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NOTE

From: Commission Services
To: Delegations
Subject: Update on the state of play of external cooperation in the field of migration policy

Delegations will find attached an update on state of play of external cooperation in the field of migration policy, issued by the Commission Services.



**UPDATE ON STATE OF PLAY OF EXTERNAL COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION POLICY**
5 JULY 2021

The European Commission adopted the New Pact on Asylum and Migration on 23 September 2020, which contains a strong component on partnerships with third countries.

This document provides an updated overview of the main external migration dialogues and processes since 2019. The document is compiled for the information of the EU High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration by the responsible European Commission and EEAS services.

This document was formally known as the Global Approach to Migration Management (GAMM) update covering dialogues and processes since 2005.

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 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) and the subsequent Ministerial Declaration of 2016 (covering the period 2017-2021).

Recent and upcoming events

5-7 March 2019	Study visit to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of Germany, Nuremberg	
10-11 June 2019	Senior Officials Meeting, Bucharest	
15 May 2020	Webinar 'The impact of the Corona-crisis on migration'	
2 July 2020	Webinar 'Maximizing labour migration outcomes in the Prague Process corridors: Practices on how to benchmark countries of destination in June 2020'	

24 September 2020	Webinar "EU Framework for Legal Migration: Lessons learned and main challenges"	
18 November 2020	Senior Officials Meeting, VTC	Pass on Presidency from Lithuania to Czech Republic and Work Plan for 2021 were discussed
28 January 2021	Webinar: "Migration Outlook for 2021: From COVID-19 to the EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum"	
04 March 2021	Webinar: Frontex Role and Capacity on Return	
15 April 2021	Webinar: 'Which Perspectives for Labour Migration Partnerships in the Prague Process region? Lessons from EU funded Pilot Projects on Legal Migration'	
6 May 2021	Webinar "Social Capital and Trans-national Human Smuggling: What is the impact of Counter-Smuggling Policies?"	
11 May 2021	Webinar/thematic consultations: Preventing and fighting illegal migration + Promoting readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration	The first (out of 3 planned) of thematic consultations on the roadmap towards 4th Prague Process Ministerial Conference planned for the second half of 2022
25 May 2021	Webinar/thematic consultations: Legal migration with a special emphasis on labour migration + Making migration and mobility positive forces for development	The 2 nd (out of 3 planned) of thematic consultations on the roadmap towards 4th Prague Process Ministerial Conference planned for the second half of 2022
10 June 2021	Webinar/thematic consultations: Asylum/international protection + Integration of legally residing migrants in host societies	The 3rd (out of 3 planned) of thematic consultations on the roadmap towards 4th Prague Process Ministerial Conference planned for the second half of 2022
24 June 2021	Webinar: 'Reporting Migration: the role of media in shaping public opinion and policies on migration'	
October/November 2021 (tbc)	Annual Prague Process SOM	

(B) THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PLATFORMS AND PANEL ON MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM)

The Eastern Partnership is the framework for cooperation between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The latest Joint Declaration was adopted at the Eastern Partnership Brussels Summit of November 2017. This Joint Declaration inter alia approved a streamlining of the Eastern Partnership architecture: the former Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum and Eastern Partnership Panel on Integrated Border Management (IBM) have been brought together in the new Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (IBM). In March 2020 the Joint Communication on the EaP Policy beyond 2020 was adopted. Discussions are ongoing on the post-2020 Deliverables, in particular in the EaP Panels and Platforms, in view of the next EaP Summit in 2021.

