

Cameroon

EU engagement to date

To date, there has been no engagement on readmission with Cameroon as specific issues have not been raised by Member States in the past and the country has not been flagged as a priority country for EU level engagement. Article 13 of the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement, to which Cameroon is party, prescribes the commitment of the partner countries to cooperate with the EU in readmitting its own nationals.

Cooperation on readmission

In 2019, 3 815 nationals staying illegally in the Member States were issued return decisions and 200 effectively returned to Cameroon resulting in a **return rate** of 5%. Member States submitted 158 readmission requests to Cameroonian authorities, who issued 94 travel documents, an **issuance rate** of 59%.

A total of 18 Member States reported having approached the authorities of Cameroon for readmission matters related to its nationals in 2019 and two Member States have **bilateral agreements** in place with the relevant provisions very often respected.

Half of the responding Member States standing for 65% of return decisions issued to Cameroonian nationals assess the overall cooperation with Cameroon in **identification procedures** as good or very good. The other half, where approximately one third of all Cameroonian nationals ordered to leave are to be found, assess it as very poor or average.

Eleven of the responding Member States confirm that they have an established routine for cooperation on identification, effective for nine of them.

Two thirds of reporting Member States confirm that evidence accepted includes valid or expired passports, and other identity documents and other documents. Information extracted from the VIS is accepted for one third of the Member States.

Half of the responding Member States requested consular interviews, with five of them stating that these are rarely to never performed upon their request and four that they often to always take place. Five Member States experiencing interviews consider their outcomes as acceptable or satisfactory, while two Member States find them unsatisfactory.

Three Member States, where 42% of all Cameroonians ordered to leave are to be found, inform that Cameroon authorities often or always request interviews, even in cases where sufficient evidence to establish nationality is provided. At the same time five Member States, in which 20% of Cameroonians ordered to leave are to be found stated that interviews in such cases were rarely to never required and other two that travel documents were issued without interviews.

Two-thirds of the responding Member States standing for 56% of the return decisions issued to Cameroon nationals consider that **the issuance of travel documents** often to always takes place in a timely manner.

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The **EU Travel Document** or laissez-passer issued by Member States are accepted for two Member States.

Seven Member States inform that returns by **charters flights** are accepted by Cameroon in principle but with an imposed limit of six returnees per flight. Five of them also signal other restrictions such as frequency of flights, requesting landing permits, landing time restrictions and visa for escorts.

Certain restrictions in case of returns by **scheduled flights** are applied according to five Member States (mostly concerning visas for escorts and permission to land limited in time), while one Member states carrying out returns reports that visas are not required in its case.

In general, nine Member States consider that the **overall cooperation on return and readmission** is stable since 2015, three that it has deteriorated, three that it improved and three are not in position to assess the cooperation.

With a total of 3 815 Cameroonian nationals ordered to leave in 2019, Cameroon ranks 23rd amongst visa-bound third countries whose nationals have been issued return decisions in the Member States. Overall, about two-thirds of the Member States interact on readmission with Cameroon, two have bilateral agreements and 11 have an established cooperation routine. With half of these Member States, identification processes are conducted in a satisfactory manner, including by accepting a wide range of documents and through interviews, however for those Member States that have the most cases, cooperation on identification is problematic. Once identification is performed, issuance of travel documents is timely and there were instances where the EU Travel document was accepted. Charter flights are rarely accepted and only with very small numbers on board. For a more effective and predictable readmission cooperation, the existing good cooperation practices would need to be extended to all Member States. Identification could be expedited by issuing travel documents without interviews for documented cases and prohibitive restrictions for charter flights could be reconsidered. Subsequently, a more predictable and even level of cooperation will encourage a higher number of readmission requests from Member States and trigger a higher return rate.