



EUROPEAN UNION

# NIGER

## ACTION AND PROGRESS UNDER THE MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK JUNE 2016 - JUNE 2017

The EU cooperates with Niger in a wide range of areas, from security and the fight against terrorism, to investment in youth and food security. The EU is Niger's main development partner and important political interlocutor, including in the G5 Sahel format. Niger is an important partner of the European Union in tackling irregular migration, since it is a key country of transit for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa to the Mediterranean. It cooperates constructively with the EU and its Member States in this regard. Cooperation has been reinforced through the Partnership Framework, with Niger being a priority country. Work is focused on setting up comprehensive action plans taking into account all relevant dimensions of migration. Niger is also an important interlocutor concerning cooperation regarding the southern borders of Libya and plays an important role in the follow up of the Joint Communication on the Central Mediterranean route.



### HIGH LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

#### 2017

- June** >> High-level mission from Sweden to Niger  
>> Visit of HR/VP F. Mogherini to Mali (bilateral programme and EU-G5 Sahel Ministerial Meeting). Meeting with Nigerien Foreign Minister, A. Diop, in Bamako

- March** >> Visit of the French and Spanish Ministers of Interior

- February** >> Visit of the French Minister of Family and of the State Secretary for cooperation and the Minister of Defence.

#### 2016

- December** >> Visit of the President of Niger to Brussels, EU- Niger Joint conclusions.  
>> Visit of the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs.  
>> Visit of EU and MS senior officials, with attendance of high level EU officials.

- November** >> Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy.  
>> Visit of the Minister of Interior to France.  
>> Meeting between President of Niger and Commissioner Mimica in the margins of the summit of the International Organisation of La Francophonie and in the margins of the Summit of the African Union.

- October** >> Visit of Chancellor of Germany.

- September** >> United Nations General Assembly bilateral meetings, several EU Member States, HR/VP Mogherini and Commissioner Avramopoulos Joint migration declaration.

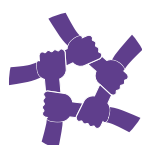


- August** >> Visit of Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.
- July** >> Visit of Commissioner Stylianides.
- June** >> HR/VP Mogherini meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs at EU G5 Ministerial.



## KEY PROGRESS BY NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES

- >> National Migration Strategy finalised, and, with its Action Plan, pending final approval in July.
- >> Joint Investigation Team operational since March 2017, with as its first success a network of migrant smugglers operating in Tchín-Tabaraden dismantled.
- >> Second meeting of the «Cadre de Concertation» agreed specific recommendations and the appointment of the Permanent Secretary.
- >> Specific regional «Cadre de Concertation» on migration launched, involving local and central authorities.
- >> Effective action against smuggling and trafficking in human beings, with 18 operations in 2017 so far, leading to the arrest of more than 30 people, around 20 convictions and the seizure of vehicles.
- >> Joint information platform on alternative routes launched.



## EU SUPPORT

- >> Support for enforcement of anti-migrant smuggling legislation (Full operationalisation of the EU antenna in Agadez, including training and deployment of Joint Investigation teams)
- >> European Border and Coast Guard Agency liaison officer to be deployed in July 2017



- >> Support provided to create viable economic alternatives in the Agadez region.
- >> Nine projects adopted under the EU Trust Fund for Africa, to assist migrants, facilitate return and raise awareness, provide land, accommodation and access to drinkable water, and create jobs.
- >> Action of EUR 15 million contracted in April 2017 on protection and reintegration of returnees.
- >> Assisted Voluntary Returns from Niger have increased, with concerted EU support, with 2,011 migrants having been assisted to return from Niger to their home countries in 2017 alone.
- >> Field missions conducted to assess alternative routes and identify projects to create economic alternatives in local communities.
- >> Support provided to the G5 Sahel.

## NEXT STEPS

- >> Support the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration and the elaboration of its Action Plan.
- >> Improve the monitoring of migratory flows; support Niger to put in place adequate response to new migratory routes.
- >> Support Niger's capacity to investigate and prosecute migrant smugglers including by facilitating cooperation with Europol and Eurojust.
- >> Continue fostering Assisted Voluntary Returns.
- >> Deploy the European Border and Coast Guard Agency liaison officer in Niamey.
- >> Implement the approved projects to address the economic needs of communities losing revenues from the smuggling economy.