Recent and upcoming events

13-14 June 2019	Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (IBM), Minsk	Theme: Information exchange on IBM, different modalities of continued EU support, including border control, integrated system of green border surveillance
12 November 2019	Eastern Partnership Platform 4 „Mobility and People-to-people contacts”	State of play of current cooperation, and jointly brainstorm on the future agenda beyond 2020
17 December 2019	Eastern Partnership Platform 1 „Strengthening institutions and good governance”	The future of the Eastern Partnership
March 2020-cancelled, new date tbc	Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (IBM)	Labour Migration
20 October 2020	Eastern Partnership Panel on Rule of Law	Post 2020 Deliverables
24 November 2020	Eastern Partnership Platform 1 Strengthening institutions and Good Governance	Priorities beyond 2020
27 November 2020	Eastern Partnership Platform 4 Mobility and people-to-people contacts	Priorities beyond 2020
December 2021 (tbc)	Eastern Partnership Summit	

(C) THE BUDAPEST PROCESS

The Budapest Process was initiated in 1991 as a consultative forum, currently containing more than 50 governments and 10 international organisations, aiming at developing comprehensive and sustainable systems for orderly migration. Within the Budapest Process, a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration was established at the Ministerial Conference held in Istanbul on 19 April 2013. The Istanbul Declaration sets out the main objectives and activities of the countries along this migratory route. This Dialogue is instrumental to reinforce cooperation at regional level with priority Silk Route countries, with which the EU engages on migration through various bilateral frameworks.

Recent and upcoming events

19-20 February 2019	SOM and Budapest Process Ministerial Conference, Istanbul Turkey	Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration "the Istanbul commitments and Action plan its Call to Action. 6 EUMS did not take part in the Declaration but expressed ongoing support to the process
9-10 October 2019	Joint Working Group Meeting with all three regional working groups (Silk Routes, Black Sea and Southeast Europe), North Macedonia	Working Group Meeting to discuss regional and thematic priorities to be included in the implementation plan of the „Call for Action”
4-5 December 2019	Annual Senior Officials Meeting, Turkey	Approval of the implementation plan of the „Call for Action”
3-4 March 2020	Expert meeting on return and reintegration	
14 May 2020	Virtual group discussion on labour migration in the Covid19 Pandemic	
30 June 2020	Virtual group discussion on irregular migration in the COVID-19 pandemic	
30 September 2020	Virtual group discussion on migration narratives	
3-4 November 2020	Virtual thematic Meeting on Labour Migration	
12 November 2020	Virtual Group Discussion with the South East European Region Working Group	
2-3 December 2020	Senior Officials Meeting	
24 March 2021	Webinar on Understanding and Explaining Attitudes to Migration in the Silk Routes	
5 May 2021	Webinar on Migration as a Response to Environmental Change	
1 – 2 June 2021	Thematic Meeting on dismantling of smuggling networks: international cooperation and investigations.	
13 June 2021	First meeting of the Reference Group	

13 July 2021	Second meeting of the Reference Group	
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(D) THE AFRICA-EU MIGRATION AND MOBILITY DIALOGUE

The Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue is the framework for dialogue and cooperation on migration issues between the EU and all African States. It was launched at the second EU-Africa Summit in December 2007 in Lisbon.

Recent and upcoming events

21/22 January 2019	1 st EU-AU Ministerial Meeting, Brussels	While not a specific agenda point, migration was part of the Joint Communiqué adopted and the discussions.
3 May 2019	Continental Dialogue, Technical meeting between DEVCO and AIR to prepare the AU EU event on Remittances in Nairobi in December 2019	Follow-up meeting to the meeting in November 2018
9-10 December 2019	Technical meeting on Reduction remittances costs in Nairobi hosted by AIR	Bringing together experts on remittances reduction costs.
11 December 2019	High Level Dialogue Meeting, Nairobi	Stocktaking and charting way forward
27 February 2020	College-to-College (C2C) meeting, Addis Ababa	Migration was an agenda point discussed during both the plenary session and a cluster session.
October 2021	AU-EU Foreign Affairs Minister meeting (Ministerial), Kigali/Rwanda	
(Q1 2022 (date tbc))	6th EU-AU Summit, Brussels	In physical format once conditions allow.

(E) THE RABAT PROCESS

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. The fourth ministerial conference was held in Rome in November 2014 where Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan for 2015-17 were adopted. The fifth ministerial conference held in Marrakesh, May 2018, adopted the Marrakesh Programme of Action which aligned the work of the Rabat process with the five themes of the Joint Valletta Action Plan. This dialogue contributes to the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan, adopted at the EU-Africa Summit on Migration on 11-12 November 2015.

