the ACP-EU Joint Council. The dialogue is based on Article 13 of the Cotonou agreement. In May 2011 it was decided to further deepen the dialogue, focusing in particular on the subjects of remittances, visa and readmission, with the specific aim to strengthen the operational aspects of ACP-EU cooperation on these topics.*

*A series of expert meetings are scheduled to this effect, both at expert and Senior Official / Ambassador level, in view of reporting back to the ACP-EU Joint Council of 2012.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

11 November 2011	ACP-EU Ambassadors meeting	Launch of the new series of migration dialogue sessions
14 February 2012	First Expert meeting, Brussels	Theme: Remittances.
15 February 2012	Second Expert Meeting, Brussels	Theme: Visa
24 April 2012	Third Expert meeting, Brussels	Theme: Readmission
7 May 2012	ACP-EU Ambassadors Meeting	Validation of the recommendations on remittances, visas and readmission.



21 May 2012	ACP-EU Ambassadors Meeting	Discussion on future of the dialogue
14-15 June 2012	Joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers, Vanuatu	Endorsement of the report and recommendations of 2012 dialogue

**(G) THE EU-CELAC MIGRATION DIALOGUE**

*The EU and Latin America and the Caribbean have enjoyed a Strategic Partnership since the first bi-regional Summit in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1999. In 2008 the two sides decided to launch a Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration. The sixth Summit in Madrid (2010), concluded with the adoption of a Madrid Declaration and Action Plan for 2010-2012.*

**Recent and upcoming events**

18 May 2010	6th EU-CELAC Summit, Madrid	Adoption Madrid Action plan 2010-2012
24 May 2012	6 <sup>th</sup> EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Migration, Brussels	
November 2012 (tbc)	7 <sup>th</sup> EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Migration, Brussels	
26-27 January 2013	7th EU-CELAC Summit, Chile	Review of Madrid Action plan

**Part 2 - The bilateral dialogues**

**(A) ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES**

**Albania**

*A Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) entered into force on 1 April 2009. A readmission agreement and a visa facilitation agreement entered into force in 2008. In 2010 Albania was granted the visa free regime by the EU.*

**Recent and upcoming events**

24 May 2011	Joint Readmission Committee, Tirana	
27-28 May 2011	JHA Subcommittee, Tirana	
26/27 April 2012	JHA Subcommittee, Brussels	

## **Bosnia Herzegovina**

*On 16 June 2008 the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) which will enter into force once its ratification process has been completed. On 1 January 2008 the visa facilitation and readmission agreements entered into force. In 2010 Bosnia was granted the visa free regime by the EU.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

3 May 2012	High Level meeting on Home Affairs matters, Brussels	
Autumn 2012	Joint Readmission Committee	

## **Croatia**

*The EU-Croatia Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) entered into force in 2005. At the end of June 2011 the accession negotiations with Croatia were closed. The Accession Treaty was signed in December 2011. Accession is foreseen for 1 July 2013.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

16 May 2011	JHA Subcommittee, Brussels	
9 March 2012	JHA Subcommittee, Zagreb	

## **Kosovo<sup>1</sup>**

*Associated to the Stabilization and Association Process dialogue (SAP) since 2003, the SAP dialogue was launched in 2009. The main purpose of this dialogue is to accompany and monitor Kosovo's reforms and the EU approximation process, in particular with regard to the priorities defined in the European Partnership adopted by the European Council on 18 February 2008. In February 2012 the Council took note of the intention of the Commission to launch a feasibility study in view of an SAA. In January 2012, the Commission has launched and will conduct , in reinforce consultation with Member States, a visa liberalization dialogue with Kosovo.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

19 January 2012	Official Launch of Visa Dialogue	
7-8 February 2012	SAP dialogue on Justice, Freedom and Security, Pristina	

<sup>1</sup> *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

30 May 2012	Structured Dialogue on the Rule of Law, Brussels	
14 June 2012	Hand-over of the Visa Road Map, Brussels	
14 June 2012	First SOM Meeting, Brussels	
13 July 2012	SAP Dialogue, Plenary, Pristina	

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### Montenegro

*The EU-Montenegro Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) entered into force in 2010. Agreements between the EU and Montenegro on Visa Facilitation and Readmission took effect on 1 January 2008. In 2009 Montenegro was granted a visa-free regime by the EU.*

#### Recent and upcoming events

2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2012	Joint Readmission Committee	
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### Serbia

*The EU-Serbia Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) was signed in 2008 but is still in the process of ratification. On 18 February 2008 the Council adopted the new European partnership for Serbia which sets out priorities for Serbia's European perspective. Readmission and Visa Facilitation Agreements entered into force in 2008. In December 2009 Serbia was granted visa liberalisation by the EU.*

#### Recent and upcoming events

18-22 June 2012	JLS Subcommittee, Belgrade	
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### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

*The Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia entered into force in 2004. In 2008 the Council adopted the Accession Partnership for the country. A Visa Facilitation agreement and Readmission agreement with the EU has been in force since 2008. In 2009 the country was granted a visa-free regime by the EU.*

