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**NOTE**

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**From:** Presidency  
**To:** Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum/  
Mixed Committee  
(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway and Switzerland)  
**Subject:** EU Action on Migratory Pressures - targeted update on Turkey

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

The "EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response" was approved by the JHA Council at its meeting on 26-27 April 2012 (doc. 9650/12), while the methodology for its follow-up and implementation was agreed by the SCIFA/Mixed Committee on 21 February 2013 (doc. 6443/13).

Henceforth, presidencies are responsible for coordinating the follow-up to the EU Action and its updating on a biannual basis, while SCIFA/Mixed Committee is to provide the strategic oversight of the implementation of the key actions under the Strategic Priorities. Since the second part of 2012, the updating process has been undertaken by each Presidency and SCIFA/Mixed Committee has reverted to this issue regularly.

In line with the requests by Member States to improve and operationalise the EU Action on Migratory Pressures, the Latvian Presidency proposed to delegations to test a targeted update method as a means of preparing thematic discussions in SCIFA during the first half of 2015 (doc. 5890/15). This recommendation was endorsed by SCIFA on 15 February 2015. Based on the proposals put forward by delegations regarding a possible topic for a thematic debate in SCIFA, the Presidency chose to concentrate on Turkey for the targeted update of the EU Action document during the first half of 2015.

## **II. TARGETED UPDATE OF THE EU ACTION ON MIGRATORY PRESSURES - TURKEY**

For the purpose of the targeted update of the EU Action, delegations were invited to provide their input in writing by 10 April 2015 on the implementation of relevant activities under Strategic Priority areas of the EU Action document related to Turkey.

As expected, the targeted update solicited a higher number of contributions from the Member States compared with the last several updating rounds. Submissions were received from 13 Member States, FRONTEX, and the Commission. CH advised that it had no updates. In addition, comments and suggestions for further discussion were received from DK, HU, PT, UK and FRONTEX.

On the basis of the contributions received by delegations, the Commission and FRONTEX, the Presidency prepared the preliminary version of the targeted update of the EU Action document set out in the Annex. The Presidency, taking into account requests and input from delegations, updated the table with the new information and included a number of cross-references to illustrate linkages between different activities related to Turkey. It also slightly reworded Challenge 1 of the Strategic priority 3 to cover activities ongoing on Turkish borders with all concerned EU Member States "3.1 Ensure effective border controls are in place at the borders of Turkey with the EU Member States" so that information could be collected in a more comprehensive manner.

### **III. DEVELOPMENTS AS REGARDS MIGRATORY PRESSURES FROM TURKEY SINCE THE FIFTH BI-ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE EU ACTION ON MIGRATORY PRESSURES**

The updated table in the Annex presents the main developments and actions taken in the framework of the EU Action on migratory pressures in relation to Turkey since December 2014. It demonstrates steady progress across a wide spectrum of operational cooperation with Turkey.

The Readmission Agreement between the EU and Turkey entered into force on 1 October 2014, with the first meeting of the Joint Committee scheduled to take place on 13 July 2015 (see 1.1.A). A draft protocol between Turkey and Bulgaria was submitted to Turkey in February 2015 (see 3.2.I).

The dialogue on visa liberalisation is moving forward with the second round of expert missions planned for April-July 2015. A second report on the progress made by Turkey in fulfilling the requirements of the visa liberalisation roadmap will be issued by the Commission by the end of 2015 (see 3.2.C).

A cooperation plan between FRONTEX and Turkey is being implemented. Activities in 2015 will focus on risk analysis, training, information exchange, data quality and joint reporting (see 3.2.A).

A number of FRONTEX-led joint operations were launched in February-March 2015: EPN Poseidon Sea 2015, Flexible Operational Activities 2015 Land, Focal Points 2015 Land, Flexible Operational Activities in Return. Contributions by Member States to those operations will be essential (see 3.1.D).

FRONTEX took a decision on prioritizing Turkey for the deployment of a Frontex liaison officer and started consultations for a possible deployment to Turkey by the end of 2015 (see 3.1.A). Contacts with Turkey were also ongoing regarding the secondment of a Liaison Officer to Europol to be stationed at the Embassy of Turkey in the Netherlands, in the framework of the existing cooperation agreement between Europol and Turkey (see 3.2.F).