Recent and upcoming events

23 January 2019	Steering Committee, Brussels	Prepare the SOM of 12-13 February
11 February 2019	Steering Committee, Ouagadougou	Prepare the SOM of 12-13 February
12-13 February 2019	Senior Officials Meeting, Ouagadougou	Define a work programme for the implementation of the Marrakech Action Plan
3 June 2019	Steering Committee, Brussels	Handover of presidency from Burkina Faso to France
1-2 July 2019	Thematic Meeting on Border Management, Madrid	Exchange of information and good practice among the Rabat Process partners
24 October 2019	Thematic meeting on fight against trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants with emphasis on dismantling of criminal networks (event led and chaired by France and Côte d'Ivoire). A side event is also organised: 'Scenario building exercise on future mixed migration in 2030 in West and North Africa'	This meeting is organised back to back with the Niamey Declaration High-Level Conference of 22-23 October 2019 (Organised by France/ Secretariat UNODC). This workshop aims to create synergies between the Rabat Process and the Niamey Declaration signed on 16 March 2018.
5-6 November 2019	Technical Workshop on Diaspora Remittances and Sustainable Development, Abuja	Bring together technical experts, practitioners from the public and private sectors, civil society organisations, as well as policy- and decision makers (Rabat Process partners) to improve Rabat Process partners' technical understanding; promote mutual learning and the exchange of good practices on remittances.
13 November 2019	Steering Committee, Brussels	
18 February 2020	Steering Committee, Brussels	Discussed and finalised Rabat process input to the updating of the Joint Valletta Action Plan
16 September 2020	Webinar - Assessment of anti-trafficking efforts, ECOWAS & Mauritania	Presentation of the findings of the "Assessment of Anti-Trafficking Gaps, Needs and Transferable Practices in the Member States of ECOWAS and Mauritania".
15 October 2020	Virtual Steering Committee Meeting	

28 October 2020	Virtual meeting with Steering Committee members and reference countries Meeting	
21 January 2021	Webinar on return and reintegration	Updates on main developments and exchange of best practices
19 April 2021	Webinar on International Migration And Development,	Identify practices from European and African countries in terms of elaboration, implementation, monitoring and multi-level governance of migration-development policies and strategies at the local, national or regional level.
20 April 2021	Rabat Process Steering Committee and meeting with reference countries	
16 June 2021	Virtual migration scenario-building workshop in collaboration with Mixed Migration Centre	Understanding the Rate of Change in Mixed Migration: The role of technology within migration dynamics
1 July 2021	Rabat Process Steering Committee	
7 July and 13-14 October 2021	Virtual roundtable (7 July 2021) and a roundtable/study visit (in Geneva, on 13-14 October) on protection and asylum	Exchange of best practices on protection and asylum
14-15 September 2021	Thematic Meeting on Local Authorities, National Authorities and Migration, Paris.	
29 September 2021	Virtual migration scenario-building workshop in collaboration with Mixed Migration Centre	Identification of the future mixed migration certainties and uncertainties in North Africa and West Africa: The drivers of mixed migration
27 October 2021	Virtual migration scenario-building workshop in collaboration with Mixed Migration Centre	Identification of blind spots and weak signals and examining their implications for policy responses: Environmental change
17-18 November 2021	Senior Officials' Meeting, Malabo	Handover of the Chairmanship from Equatorial Guinea to Spain
16-17 December 2021	Thematic meeting on legal migration, Lisbon and scenario-building workshop in collaboration with Mixed Migration Centre (tbc)	Exchange of best practices on legal migration. Developing future mixed migration scenarios in North Africa and West Africa (tbc)

(F) THE KHARTOUM PROCESS

The Khartoum Process (the EU Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative) is a framework for dialogue and cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination along the migratory route from the Horn of Africa to Europe. It primarily focuses on smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings but includes also other areas of migration management including the root causes of irregular migration, legal migration and mobility, asylum and international protection, fight against irregular migration and smuggling of people, and return and readmission. The Khartoum Process contributes to the implementation of the Joint Valetta Action Plan adopted at the EU-Africa Summit on Migration on 11-12 November 2015.