#### Recent and upcoming events

13 May 2011	Joint Readmission Committee, Skopje	
14 September 2011	JHA Subcommittee, Skopje	
19 October 2011	SAA Committee, Brussels	
23-24 July 2012	SAA Council	

September 2012 (tbc)	JLS Subcommittee	
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<b>Turkey</b>		
<i>In 2008 the Council adopted a revised Accession Partnership with Turkey. Negotiations on the EU-Turkey readmission agreement are finalized (but not yet initialed). Turkish authorities conditioned the initialling of the readmission agreement to the opening of the perspective of visa-free regime through a visa liberalisation process. The JHA Council of 25 February 2011 adopted conclusions on Turkey, taking note, inter alia, of the Commission's intention to initiate a dialogue on visa, mobility and migration with Turkey. Turkish authorities have however so far not accepted to start such dialogue.</i>		
<b>Recent and upcoming events</b>		
30 November 2011	8 <sup>th</sup> Subcommittee (dealing also with Justice and Home Affairs issues), Brussels	
15 March 2012	Dialogue on Migration and Security, Ankara	MoU with Frontex was initialled.
12 April 2012	Association Committee	
End November/Early December 2012	9 <sup>th</sup> Subcommittee (dealing also with Justice and Home Affairs issues), Ankara	

**(B) SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES**

<b>Morocco</b>		
<i>The EU-Morocco Association Agreement entered into force in 2000. Meetings of the EU-Morocco Social Affairs and Migration Working Group are supposed to take place once a year. Negotiations on an EU-Morocco readmission agreement with Morocco are ongoing since 2003.</i>		
<i>An EU delegation visited Morocco on 13 October 2011 and launched with the Moroccan authorities the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security. Finalisation of the readmission agreement and the negotiation of a visa facilitation agreement between the EU and Morocco are to be included in this partnership.</i>		
<b>Recent and upcoming events</b>		
25 March 2011	Meeting of the Working Group on Social Affairs and Migration	

13 October 2011	1st meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security, Rabat	Launch of the MMS Dialogue
6 December 2011	2nd meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security, Rabat	Information seminar on MMS Dialogue for relevant Moroccan ministries. Meeting with representatives of the civil society.
28 May 2012	3rd meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security, Rabat	Joint analysis of the proposals put forward by Morocco in the non-paper sent in April 2012. Establishment of a calendar for the negotiation of the Mobility Partnership.
September 2012 (tbc)	First discussion of the draft Political Declaration, Rabat	

## Tunisia

*The EU-Tunisia Association Agreement entered into force in 1998. Meetings of the EU-Tunisia Social Affairs and Migration Working Group are supposed to take place once per year. This meeting did not take place in 2011.*

*An EU delegation visited Tunisia at 6 October 2011 and launched with the Tunisian authorities the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security. A visa facilitation and a readmission agreement between the EU and Tunisia are to be part of this partnership.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

31 May 2011	Exploratory Talks	Meeting to explain MMS Dialogue to Tunisian stakeholders
6 October 2011	1st meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security	Launch of the MMS Dialogue
26 March 2012	2nd meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security	First discussions on the possible contents of the MP
7 May 2012	3rd meeting of the Dialogue on migration, mobility and security	Discussion on the MP draft joint declaration.
14 June 2012	Meeting of the Social Affairs and Migration Working Group, Brussels	

## Egypt

*Relations between the European Union and Egypt are governed by an Association Agreement since 2004.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

16 June 2011	Exploratory Talks	Meeting to explain MMS Dialogue to Egyptian stakeholders
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## Libya

*In 2008, negotiations of an EU-Libya Framework Agreement started, aiming to include also provisions related to migration, mobility, borders and international protection. In October 2010 a Joint Press Release was agreed on the EU-Libya cooperation on borders, mobility, migration and asylum, followed by a Senior Officials meeting on 15 February 2011. Negotiations of the Framework Agreement and discussions on the basis of the Joint Press Release were suspended in February 2011.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

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## **(C) EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

## Armenia

*EU relations with Armenia are governed by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which entered into force in 1999. In July 2010, the EU and Armenia launched negotiations on a future EU-Armenia Association Agreement to succeed the PCA. An EU migration mission visited Armenia in 2008. A Mobility Partnership was signed on 27 October 2011.*

*On 19 December 2011 Council adopted negotiating directives for the EU-Armenia agreements on visa facilitation and readmission and authorised the Commission to start negotiations.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

14 July 2011	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee, Brussels	
21 September 2011	EU-Armenia Cooperation Committee	
25 November 2011	EU-Armenia Cooperation Council	
7 December 2011	Conference on Mobility Partnership organised by ICHD and IOM, Yerevan	

27-28 February 2012	1 <sup>st</sup> round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Yerevan	
26-27 April 2012	2 <sup>nd</sup> round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Brussels	
28 June 2012	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee, Brussels	
28 June 2012	3 <sup>rd</sup> round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement, Yerevan	
19 July 2012	3 <sup>rd</sup> round of negotiations of readmission agreement, Yerevan	