Sweden, Germany, Romania and Poland were lead states in several pilot projects in the framework of the Prague Process focusing on providing training in asylum and international protection (see 3.2.C).

Sweden has also continued work on the capacity-building initiative to improve migration management in Turkey that was launched in 2014 and placed an immigration liaison officer in Turkey (see 2.2.D).

UK and other delegations lent financial support to IOM implemented projects on issues related to illegal migration, border management and assisted voluntary returns (see 2.2.D and 3.2.I).

Hungary, as Co-Chair of the Budapest Process, and a number of other Member States were active in the Silk Routes Partnership initiative (see 1.8).

The Czech Republic is funding activities aiming at strengthening the Turkish asylum and migration infrastructure (see 3.2.B).

#### **IV. POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR SCIFA DISCUSSION ON TURKEY**

In order to focus SCIFA discussion on operational and political issues where further support by SCIFA would be most effective and timely, the Presidency proposes to concentrate on the questions listed below. Delegations are not expected to comment on all questions, but rather concentrate on those that are most pertinent to their respective national situation.

##### *1. On migratory pressures from Turkey*

A. Regarding the trafficking and smuggling of migrants by sea, particularly the increased use of "ghost ships", is there a need to solicit Turkey to improve measures aimed at tackling this phenomenon?

B. Reports indicate that the surge of migration flows towards the EU from Turkey is partly due to Egypt and Algeria (since January 2015, also Lebanon) implementing visa requirements for Syrian nationals, who enjoy a visa-free entry to Turkey. How could cooperation with the Turkish authorities be improved to stem the flux of illegal migration through its territory? Is there a need for further support from SCIFA? (Reference: FRONTEX Analysis Report 1/2015)

C. What could the EU do to promote more active cooperation of the Turkish authorities with the Greek authorities to address the risk of irregular migration through the Aegean Islands?

2. *On operational cooperation with Turkish authorities:*

D. There has been increasing operational cooperation between authorities in the EU Member States and EU agencies and Turkey, although the progress is slow and not even across the board. How could this process be enhanced and what lessons-learned could be exchanged? How would it be possible to go beyond the exchange of the liaison officers?

E. Denmark would be willing to organise a fact-finding visit with other interested Member States and FRONTEX representatives, on behalf of SCIFA, to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation between FRONTEX and the Turkish authorities. Could this initiative command the support of the Committee?

**V. CONCLUSIONS**

At its meeting on 4 May 2015, the SCIFA/Mixed Committee will be invited to endorse the targeted updated of the "EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response" documents, as set out in the annex, and exchange views on the questions and observations in this note.

**Targeted update of the "EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response" - activities related to Turkey**