Recent and upcoming events

6-7 March, 2019	Steering Committee and Senior Officials Meeting, (Asmara)	Eritrea takes over the chairmanship of the Khartoum Process
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17 July 2019	Drafting Committees • Towards the update of the Joint Valletta Action Plan and • Preparation of the Khartoum Process Multiannual Work Plan	
24- 25 September 2019	Thematic Meeting on "Legal Frameworks and Policy Development: Optimising the Benefits of Organised Labour Migration", Cairo	
23-24 October, 2019	Thematic Meeting on Migration for Development: Harnessing the Potential of Diaspora, Asmara	
March 2020	Steering Committee and Senior Officials' Meeting, The Hague	The Netherlands takes over the chairmanship the Khartoum Process ; update of JVAP discussed
5 March 2020	SOM Meeting, The Hague	
2 July 2020	Khartoum Process Virtual Meeting The impact of COVID-19 on Human Mobility in the Khartoum Process Region and Partners' Responses, VTC	
8 October 2020	Mixed Migration Centre Webinar for Khartoum Process Members on Mixed Migration and the COVID-19 crisis: What's next for people on the move in the "New Normal"? , VTC	
2 December 2020	Steering Committee Meeting, VTC	
31 March 2021	Trafficking in Human Beings: The 4Ps Revisited. Module 1: Prevention of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.	
28 April 2021	Trafficking in Human Beings: The 4Ps Revisited. Module 2: Protection of Victims of Trafficking	
26 May 2021	Trafficking in Human Beings: The 4Ps Revisited. Module 3: Prosecution (International cooperation).	
30 June 2021	Trafficking in Human Beings: Module 4: Partnership (Public-private partnerships)	
November 2021 (tbc)	SOM Meeting (Khartoum)	Change of the Chairmanship (NL to Sudan)

(G) 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 4 thematic areas (Visa, remittances, returns and readmission, THB and smuggling of migrants), with the specific aim to strengthen the operational aspects of ACP-EU cooperation on these topics.

A series of expert meetings took place on a yearly basis. A joint report including recommendations on remittances, visas and readmission was adopted in June 2012 at the ACP-EU Joint Council of Vanuatu. A Joint Visa subgroup meeting, technical workshop on return and readmission and experts' seminar on trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants took place in 2014. The last technical dialogue took place in June 2018.

The Dialogue (and in particular the organisation of the thematic meetings) was supported by the EU-ACP Migration Action, a EUR 10M programme which implemented some of the recommendations. The programme finished in August 2019. A final evaluation was carried out and its outcome was presented to EUMS at the ACP WP of 3 June 2020. The Programme covered three components: 1) Demand-driven provision of technical assistance (requested by ACP countries or by regional institutions); 2) Direct support to NSAs projects improving the conditions of migrants and their families; 3) Collection of good practices and dissemination of results.

Both the EU and the ACP sides expressed concerns about the effectiveness of this Dialogue, particularly on the interaction between the political and the technical level, and saw the negotiations of the Post Cotonou Agreement as an opportunity to revisit the EU-ACP migration dialogue and its implementation.

Once the Post Cotonou Agreement enters into force, the ACP-EU Development-Migration Dialogue will be replaced by the Partnership Dialogue, the modalities of which still have to be defined. The dialogue on migration will become part of a wider dialogue, encompassing all policy areas covered by the agreement.