## **Azerbaijan**

*EU relations with Azerbaijan are governed by the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) which entered into force in 1999. Since July 2010 the EU and Azerbaijan are negotiating an Association Agreement to succeed the PCA. An EU migration mission visited Azerbaijan on 16 and 17 June 2011 to further enhance cooperation and dialogue with Azerbaijan on migration issues.*

*On 19 December 2011 Council adopted negotiating directives for the EU-Armenia agreements on visa facilitation and readmission and authorised the Commission to start negotiations.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

23 September 2011	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Committee	
24 November 2011	Justice, Freedom and Security and Human Rights and Democracy Subcommittee, Brussels	
25 November 2011	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council	
1-2 March 2012	1 <sup>st</sup> round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Baku	
31 <sup>st</sup> May/1 <sup>st</sup> June 2012	2 <sup>nd</sup> round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Brussels	

September/October 2012	3rd round of negotiations of visa facilitation agreement and readmission agreement, Baku	
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<b>Georgia</b>		
<i>EU-Georgia bilateral relations are regulated by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) which entered into force on 1 July 1999. The negotiations for an EU - Georgia Association Agreement to succeed the PCA were launched in Batumi on 15 July 2010. An EU migration mission visited Georgia in 2009. The Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Georgia was signed in November 2009. Readmission and Visa Facilitation Agreements entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.</i>		
<b>Recent and upcoming events</b>		
21 June 2011	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
22 September 2011	EU-Georgia Cooperation Committee	
24 November 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Joint Visa Facilitation Committee and Joint Readmission Committee, Tbilisi	
1 December 2011	EU-Georgia Cooperation Council	
13 March 2012	3rd Joint Visa Facilitation Committee and Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
12-14 March 2012	Commission/EEAS experts' mission to Georgia	<i>In loco</i> assessment of the implementation of the VFA and RA.
4 June 2012	Launch of visa free dialogue, Brussels	



## Republic of Moldova

*The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with Moldova went into force in 1994. Negotiations on the Association Agreement to succeed the PCA were launched on 12 January 2010. The EU-Moldova visa facilitation and readmission agreements entered into force in January 2008. A Mobility Partnership was signed in June 2008.*

*In June 2010 a visa dialogue was opened, examining conditions for visa-free travel of Moldovan citizens to the EU. The Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation was endorsed by the Council on 16 December 2010 and subsequently presented by the Commission to the Moldovan authorities on 24 January 2011.*

### Recent and upcoming events

18 October 2011	EU-Republic of Moldova Cooperation Committee	
24 November 2011	Mobility Partnership High-Level Meeting	
24 November 2011	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee, Brussels	
14 December 2011	4 <sup>th</sup> round of negotiations on amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement	
27 February 2012	4 <sup>th</sup> Visa dialogue SOM	Implementation of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation
22-23 May 2012	Joint Visa Facilitation Committee and Joint Readmission Committee, Chisinau	
18 June 2012	MP Local Cooperation Platform, Chisinau	
27-28 June 2012	Conference and policy workshop on Mobility Partnerships, Brussels	Co-organised by the European Commission, the Republic of Moldova and ICMPD

## Ukraine

*The Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) entered into force in 1998. Negotiations on an EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (AA) started in September 2008. Negotiations on the AA were finalized in 2011. The Readmission and Visa Facilitation agreements were concluded in 2008. An EU migration mission visited Ukraine in September 2010.*

*In 2008 a visa dialogue was opened, examining conditions for visa-free travel of Ukrainian citizens to the EU.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

25 October 2011	EU-Ukraine Cooperation Committee	
14 December 2011	4 <sup>th</sup> round of negotiations on amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement	
19 December 2011	EU-Ukraine Summit	
17 April 2012	Visa dialogue SOM	Implementation of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation
14-15 May 2012	Joint Visa Facilitation Committee and Joint Readmission Committee , Kiev	

## Belarus

*An EU migration mission visited Belarus in 2009. On 28 February 2011 the Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements with Belarus. The Commission submitted a formal invitation to the Belarusian authorities, but the Belarusian government did not respond. EU continues to impose travel restrictions on Belarusian officials and companies linked to the regime in reaction to the deterioration of the country's record on human rights, democracy and rule of law.*

### **Recent and upcoming events**

**(D) RUSSIA**

**Russia**

*The EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) came into force in 1997. Ministerial meetings for Freedom, Security and Justice area (PPC) are organized regularly. New comprehensive EU-Russia Agreement is under negotiations.*

*The Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force on 1 June 2007. Joint Committees under both agreements are held twice a year. On 11 April the Council adopted the mandate for the renegotiation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement.*

*Visa dialogue was launched in 2007 and in its context, on 15 December 2011, the Parties agreed on a list of Common Steps which would need to be implemented before the talks on EU-Russia visa waiver might be launched. Senior Officials are monitoring the progress of the Dialogue during regular meetings (SOM).*