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>1</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Area 1:</b> Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management			
<b>1.1</b>	<p><b>Challenge 1:</b> Preventing and combatting illegal immigration by ensuring smooth and orderly return of illegal migrants between States, including respect for the obligation of each State under customary international law to readmit its own nationals</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> EU readmission agreements as tools of an effective return policy in order to tackle illegal immigration. Initiation and continuation of negotiations on EU readmission agreements with relevant third countries, including further appropriate steps when negotiations stall</p>			
<b>1.1.A</b>	Operationalising Council Conclusions of June 2011 defining an EU strategy on readmission (doc. 11260/11 MIGR 118).	<p>PRES COM WP on Migration (expulsion) / HLWG / SCIFA EEAS</p> <p>Frontex with EASO and other project partners</p>		<p>EU readmission policy remains an important priority, with the emphasis on implementing those EURA's already in force and completing outstanding mandates.</p> <p><b>EU READMISSION AGREEMENTS (EURAs)</b></p> <p><b>EURA Turkey</b> <b>Developments:</b> signed 16 December 2013, entered into force 1 October 2014. The first meeting of the Joint Readmission Committee is scheduled to take place in Brussels on 13 July 2015.</p> <p><b>Multi-Country Action Programme, “Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey” to cover the period 2015-2018 under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2014 funding (IPA II).</b> <b>Start:</b> 2015 <b>Description:</b> A list of cooperation activities have been drawn up by DG Enlargement which could be funded via IPA II. These activities fall within the following three core components:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of migrants</li> <li>2. Information exchange</li> <li>3. Establishing regional return mechanisms</li> </ol> </p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
1.8	<b>Challenge 8:</b> To address migratory pressures via the 'Silk Routes', including prevention of illegal immigration and combatting THB			
	<p><b>A:</b> Efforts to develop the 'Silk Routes Partnership' should continue, including development of concrete projects to address illegal immigration, improve border management, enhance international protection, combat THB, and mitigate the negative impacts of migratory flows on EU MS and partner countries.</p>	MS, COM)	On-going	<p><b>Bridging Measures for Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region</b>  <b>Framework:</b> Silk Routes Partnership/Budapest Process  <b>Description:</b> prepare the ground for operational actions to strengthen migration management in the Silk Routes region.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> Scoping missions to Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan have taken place and migration training has been delivered to officials from all three countries.</p> <p><b>Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process</b>  (www.budapestprocess.org)  <b>Framework:</b> Silk Routes Partnership/Budapest Process (Turkey holds the Chairmanship of the Budapest Process since 2006, Hungary is Co-Chair)  <b>Start:</b> 01 February 2014  <b>End:</b> 31 January 2017  <b>Budget/funding:</b> current budget is approx. €4 million out of which €2.6 million of EU funding  <b>Description:</b> to deliver concrete actions to strengthen the migration management capacities of the Silk Routes countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, Bangladesh and Iran, and contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration (in all 4 GAMM pillars).  HU, BG, SE, CH, Turkey and ICMPD are the implementing partners, HU is coordinating. Turkey is the co-coordinator of the project. NL, NO and UK are currently in the process of joining the consortium.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> A kick-off conference, two regional trainings and several national workshops were held in 2014.  <b>Follow-up:</b> project implementation will continue with regional and national capacity building trainings, workshops, technical assistance. Country specified pilot projects will be launched in 2015.</p>
2	<b>Strategic Priority Area 2:</b> Enhanced border management at the external borders			
2.2	<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> Preventing and combatting illegal immigration by ensuring strong and efficient external border control  <b>Goal:</b> Strengthening the security and control at the Schengen external borders. Implementation of the Frontex regulation. Enhance inter-agency cooperation and</p>			

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	cooperation between agencies and MS. Strengthening identification of illegal immigration routes inside the Schengen area.			
2.2.D	Develop cooperation at the appropriate levels with countries of origin and transit, on combating illegal immigration and criminal organisations dealing with smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.	MS, Europol  Sweden	On-going  On-going	<p><b>Project regarding capacity building, trainings etc. on issues related to illegal migration, border management and returns</b>  <b>Start:</b> launched in 2014 by IOM in Greece-Bulgaria-Turkey.  <b>Description:</b> This EU-planned project, implemented by the IOM and involving relevant border management authorities of the three countries at local and central level, aims at building mutual trust and establishment of operational cross-border cooperation. Frontex Risk Analysis Unit contributes to this project. (For TU-RAN multilateral collaboration between Frontex and different TR authorities, see activity 3.2.H). Bulgaria proposed within the project a pilot project to Turkey for exchange of experts at border crossing points. Answer is pending.</p> <p><b>Placement of a Swedish immigration liaison officer in Turkey</b>, focusing on migration related crime. This should improve cooperation with Turkish authorities, airlines and handling agents.</p>
3	<b>Strategic Priority Area 3:</b> Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey			
3.1	<p><b>Challenge 1:</b> Ensure effective border controls are in place at the borders of Turkey with the EU Member States  <b>Goal:</b> To fight illegal border crossings by ensuring that efficient measures are in place for the detection, prevention and interception of illegal migrants at the Greek-Turkish border. Increase capacity in Greece by introducing sustainable measures to reduce illegal immigration</p>			
3.1.A	Swift conclusion of negotiations of a working arrangement between Frontex and the competent Turkish border control authorities.	Frontex (DK, FR, EL)	2013	<p><b>Memorandum of Understanding Frontex-Turkey</b>  <b>Mandate:</b> to establish practical cooperation between Frontex and Turkish border authorities (risk analysis, training, research, exchanges of experience and best practices)  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> MoU was signed in May 2012. In March 2014, the two parties agreed on a Cooperation agenda to implement a series of activities within this framework, which is now underway.  <b>Developments:</b> following the decision of its management board, Frontex is planning to deploy to Turkey on a permanent basis a liaison officer whose primary would be to facilitate the implementation of the Cooperation agenda and to develop working relations with Turkish authorities. Pending agreement between TR and Frontex the deployment might take place by the end of 2015.</p>
3.1.B	Fully implement the findings of the 2010	EL		JHA Council of June 2014 concluded that all major recommendations were followed



REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	Schengen evaluation reports.	(DK, FR)		up and shortcomings solved. Significant improvements were registered in the cooperation with Turkey, in particular at land border. Some improvements are still necessary for enhancing the cooperation at sea.
3.1.C	Intensify monitoring of the National Action Plan "Greece – Schengen".	Council (DK, FR)	On-going	<p><b>Greek National Action Plan</b>  <b>Developments:</b> on 9/10 October 2014 on the basis of COM Staff Working document (14027/14), the JHA Council took note of the state of play of the implementation of the action plan on migration and asylum which was finalised at the end of 2014 and continued with the Greek Route Map for Asylum 2015. Continued efforts will be needed after 2015 in order to enable Greece to operate sustainable border management, migration and asylum systems.</p>
3.1.D	Continue support for Operations EPN Poseidon Sea, Flexible Operational Activities Land 2015, JO Focal Points 2015 Land and Flexible Operational Activities in Return, through increased contributions from MS.	Frontex, MS (DK, FR)	2012 and onward	<p><b>Joint Operations: EPN Poseidon Sea 2015, Flexible Operational Activities 2015 Land, Focal Points 2015 Land, Flexible Operational Activities in Return</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>EPN Poseidon Sea 2015</b>  <b>Start:</b> launched on 1 February 2015 as a continuation of 2014 operation.  <b>Description:</b> aims to ensure continuity of operational response in tackling the exceptional situation of irregular migration towards Greece and other MSs with desired prevention effect; coordinate the EU MSs operational solidarity; to render effective border security at the external sea borders of the Eastern Mediterranean region.  <b>Developments:</b> NL is supporting Poseidon Sea with experts and a RHIB in 2015. In 2014, RO participated with 40 border police officers, profiling-experts and crew members, two patrol vessels and three cars equipped with thermovision.</li> <li>▪ <b>Flexible Operational Activities Land 2015 (South Eastern Operational Activities – GR and BG)</b>  <b>Start:</b> launched on 4 February 2015 (replacing JO Poseidon Land 2014)  <b>Description:</b> aims to implement coordinated operational activities at EU external land borders in order to control irregular migration flows towards the territory of the MSs and to tackle cross border crime focusing on green border surveillance activities.</li> </ul>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p><b>Developments:</b> Frontex continues to support the deployment of interpreters and de-briefers from MS through capacity-building activities (workshop, trainings with Greek and Bulgarian officers. 24 MSs are participating by deploying personnel and technical equipment, which is an increase when compared to the previous years. For 2015, RO has contributed 16 experts, seven vehicles, and other resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Focal Points Land 2015</b>  <b>Start:</b> launched on 4 February 2015 (as a follow up of JO Focal Points Land 2014).  <b>Description:</b> a permanent platform to enhance operational cooperation and best practices exchange among MSs/SAC and at the Greek (Kipi, Kastanies) and Bulgarian (Kapitan Andreevo, Lesovo) border crossing points with TR.  <b>Developments:</b> 23 MSs are participating by deploying personnel and technical equipment. BG and TR stepped up their participation by deploying CO2 detectors and god handler teams. For 2015 RO has contributed one expert and one service vehicle.</li> <li>▪ <b>Flexible Operational Activities in Return (FOA-R 2015)</b>  <b>Start:</b> launched on 26 March 2015 (successor of JO Attica).  <b>Description:</b> main objective is to support Greece and Bulgaria on return.  <b>Developments:</b> RO has contributed two screening experts in 2014.</li> </ul>