Recent and upcoming events

19-21 February 2019	Regional Thematic Meeting on Remittances, Accra, Ghana	
12-14 March 2019	Regional Thematic Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants, Georgetown, Guyana	
18-20 March 2019	ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Romania	
3-5 April 2019	Regional Thematic Meeting on Visas and Cooperation on Mobility, Port Vila, Vanuatu	
12 April 2019	ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors	Migration was on the agenda
23-24 May 2019	Joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers, Brussels	Exchange on Migration in a comprehensive discussion on the basis of the implementation of the JVAP and the EUTF
11 July 2019	ACP-EU Migration Action – Final Event, Brussels	The ACP-EU Migration Action presented good practices and lessons learned based on the analysis of five years of the Action's implementation

17-21 November 2019	ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Kigali, Rwanda	Migration features in questions from MEPs and COM provided written replies. Migration and Mobility may be addressed during the Plenary, if additional questions arise.
20-22 February 2020	ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Maseru, Lesotho	Migration did not feature in the final communique

(H) THE VALLETTA SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

The Valletta Summit of November 2015 enabled African and EU leaders to establish a frank dialogue and the framework for cooperation on migration including the principles, the language and a comprehensive action plan.

At the Summit it was decided that the existing mechanisms of the Rabat Process, the Khartoum Process and of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy would be used to monitor implementation of the Action plan.

Recent and upcoming events

15 December 2020	Joint Steering Committee of Khartoum and Rabat Process approved update of Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP)	
2022 - TBC	Valletta Partners SOM (including approval of update of JVAP)	

(II) THE EU-CELAC MIGRATION DIALOGUE

The EU and Latin America and the Caribbean countries (CELAC) Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration was launched in June 2009 following the mandate of the EU-LAC Lima Summit. The EU-CELAC Action Plan, adopted at the 2010 Madrid Summit, called for further developing this Dialogue. This commitment was renewed during the last EU-CELAC Summit held in Brussels in June 2015.

Recent and upcoming events

23-24 January 2019	3 rd EU-CELAC citizen security workshop, Belize	
12-14 June 2019	Regional Workshop on the outflow of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, in Brussels (TAIEX, FPI)	With the participation of 9 LAC countries: COL, ECU, PER, CHI, ARG, BRA, GUY, PAN, Dom. REP.
28-29 October 2019	International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant crisis, Brussels	With participation of European Commission, EEAS, UNHCR, IOM, NGOs
5-6 December 2019	Regional Workshop on the outflow of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, in Bogota (Colombia)	With the participation of 9-10 LAC countries.
25 May 2020	Virtual Donors Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan refugees and migrants in countries in the region, amid the COVID-19 pandemic	Co-hosted by Spain and the EU, supported by UNHCR and IOM. Over 40 countries along with UN Agencies, international financial institutions and representatives of national and international civil society.
14 December 2020	EU – LAC Informal Ministerial Meeting - Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	Joint Communiqué: mentions that migration and population mobility in LAC are increasingly important health determinants and require greater cooperation
10 June 2021	Solidarity Event for forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Central America and Mexico (MIRPS countries), San José (Costa Rica).	Organized by Spain as the Presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform. A total of \$ 110 million were announced in the event by the different participants.
17 June 2021	International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants	The European Commission pledged €147 million, in addition to pledges by EU Member States.

Part 2 – The bilateral dialogues

(A) TURKEY

Turkey

In 2008 the Council adopted a revised Accession Partnership with Turkey. On 16 December 2013 the EU and Turkey signed a readmission agreement and launched a visa liberalisation dialogue. The Commission adopted the first report on the implementation of the Visa liberalisation roadmap on 20 October 2014. Turkey continued to develop its administrative capacity to implement the EU-Turkey readmission agreement, which entered into force for Turkish nationals in October 2014. Implementation of the agreement for Turkish nationals remained nevertheless unsatisfactory as the provisions of the agreement were not observed in a systematic and coherent manner by all Turkish diplomatic missions in the EU. Regarding the readmission of third country nationals, the relevant provisions entered into force on 1 June 2016.

Nevertheless, so far the Turkish Council of Ministers has not taken the decisions authorising the application of these provisions.