*In May 2011 Russia and EU launched a Dialogue on Migration and agreed the parameters of this new cooperation format. The Dialogue will focus on legal migration, migration and development, asylum process and other forms of international protection, as well as on combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings.*

**Recent and upcoming events**

27 April 2011	8 <sup>th</sup> Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	
10-11 October 2011	15 <sup>th</sup> PPC on Freedom, Security and Justice	
13 October 2011	3 <sup>rd</sup> round of negotiations on the revision of the visa facilitation agreement	
5 December 2011	10 <sup>th</sup> Joint Readmission Committee	
14 December 2011	1st meeting Migration Dialogue, Moscow	Theme: International protection
15 December 2011	Russia-EU Summit	List of common steps towards a visa free short term travel regime formally adopted and their implementation launched

23 January 2011	SOM visa dialogue	Discussion on the methodology of the implementation of the list of Common Steps
14-16 March 2011	Kick off meeting between the experts for implementation of the list of Common Steps	
30 March 2012	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Migration dialogue, Budapest	Theme: Irregular migration
25 June 2012	Migration dialogue; Senior Officials, Brussels	
3rd quarter 2012	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Migration dialogue, Moscow	Theme: Migration and Development
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2012 (tbc)	4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Migration dialogue, Prague (tbc)	Theme: Legal Migration

**(E) AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

<b>Cape Verde</b>		
<i>In 2007 the EU and Cape Verde agreed on a Special Partnership Agreement. An EU migration mission visited Cape Verde in May 2007. The Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Cape Verde was signed in 2007. Visa facilitation and readmission agreements have been concluded and initialled.</i>		
<b>Recent and upcoming events</b>		
6-7 June 2011	Political dialogue meeting at ministerial level, Praia	
22 November 2011	Final round of negotiations on Visa Facilitation Agreement, Brussels	Conclusion of negotiations <i>ad referendum</i>
23 November 2011	Final round of negotiations on Readmission Agreement, Brussels	Conclusion of negotiations <i>ad referendum</i>
24 April 2012	High Level Meeting, Brussels	Both agreement are initialled

**Ghana**

*An EU migration mission visited Ghana in June 2007. In 2010 the EU proposed Ghana to start discussions on the conclusion of a Mobility Partnership.*

**Recent and upcoming events**

23 January 2012	Information workshop on Mobility Partnerships and the possible Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM), Accra	First contacts with Ghanaian authorities to explain the possibilities of a closer cooperation and listen to their expectations.
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**Nigeria**

*An EU migration mission visited Nigeria in April 2008. For the time being, five Dialogues on migration and development have been organized in the last years, under the umbrella of the EU-Nigeria Ministerial meetings.*

**Recent and upcoming events**

29 June 2010	EU-Nigeria Senior Official Meeting	
27 January 2012	5 <sup>th</sup> Dialogue on migration and development	

**South Africa**

*South Africa and the EU entered into a Strategic Partnership in 2007. An EU migration mission visited South Africa in September 2008. Since then, in the frame of the Joint Cooperation Council, a Migration Dialogue Forum is organized. In July 2011, the discussions focused on trafficking in human beings and Asylum policy (exchange of best practices).*

**Recent and upcoming events**

18-19 July 2011	EU-SA Joint Cooperation Council, Brussels	Migration Dialogue Forum, with a special focus on THB and Asylum.
15 September 2011	EU-South Africa Summit, Kruger Park	Visa facilitation was expressly mentioned by SA President
17 July 2012 (tbc)	EU-SA Joint Cooperation Council	The meeting will include migration issues.

**(F) ASIAN COUNTRIES**

**China**

*The EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership came into force in 2003. Negotiations for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement started in 2007. China signed an Approved Destination Status (ADS) Agreement in 2004. The ADS is a memorandum of understanding facilitating the entry of Chinese tourists into EU Member States. The ADS also includes provisions requiring China to take back its nationals who overstay and to cooperate on their readmission. Formal negotiations on an EU readmission agreement have not started yet.*

*At the 14<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit in February 2012 both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of facilitating mobility for Chinese and EU citizens, and strengthen cooperation on illegal immigration, as well as to pay special attention to the question of mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports. There is also the intention to revive High-Level Consultations on illegal migration and trafficking in human beings (dormant since 2006) in updated form. China appears ready to engage in a broad dialogue.*

**Recent and upcoming events**

13-17 June 2011	Technical mission, Beijing	China reiterates its request for an EU visa waiver for diplomats
14 February 2012	4th EU-China Summit, China	
September 2012	15th EU-China Summit	

**India**

*The EU-India Co-operation Agreement (CA) entered into force in 1994. In 2004 the EU and India entered into a Strategic Partnership. The Joint Action Plan was agreed in 2005 at the Summit in The Hague and revised in 2008 at the eighth EU-India Summit in Marseille. This plan aims to promote among others people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges.*

**Recent and upcoming events**

October 2010	EU-India High Level Dialogue Meeting on Migration, Brussels	
10 February 2012	12th EU-India Summit, India, Delhi	
2-3 July 2012	EU-India High Level Dialogue Meeting on Migration, Delhi	

