



**Brussels, 25 May 2021  
(OR. en)**

**8952/21**

**LIMITE**

**JAI 572  
ASIM 30  
RELEX 467  
COAFR 136  
MAMA 87  
COASI 73  
MIGR 96**

**NOTE**

---

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Follow-up to the Jumbo Meeting: Way ahead for the strengthening of comprehensive partnerships with key partner countries

---

**CONTEXT**

The informal videoconference of the High Level Group on Asylum and Migration (HLWG) on 22 April confirmed the strong consensus among the Member States on the rapid operationalisation of comprehensive, tailor-made and mutually beneficial partnerships with key third countries, in line with the New Migration and Asylum Pact. Member States reiterated that priority should be given to partners in the Western Balkans, North Africa, on the Silk Route, in the Sahel and in Sub-Saharan Africa. The discussion in the HLWG echoed the debate that took place during the informal videoconference of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs Ministers, held on 15 March, which saw a strong consensus among the Member States, with some calling on the European Commission for roadmaps and specific timelines for next steps. More recently, in the Ministerial Conference on Management of Migratory Flows, held in Lisbon on 11 May, the Commission and the Member States reiterated the need for resolute developments in the establishing and strengthening of migration partnerships with a view to attaining tangible results.

## **PARTNERS FOR PRIORITISED EU ENGAGEMENT**

In order to keep the political momentum for investing more robustly in the external dimension, and to focus on further operationalisation of the migration partnerships, the Presidency is identifying countries of origin and transit with which EU engagement should be further intensified, as indicated by Member States. This exercise is intended and should be perceived as a positive effort to strengthen cooperation with partner countries. Based on the concrete positions of Member States in the last HLWG meeting, the following countries were considered a priority, within their regions, by a large number of Member States: Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Somalia, Nigeria, Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Afghanistan and Iraq. Since Member States identified a wide range of countries, a broad consensus is being sought to continue the process. The further operationalisation of partnerships with other countries will nevertheless continue.

## **WAY FORWARD**

Once the Member States agree on the partners to engage with, the Presidency will invite the Commission, with the support of the EEAS (as well as EU delegations), to establish an indicative outline, including possible next steps, in terms of outreach, for the implementation of migration partnerships with each of the abovementioned partners.

Taking into account current challenges, the relevance of migration flows towards Europe and the potential for expanding existing cooperation on all relevant aspects of migration policy, the indicative outline should include a timeline, whenever possible, and an indication of which instruments – and in what order – should be implemented to give substance to the partnerships. It should include, where relevant, the contributions made by individual Member States to specific partnerships, on the basis of information the Member States are strongly encouraged to provide. This course of action will be discussed in future meetings of the Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP).

### ***Guiding question***

- Do Member States agree with the way forward proposed by the Presidency?