The meeting of Heads of State or Government with Turkey on 29 November 2015 activated the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan on Migration in order to step up cooperation for the support of Syrian refugees under temporary protection and their host communities in Turkey and to strengthen cooperation to prevent irregular migration flows to the EU. A comprehensive cooperation based on shared responsibility, mutual commitments and delivery between the European Union and Turkey was agreed within the framework of the 18 March 2016 EU-Turkey Statement.

In response to the call from EU Member States for significant additional funding to support refugees in Turkey, the Commission established on 24 November 2015 the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The Facility is a mechanism that coordinates the mobilisation of resources made available under both the EU budget, and additional contributions from Member States integrated into the EU budget as external assigned revenue. Contributions amount to a total of EUR 6 billion, with EUR 3 billion committed for the years 2016-2017 and a further EUR 3 billion committed for 2018-2019. Both tranches combined, all operational funds have been committed, 5.1 billion contracted and 3.8 billion disbursed.

The continued implementation of the 18 March 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, which reduces irregular and dangerous crossings and saves lives in the Aegean Sea, plays a key role in ensuring that the migration challenge is addressed effectively and jointly by the EU and Turkey, is in the interest of both sides and remains crucial with a view to saving lives and bringing irregular migration to a halt.

Recent and upcoming events

15 March 2019	54 th Meeting of the EU-Turkey Association Council	
15 April 2019	Commission's third annual report on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey	
17 May 2019	12 th FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	
3 October 2019	Joint Visit of Commissioner Avramopoulos and DE Mol to Turkey	
5 December 2019	Joint Visit of VP Schinas and Commissioner Johansson to Turkey	
9 December 2019	13 th FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	
9 March 2020	EU-Turkey Leaders' Meeting (Brussels)	President Von Der Leyen and President Michel met President Erdogan
30 April 2020	Commission's fourth annual report on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey	
6-7 July 2020	HRVP Borrell meeting with Turkish FM Cavusoglu	
5 November 2020	14 th FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	
21 January 2021	Turkish Foreign Minister Cavusoglu's visit	Met with President von der Leyen, HR/VP Borrell, VP Schinas, Commissioner Johansson
6 April 2021	Joint Visit of President Von Der Leyen and President Michel to President Erdogan in Ankara	
7 May 2021	Visit of Commissioner Johansson in Ankara	Commissioner Johansson held meetings with Vice-President Fuat Oktay, Minister of Interior Suleyman Soylu, and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

(B) SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

Morocco

The EU-Morocco Association Agreement entered into force in 2000. A Mobility Partnership was signed in June 2013. Since 2013, the EU supports the implementation of Morocco's National Strategy on Migration and Asylum. The Commission has a mandate to negotiate a readmission agreement since 2000 and, also a mandate to negotiate a visa facilitation agreement. A single round of negotiations on both agreements took place in January 2015.

After several years of stalemate (within the general freeze of the relations EU-Morocco) the dialogue was formally relaunched in 2019 (Association Council of 27 June 2019). Morocco recognises Migration and Security as central areas for cooperation with the EU. Morocco has engaged substantially, reducing significantly the flow of irregular migrants arriving to the EU via the Mediterranean sea, however, the pressure is now extremely high on the Canary islands route.

During the visit of Commissioner Johansson and Commissioner Várhelyi to Rabat (1-2 December 2020) a new impetus was given to the dialogue and cooperation on migration with Morocco. The holding of the next informal migration dialogue (timing tbc) and the relaunch of the negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission remains a priority for the EU.

Among its neighbours, the EU's second largest cooperation portfolio on migration is with Morocco, with a total of €343 million to date, largely financed under the EU Trust Fund for Africa-North Africa window. This includes the €101.7 million programme of budget support launched at the end of 2019 to support the Ministry of Interior in the management of migratory flows, the fight against migrant smuggling and the support of vulnerable migrants in Morocco.