February/March 2013	13th EU-India Summit, Brussels	
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**(G) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

<b>USA</b>		
<p><i>Relations between EU and the US have been formalized in 1990, in the Transatlantic Declaration, and further developed in the New Transatlantic Agenda which outlined a new framework for cooperation including a number of areas for joint action. An EU-US Joint Statement endorsed by the EU-US JHA Ministerial Troika in October 2009 (the so-called "Washington Statement") sets out common values and foundations of EU-US cooperation in the JHA area until 2014 and includes a commitment to enhance both political and operational cooperation in various JHA issues.</i></p> <p><i>Further to this commitment cooperation has been developed on migration and asylum issues in the context of the <u>EU-US Cooperation Platform on Migration and Refugee issues</u>, launched in 2010. Activities include areas such as unaccompanied minors, biometrics, refugee resettlement, trafficking in human beings, development of capacity building for migration management in third countries and contribution of the Diaspora to the development of countries of origin of migration.</i></p>		
<b>Recent and upcoming events</b>		
12-13 January 2012	EU-US JHA Senior Officials Meeting, Copenhagen	
18 June 2012	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU - US Platform for Cooperation on migration and refugee issues, Brussels	
20 - 21 June 2012	EU- US JHA Ministerial Meeting, Copenhagen	
26 - 27 July 2012	EU- US JHA SOM	

## Part 3 - The Global Process

### (A) GLOBAL FORUM FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*The GFMD is an initiative of the UN Member States to address the migration and development nexus in practical and action-oriented ways. It is an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led process that marks the culmination of more than a decade of international dialogue on the growing importance of the linkages between migration and development.*

*This intergovernmental process emerged after the General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006. The first meeting of the GFMD was held in Brussels in July 2007.*

#### **Recent and upcoming events**

1- 2 December 2011	Global Forum for Migration and Development, Geneva	Theme: "Taking action on Migration and Development - Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation."
6-7 February 2012	GFMD Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meeting, Geneva	
14 March 2012	Meeting of the GFMD assessment team, Geneva.	
26-27 April 2012	GFMD Steering Group, Friends of the Forum meeting, meeting of the GFMD assessment team, Geneva.	
7-8 June 2012	GFMD Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meeting, Port Louis	
21-22 November 2012	GFMD Summit meeting, Port Louis	Theme: "Enhancing the human development of Migrants and their contribution to the development of communities and States"

Compiled by DG HOME/02

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**Joint Discussion Paper by the Presidency and Sweden**  
**International Fora on Migration and Development**

High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration on 19 June 2012

**Introduction**

This discussion paper aims at providing a framework for debate in the HLWG regarding two international fora concerning migration and development with the highest relevance for the EU; the *UN General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD)* and the *Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)*. The purpose is to stimulate a discussion on how the EU could best prepare and engage in these fora in a proactive and constructive manner, taking into account the institutional roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in accordance with the Lisbon Treaty.

**The UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

The first UN General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was held in 2006. The process leading towards the second UN High-level Dialogue, which will take place in September 2013, is currently underway in New York. A report of the UN Secretary-General to the High-level Dialogue is being prepared with input from the Global Migration Group. This report serves two objectives. It constitutes a follow-up to the General Assembly's Resolution on Migration and Development in 2011 and it lays the foundations for the resolution regarding the modalities of the High-level Dialogue. The modalities resolution will be negotiated in the Second Committee of the General Assembly this autumn. One or two facilitators will be appointed to lead the negotiations of the modalities resolution, which will govern the arrangement, thematic contents and possible outcomes of the High-level Dialogue, including whether it should result in a UN resolution or a written summary.

As a reference regarding the modalities of the High-level Dialogue: In 2006, the High-level Dialogue was conducted during two days at the margins of the opening of the General Assembly, at the United Nations Headquarters. This model ensured high-level attendance. Four interactive roundtables were held, considering four different topics. Apart from government and UN representation, there was also representation from the International Organization for Migration, civil society and private sector entities. A written summary of the High-level Dialogue was later transmitted by the President of the General Assembly.

At the High-level Dialogue in 2006, the EU presented an EU position - and agreed on the content of a Presidency statement - that had been negotiated in the HLWG and adopted by the Council.<sup>1</sup> This will most likely also be expected at the High-level Dialogue in 2013.

Effective coordination, in accordance with the established institutional roles, are needed between EU capitals, EU institutions in Brussels and EU delegations in New York and Geneva in order to ensure that the elaboration of a common EU position governs all EU actions in the negotiations concerning the High-Level Dialogue.