3.1.E	Swift implementation of the Greek Asylum and Migration Management, focusing on increased operational capacity at the border, notably by optimising synergies between the different actors involved, including the Task Force on Greece.	EL COM EASO (DK, FR)	On-going	<p><b>Asylum and Migration Action Plan (Greece)</b>  <b>Developments:</b> exercise has been taken forward (regular meetings with Greek authorities) in cooperation with interested MS and other stakeholders. Last meeting with interested MS and EU agencies on the revised Greek Action Plan took place on 2 October 2014. EASO provides support in: training of 1st and 2nd instance asylum, training on nationality establishment, in the field of the European Asylum and Migration Funds, on the collection and analysis of statistical data and in the field of country of origin information.</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
3.2	<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> Combatting illegal immigration transiting Turkey to enter the EU</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> To obtain the effective engagement of the Turkish authorities to prevent illegal immigration transiting through their territory towards the EU external borders. To sign and conclude the EU-Turkey readmission agreement. Intensify trilateral cooperation between Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey for joint border management and police cooperation</p>			
3.2.A	Enhancing capacity to generate situational awareness on illegal migration via Turkey.	Frontex	On-going	<p><b>TU-RAN Initiative</b></p> <p><b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Frontex and Turkey launched analytical activities for the purpose of joint risk analysis in 2013. Several workshops were organised and regular quarterly reports were initiated. Regular monthly information exchange is in place as of 2014, based on model used in other risk analysis networks. In 2014, TU-RAN activities focused on consolidation and quality of data and further development of joint reports.</p> <p><b>Outcomes/results:</b> In 2015, the TU-RAN plans to deliver two bi-annual joint reports. Dedicated joint analytical work is being done on the new modus operandi of cargo vessels, and displacement effect (resulting from the counter-measures).</p> <p><b>Cooperation between the Frontex Situation Centre and Turkey</b></p> <p><b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex</p> <p><b>Description:</b> exchange of relevant situational awareness products and services, in particular through social media alerts covering irregular migration facilitation offers via Turkey; enhancing information exchange, situation monitoring and visualization tools with Turkish authorities where appropriate in the framework of their cooperation with Frontex.</p>
3.2.B	Continue assisting the Turkish authorities in strengthening their capacity to combat illegal immigration, through IPA and bilateral MSs' funding.	CO MS (DK, FR, CZ)	On-going	<p>COM has been continuing to co-finance new IPA projects, contributing directly and indirectly to combating illegal migration in Turkey, and more generally to improving the management of migration. New projects are also under preparation under IPA 2014 and 2015. Discussions on these new projects are ongoing.</p> <p>In 2015 the Czech Republic will fund activities (10 million CZK/EUR 380 000) aiming at the strengthening of the Turkish asylum and migration infrastructure. These activities will be developed and implemented by the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Ministry (AFAD).</p>



REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p><b>Start:</b> November 2014 (lasting till December 2015).  <b>Description:</b> aims to promote exchange of best practices in establishing identity and/c nationality of irregular migrants. TR is included in the target third countries, as it expressed its interest for cooperation within the Joint Declaration and participates with the MS in the implementation of activities within PP5. Romania and Poland are leading states.</p> <p><b>Prague Process Targeted Initiative Pilot Project 7 (PP7): "Quality in the Decision Making in the Asylum Process – Continuous Training Using Content of Jurisprudence"</b>  <b>Start:</b> November 2014 (lasting till March 2016).  <b>Description:</b> aims to promote capacity building in the asylum process; Sweden and Germany leading states.</p>
3.2.D	Develop cooperation at the appropriate levels in order to combat organised crime facilitating the smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of human beings.	MS Frontex, Europol (DK, FR)	On-going	<p>At JHA Council on 6-7 June 2013, it was agreed that fight against facilitation of illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings will be among the nine priorities for the EU policy cycle 2014-2017.</p> <p>Frontex continues to develop and implement activities which contribute to the prevention and combating of cross border crime by supporting national authorities in cases of smuggling and trafficking in human beings, also by means of EMPACT Priorities derived from EU Policy Cycle. This includes the identification of facilitators and potential victims. In this regard, Frontex actively contributes to the regional ILOs meetings in Turkey since 2012. These meetings contribute to the updating of the situational picture of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings in Turkey, and Frontex continues to participate in these meetings. Joint analytical work within TU-RAN especially contributes towards this objective including the ongoing work related to the new <i>modus operandi</i> concerning the use of cargo vessels.</p> <p>Frontex is exploring the opportunity to send a Liaison Officer to Turkey. (See 3.1.A).</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
3.2.E	Continue and step up the dialogue with Turkey launched on 15 March 2012, on cooperation within the JHA area.	COM (DK, FR)	On-going	See 3.2.C
3.2.F	Develop cooperation between Europol and Turkish Police.	Europol (DK, FR)	On-going	<p><b>Turkey-Europol cooperation</b>  <b>Developments:</b> Contacts are ongoing to formalise the secondment to Europol of a liaison officer stationed at the Embassy of Turkey to the Netherlands based on the existing strategic cooperation agreement.</p> <p>FP Checkpoint tries to enhance the cooperation with Turkish authorities through EMPACT Priority Facilitation of Illegal Immigration OAP 2014 (and will participate in OAP 2015) by participating (along MSs and Frontex) and strongly supporting Operational Action – Network of Liaison Officers in Turkey. There are meetings envisaged for 2015 of Working group tactical (MS + may include Europol) on frequent basis and strategic plenary meetings to include Frontex and the Commission (twice a year).</p>
3.2.G	Frontex should make full use of its recently expanded mandate and strengthen its operational cooperation with the competent Turkish border control authorities.	Frontex (DK, FR)	On-going	<p><b>Cooperation Plan Frontex-Turkey</b>  <b>Developments:</b> agreed in February 2014, the plan foresees activities that will be implemented from 2014 to 2016 (risk analyses, training, research). Several activities already took place in 2014, including cooperation with Turkey to fight the ghost ships phenomenon. FRONTEX took a decision on prioritizing Turkey for the deployment of a Frontex liaison officer and started consultations for a possible deployment to Turkey by the end of 2015. (See activity 3.1.A)</p>
3.2.H	Establishment of a trilateral common contact centre for cooperation between police, border and customs officials from BG, EL and Turkey, in coordination with Frontex and Europol within their respective mandates.	BG EL Turkey (DK, FR, BG)	On-going	<p><b>Common Contact Centre for Police and Customs cooperation at border checkpoint "Kapitan Andreevo"</b>  <b>Developments:</b> consultations between representatives of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey on the draft agreement for the establishment of the centre were held in Sofia on 11 September 2013. Consensus on the draft, signature awaited.</p>
3.2.I	Enhance cooperation with the relevant Turkish authorities, in order to ensure the implementation of escorted transit and assisted	MS COM (DK, FR)	On-going	<p><b>Broader Dialogue and Cooperation Framework on JHA with Turkey</b>  <b>Developments:</b> has been proposed to Turkey in December 2012 following Council conclusions of June 2012. Includes proposition to develop cooperation on joint return</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	voluntary return projects via Turkey.	BG  UK		flights.  <b>Bulgaria-Turkey Protocol for implementation of EURA Turkey</b> <b>Developments:</b> on 3 February 2015 Bulgaria submitted to Turkey a "Protocol between the government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the government of the Republic of Turkey implementing the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey on the readmission of persons residing without authorization".  <b>Assisted Voluntary Return projects funded by UK</b> <b>Developments:</b> between 2009 and 2014, the UK funded AVR projects in Turkey, implemented by IOM, directly supporting the sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of returning migrants and improved AVR advocacy and practices in Turkey ( <a href="http://www.turkey.iom.int/pa4.htm">http://www.turkey.iom.int/pa4.htm</a> ).
<b>4</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Area 4:</b> Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels			
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Challenge 2:</b> Combatting and preventing illegal immigration caused by visa liberalisation <b>Goal:</b> Decrease the level of illegally staying work force			
<b>4.2.B</b>	Gradual steps towards visa liberalisation with selected third countries while fully involving the Council on a case by case basis.	COM and Council	On-going	Visa dialogue is on-going with Turkey. (See 3.2.C).