Recent and upcoming events

16 January 2019	Positive EP vote on Agriculture Agreement and HRVP visit to Rabat to mark the relaunch of relations	
12 February 2019	Positive EP vote on Fisheries Agreement	
25 April 2019	Visit by Head of Cabinet of Csor Avramopoulos to Rabat to meet senior officials	
20-21 June 2019	Moroccan and EU Senior Officials Meeting (HOME/NEAR/EEAS) in Brussels	Relaunch of the mobility EU-Morocco dialogue under the Mobility Partnership of 2013 on cooperation on migration and security ahead of the Association Council.
25 June 2019	Visit of EBCGA Director Fabrice Leggeri to Morocco	
27 June 2019	EU-Morocco Association Council	Joint political declaration that includes references to cooperation on migration and mobility
28/29 August 2019	Commission (NEAR/HOME) mission to Morocco	
31 October 2019	First Joint Committee EBCGA-Morocco in Warsaw	
10 December 2019	Operational Committee of the EUTF for Africa – North of Africa window	Additional package on border management and the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling
11 June 2020	Launch of the high level dialogue Europol- Morocco	

13 July 2020	Ministerial Conference of the Ministers of Interior of EU Member States and Partner Countries on countering Migrant Smuggling	Chaired by Italian Minister Luciana Lamorgese with the participation of Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi
7 October 2020	Second Joint Committee EBCGA-Morocco (VTC)	
1-2 December 2020	Visit of Commissioner Johansson to Morocco (together with Csor Várhelyi)	
2021 (tbc)	Informal migration and security dialogue including possible relaunch of negotiations of Visa facilitation/readmission	Chaired by DG of HOME, M. Pariat

Tunisia

The EU-Tunisia Association Agreement entered into force in 1998. EU-Tunisia Sub-Committees on Social Affairs and Migration are expected to take place once per year (last one took place in November 2018).

A Mobility Partnership was signed on 3 March 2014 between Tunisia and the EU. Visa Facilitation and a Readmission are part of the mobility partnership and the Commission has a mandate to negotiate such agreements. The last negotiation round took place in January 2019.

The EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) supports Tunisia in the implementation of the priorities of the National Strategy on Migration such as mobilising Tunisians abroad for investment in the country; providing social and economic assistance to Tunisian returnees as well as to young Tunisians prone to migration in regions most affected by emigration. The EUTF also supports Tunisia in the development of an Integrated Border Management system.

Recent and upcoming events

22-23 January 2019	Last round for Visa Facilitation Agreement and Readmission Agreement	
11 April 2019	EU-Tunisia Association Committee	Migration and Mobility on the agenda
17 May 2019	EU-Tunisia Association Council	Migration and mobility on the agenda
13 July 2020	Ministerial Conference of the Ministers of Interior of EU Member States and Partner Countries on countering Migrant Smuggling	Chaired by Italian Minister Luciana Lamorgese with the participation of Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi
17 August 2020	Mission to Tunisia of Commissioner Johansson and Commissioner Várhelyi, together with MoI and MFA of Italy	
10 March 2021	Sub-committee on justice and security	
20 /21 May 2021	Mission to Tunisia of Commissioner Johansson together with Italian Minister of Interior Lamorgese	
4 June 2021	Visit of Tunisia President Kais Saied to Brussels; meetings with Presidents von der Leyen, Charles Michel, David Sassoli	
September 2021 (tbc)	Sub-committee on Migration and Social Affairs	
November 2021 (tbc)	EU-Tunisia Association Committee	
December 2021 (tbc)	EU-Tunisia Association Council	

Algeria

The EU-Algeria Association Agreement entered into force on 1 September 2005. The Commission received a mandate to negotiate a readmission agreement with Algeria in November 2002. No negotiation has so far taken place. Migration and mobility is one of the 5 Partnership priorities adopted in March 2017.

Algeria is eligible for funding under the EU Trust Fund for Africa but has not expressed an interest.