The Presidency and Sweden propose that the following aspects serve as the basis for discussion in the HLWG on 19 June 2012 regarding EU preparations for the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2013:

- **If an EU position and an EU statement should be developed in view of the High Level Dialogue, work should be undertaken in the HLWG in consultation with the Working Party on Development Cooperation, preferably ahead of the modalities resolution. How do Member States, in general, regard the appropriate degree of EU coordination for the High-level Dialogue? How may the EU best prepare for the High-level Dialogue?**
- **What topics would you like to include in the High-level Dialogue in September 2013 and what type of outcomes would you like to see from the High-level Dialogue?**

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<sup>1</sup> The EU position adopted in view of the 2006 High-Level Dialogue and the Commission Communication "Contribution to the EU position for the United Nations' High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development" can be found in Council documents 11740/06 and 11778/06.

## **The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)**

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an informal, state-led, non-binding and voluntary process for governments to advance understanding and cooperation on the mutually reinforcing relationship between migration and development through dialogue and sharing of experiences. While the GFMD is not part of the United Nations system, it is open to all Member States and Observers of the United Nations.

The first meeting of the Forum was held following a proposal by the UN Secretary-General at the 2006 General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Belgium hosted the first Summit in 2007 and since then, the Chair has rotated between developing and developed countries (Philippines in 2008; Greece in 2009; Mexico in 2010; Switzerland in 2011 and Mauritius in 2012). Sweden assumes the Chair in 2013 and will host a GFMD Summit in May 2014.

Since the GFMD is not a formal, established organization, but rather an ad-hoc platform for global dialogue, it is a collaboration that requires continued engagement, including financial support, from all engaged States.

In line with its operating modalities, which emphasizes the state-led character of the GFMD, and the fact that the GFMD does not produce negotiated outcomes or normative decisions, the GFMD is characterized by the sharing of experiences among states and learning from each other. As such, the forum is less prone to fall into regionally polarised positions which risk blocking constructive dialogue. Indeed, one of the main achievements of the GFMD is enabling a more open and constructive dialogue among states on issues related to migration and development, than have been achieved in earlier attempts at international dialogue on migration. As such it has also become an important complement to existing efforts at addressing global governance of migration.

The overall positive evaluation of the GFMD was confirmed by the first phase of the GFMD assessment process, which was launched in 2010, and where the findings were presented at the GFMD in Switzerland in 2011. This year, the second phase of the assessment process looks at the future arrangement of the GFMD with the active participation of several EU Member States.

Since the GFMD was announced at the previous High-level Dialogue in 2006, the results from the GFMD until now are likely to be presented at the upcoming the High-level Dialogue.

Considering the informal, state-led and non-binding character of the GFMD, the ownership of participating governments is critical. It is therefore important that Member States engage directly in areas where they want to share and take part of best practices and lessons learned rather than primarily through a common EU position on the GFMD substantial issues.

The Presidency and Sweden propose that the HLWG discusses the following:

- **Recalling that the GFMD has made important progress as a platform for enabling constructive dialogue among states, how may the process be strengthened?**
- **As an informal process, the GFMD is dependent on the efforts of the states engaged in the process. How can a more active engagement by Member States in the GFMD be achieved and how can the ownership of the GFMD by Member States be enhanced?**
- **Currently, the GFMD process relies solely on voluntary contributions. How do Member States view the need for more predictable and sustainable financing of the GFMD and how can Member States and/or the Commission work towards this?**

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## Presidency Note on International Protection and Enhancement of the External Dimension of Asylum

High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration on 19 June 2012

### Objective

Following the adoption by GAC on 29 May 2012 of the Council Conclusions on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), in which international protection and the external dimension of asylum has been identified as one of four operational priorities, the Presidency finds it pertinent with a more thorough discussion on the matter in order to reach a shared understanding of concepts and future use.

### Background

Refugee situations have increasingly become protracted as a consequence of continued political instability, conflict or renewed outbreak of hostilities in post conflict situations, resulting in terrible conditions for millions of people and subsequently generating forced and illegal migration. The majority of the world's refugees find themselves without prospect of a durable solution, caught in the limbo of a protracted state of interim protection. This is the fertile ground for trafficking and smuggling of migrants. But secondary movement via trafficking is not an efficient or effective solution to inadequate protection or absence of durable solutions.

The developments have highlighted the need for the international community to strengthen its approach to interventions in refugee situations in accordance with international law. This includes a clarification of the apportioning as well as sharing of responsibilities between states, notably in the context of mass influxes and mixed migratory flows, as well as for durable solutions.

International protection and the external dimension of asylum is one of four operational priorities of the GAMM. In this context, the GAMM Council Conclusions emphasise, *inter alia*, the need to strengthen the use of Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs) and to integrate refugee protection in development programmes, the need to align efforts to support refugee-hosting communities with self-reliance strategies and with national poverty reduction strategies as well as the importance of strategic use of resettlement as a tool to solve protracted refugee situations.



The GAMM Council Conclusions recall that the majority of refugees worldwide reside in regions of origin and recognise protection in the region as being, in principle, the preferred protection modality. They acknowledge the need to have a wide perspective on protection combining measures to strengthen protection capacity in destination countries with efforts to strengthen the livelihoods and protection for refugees and refugee hosting communities. In this context, it is crucial to bridge the gap between refugee protection and traditional development assistance. Refugees are capable of fending for themselves and can make significant contributions to their host societies if they are provided with appropriate conditions and opportunities to become self-reliant. The objective should be to align efforts to support refugee-hosting communities with self-reliance strategies and, as far as possible, with national development plans.

Investing in people's livelihoods helps cutting the cost of aid and protection, reduces refugees' aid dependency and enhances the chances for a sustainable durable solution, be it return, local integration or resettlement. By reinforcing the protection available, and ensuring that refugees have access to an acceptable degree of self-reliance, not only can their rights and well-being be better ensured, but the pressures which encourage onward secondary movement of refugees may also be reduced.

In addition, it is important to focus at the broader need to effectively address the root causes of forced migration, including livelihood crises resulting from generalised violence and other forms of instability, climate change (resulting in slow onset disasters, e.g. drought), economic crisis etc. Durable solutions and capacity building for asylum need to be integrated in development with clear and consistent policy objectives.

It is important to bear in mind that many host states neither have the political stability, resources, infrastructure nor governance to ensure the refugees' needs, particularly for self-reliance, are fully met. However, often there is also a lack of willingness among host states to promote local integration. Refugees are often seen as a burden on society (e.g. competitors for scarce resources, including food, jobs etc.) and/or a source of insecurity in various forms. The key question then becomes one of overcoming such deep rooted antipathies and hence creating the protection space required for self-reliance strategies to unfold. In line with the GAMM Council Conclusions, the EU should ensure that the question of protection of refugees is fully integrated in the dialogue with third countries and in relation to development programmes, including efforts aimed at strengthening capacities in third countries to handle mixed migration flows.

#### ■ Questions for discussion

- How can international protection and the external dimension of asylum best be integrated in the EU's dialogue and cooperation with third countries in line with the GAMM Council Conclusions?
- How to bridge the gap between refugee protection and development assistance?
- How to ensure links between protection activities in regions of origin, the asylum situation as well as the national refugee policy of the EU Member States?



## Regional Protection Programmes

The EU's RPPs have been designed to build up and enhance the protection and asylum capacity of targeted regions and improve refugee protection through durable solutions.<sup>1</sup> The GAMM conclusions call for strengthening their use with the objectives of reinforcing protection capacity in third countries, promoting self-reliance strategies and aligning efforts to support refugee-hosting communities with national poverty reduction strategies. This requires better addressing refugee's long-term needs and situating refugees in broader development-based strategies in both countries of asylum and of origin, after return.

Strengthening use of RPPs in response to the GAMM conclusions will require renewed reflection on their concept and usage, based on current experiences with implementation. In particular, experience to date suggests that RPP's regional dimension requires strengthening in order to ensure that they promote a coordinated regional approach to address refugee issues. Furthermore, the RPPs should perhaps to a greater extent encourage refugees to develop their own self-reliance capacities and exercise greater control over solutions to their own problems. In addition, RPPs have suffered from a lack of political visibility at EU, regional and local level, which has hampered their potential to serve as levers for engaging third countries on strengthening protection capacity.

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<sup>1</sup> So far, four RPPs have been identified: to Eastern Europe, the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and most recently Eastern North Africa.

#### ■ Questions for discussion

How to better define and strengthen the regional dimension of RPPs?

- How to ensure an effective and coordinated regional strategy to enhance refugee protection, promote durable solutions and prevent outbreak of hostilities with local communities?
- How can the political visibility of RPPs be increased at regional and local level?

### Resettlement

In March 2012, the EU adopted a joint Resettlement Programme within the framework of the amendment to the European Refugee Fund in order to involve more Member States in resettlement activities and to provide for orderly and secure access to protection for those resettled. This should help EU States, on a voluntary basis, in finding sustainable solutions for refugees.

Resettlement is a tool to unlock and solve protracted refugee situations. It is also an important instrument for burden and responsibility sharing in refugee situations. Resettlement can bring more openness and capacity to engage in protection-strengthening programs. However, it cannot stand alone. Partnership on finding other durable solution and assisting capacity building in third countries' asylum and reception system is still needed. In this view, the resettlement could potentially be used more strategically and better linked with the RPPs.

#### ■ Questions for discussion

- How to use resettlement more strategically to enlarge and enhance the protection space in host states? In this context, how to enhance the resettlement dimension of RPPs?

## **Draft concept for strategic discussion and prioritization in the High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration**

### **Introduction**

In its Conclusions on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) approved on 29 May 2012 the Council highlights the need for the Global Approach to become more strategic and efficient, with stronger links with other relevant EU policy areas. The Council Conclusions also recognises the HLWG as “the central steering forum for strategic discussions and initiatives in relation to the Global Approach and to prepare the ground for concrete actions of implementation”.

Given the comprehensive nature of the Global Approach, and the need to direct increasingly scarce resources in the most effective and strategic manner, the Council Conclusions also introduces the concept of regular strategic discussions at the HLWG:

“To steer an on-going process of prioritisation and result-orientation, the Council invites the High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration to hold strategic discussions on a regular basis on geographical priorities and necessary actions based on the evolving strategic interest of the Union and with the contribution of all relevant actors.”

Following a debate in the High Level Working Group on 25 May 2012 and written comments to the Presidency note on a concept for strategic discussion and prioritization the present draft concept is presented to HLWG for discussion and possible endorsement.

### **A work plan for HLWG**

#### *Purpose*

The concept contains elements to frame the strategic discussions and prioritizations in HLWG with the purpose of producing a strategic rolling 18-months work plan for the HLWG.

The work plan will constitute a limited and not exhaustive list of key priorities and expected results in terms of geographical and thematic issues to which the HLWG wishes to pay particular attention during the 18-months period.

The priorities listed should be fully aligned with the principles and instruments of the GAMM and the evolving strategic interest of the EU, in particular its overall foreign policy as well as migration and asylum policies.

In drawing up the list, due consideration should be given to the limited resources available to HLWG.

The work plan will serve to guide and support the organization of the work in HLWG, which may allow all actors to strengthen the strategic focus and align resources to ensure successful results in these prioritised areas.

The work plan should also facilitate better internal monitoring, evaluation and emphasis on tangible results.

Additionally the process of prioritizing should enhance coordination and consistency with other dimensions of EU's migration policies and its external relations.

### *Content*

The work plan will contain a limited list of countries, regions and processes to be prioritized including long term and short term activities and targets to be met. Activities and targets may include considerations on:

- Dialogues
- Mobility Partnerships – A framework for bilateral cooperation between EU and third countries – primarily in the EU neighbourhood – in the area of migration and mobility. Partnerships are established by a joint political declaration and would include cooperation in all four areas of the GAMM (e.g. legal migration, return and readmission, visa, border control, migration and development as well as asylum and international protection).

- Common Agendas for Migration and Mobility (CAMM) – A framework for bilateral cooperation between EU and third countries where there is a mutual interest in establishing a cooperation framework but where a Mobility Partnership is not appropriate. This may be the case for countries outside the EU neighbourhood or countries where there is no mutual interest in entering in to negotiations on readmission and/or visa facilitation agreements. CAMM's may in principle contain many of the same elements as Mobility Partnerships.
- Migration Missions - Visits to third countries with the aim to exchange information and to explore the potential of establishing or deepening dialogue and practical cooperation on migration and mobility with third countries where shared interests and concerns have emerged, and/or where no adequate framework for dialogue on migration is yet in place. This may include exploring the need and feasibility of establishing bilateral frameworks of engagement (i.e. CAMM or Mobility Partnerships).
- Evaluations of regional processes etc.

The work plan will also contain a list of thematic issues to be taken up during the 18-month period. Examples may include evaluation of GAMM instruments, general discussion on the use and alignment of instruments or policies (e.g. Regional Protection Programmes or EU's Policy Coherence for Development agenda), discussions on the way forward for global and regional dialogues (potential for streamlining regional processes, preparation of High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2013 etc.).

### **Procedures for drafting the work plan**

Every 18 months HLWG should hold a general strategic discussion with the purpose of agreeing on a new work plan. The discussion should also take into consideration the results achieved since the last strategic discussion in relation to the current work plan.

The Commission, the EEAS and the Presidency on behalf of the Member States will, in accordance with their respective mandate, draft a joint proposal for a work plan with suggestions for priorities for discussion and decision in HLWG. Where appropriate, other Council Working Parties, such as SCIFA, could be consulted during the drafting process.

The work plan will be subject to stocktaking in HLWG with the purpose of reflecting on achieved progress and adjusting priorities as necessary in the light of new developments and the EU's evolving strategic interests. The work plan shall remain a flexible instrument, and not limit HLWG's ability to react to new challenges and opportunities.

The strategic discussions in HLWG will be based on evidence and information from relevant sources such as:

- the Commission's biennial GAMM implementation report,
- the Commission's annual Report on Migration and Asylum,
- the GAMM updates prepared by the Commission services for the HLWG,
- the regularly updated documents on Mobility Partnerships and CAMM prepared by the Commission services for the HLWG,
- reports from relevant agencies etc.

The first draft work plan will be developed by the end of 2012 and will cover the period from 1 January 2013 – 31 June 2014.

### **Criteria for geographical prioritization**

#### *Geographical priorities*

When drafting the work plan and discussing the strategic priorities the following criteria will be taken in to consideration:

- Strategic interest of a third country to the EU and its Member States, in relation to any of the four priority areas of the GAMM, in particular the extent of migratory pressure, readmission issues and relevant challenges and objectives in the area of mobility;
- Member States' expressed interest in focus on a given third country.
- Overall political relations with a third country including Human Rights and general relations (trade, development, security etc.) including also commitments stated in Council Conclusions;

- The interest in, and institutional capacity of, a third country to cooperate with the EU and its Member States
- Clear vision on expected outcomes and results, taking account of available resources

*Thematic priorities*

The prioritization on thematic issues will focus on the evaluation and further development of instruments and tools identified in the context of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, as well as on broader policy developments and challenges within the remit of the HLWG.

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