Recent and upcoming events

20 February 2019	5 th session of the Algeria-EU informal Dialogue on migration and mobility (Algiers)	Chaired by HOME Director Marta Cygan
13 July 2020	Ministerial Conference of the Ministers of Interior of EU Member States and Partner Countries on countering Migrant Smuggling	Chaired by Italian Minister Luciana Lamorgese with the participation of Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi, Algerian Minister of Interior Kamal Beldjoud
7 December 2020	EU-Algeria Association Council (VTC)	Co-chaired by High Representative/Vice President J. Borrell and the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Boukaddoum. Commissioner Johansson and Minister Boukaddoum discussed migration and mobility in a dedicated session.
1 July 2021	EU-Algeria informal dialogue on migration and mobility	Co-chaired by DG HOME DDG Mr Johannes LUCHNER, with participation from EUDEL, EEAS, NEAR, SG and JHA counsellors as observers and on the Algerian side - Mr Cherif OUALID (Directeur des Affaires Consulaires, Direction Générale des Affaires Consulaires et de la Communauté Nationale à l'Étranger, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères), with participation from the ministries of foreign affairs, the interior, labour and social affairs, the gendarmerie nationale.
September 2021 (tbc)	Sub-committee on Justice and Home Affairs	

Egypt

Relations between the EU and Egypt are governed by an Association Agreement since 2004. The EU-Egypt Partnership Priorities were adopted on 25 July 2017 and include a chapter on the strengthening of bilateral co-operation on migration and mobility. On 16 December 2017, Commissioner Avramopoulos and Egyptian FM Shoukry launched the EU-Egypt Migration Dialogue.

In Egypt, a EUR 60 million programme under the EU Trust Fund for Africa programme was adopted in May 2017 to boost job opportunities in areas prone to migration, creating employment and building skills of young people – as well as supporting labour-intensive infrastructure development in cities hosting migrants, and other actions (SMEs, skills, health care) for areas with a high concentration of migrants. The Financing Agreement was only ratified by the Egyptian Parliament on 14th April 2019. Two out of the seven projects have been launched, four are being contracted and two are still waiting for clearance by Egypt.

Recent and upcoming events

25 June 2019	Visit of Commissioner Avramopoulos for the second round of the Migration Dialogue	Main purpose to ensure political continuity to the Migration Dialogue and discussion on Security.
10 July 2019	Senior Officials meeting on migration in Cairo	To follow up on the 2 nd round of the Migration Dialogue at the technical level
3 September 2019	EU Counterterrorism dialogue Coordinator visit to Egypt	To relaunch the dialogue on counterterrorism with Egypt.
27 November 2019	Meeting of the 7 th EU-Egypt Stability Cluster, Cairo	The meeting covered counter-terrorism, migration and asylum, as well as consular issues.
3-4 February 2020	EASO consultation meeting with Egyptian authorities in Malta	Opportunities for future cooperation
18-19 February 2020	Seminar organised by EASO on asylum in Alexandria	Asylum systems and procedures under the Common European Asylum System
3 September 2020	HRVP visit to Cairo	To discuss bilateral and regional relations; migration pact was briefly raised
4-9 October 2020	EASO technical level mission to Cairo	Future cooperation
5 November 2020	President of the European Council Michel visit to Cairo	To discuss bilateral and regional relations including fight against terrorism
2021 (tbc)	Migration Dialogue	
12 July 2021	Meeting between Commissioner Johansson and Egyptian Foreign Minister Shoukry	Discuss migration and security co-operation, raise EU intention to hold the next Migration Dialogue meeting in autumn 2021

Jordan

Relations between the EU and Jordan are governed by an Association Agreement which entered into force in 2002. On 12 December 2012, the EU and Jordan launched a Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security. On 9 October 2014, the EU and Jordan signed a Mobility Partnership. First bilateral discussions on visa facilitation and readmission took place in November 2016, but were afterwards put on hold by the Jordanian side, mainly due to concerns over third country nationals' clause in the readmission agreement. In 2016, the EU and Jordan adopted the Partnership Priorities, migration and mobility being one of them.

Recent and upcoming events

17 June 2019	EU raised Mobility Partnership in Association Council.	EU reiterated that it is ready to relaunch the negotiation process on visa facilitation and readmission, and encouraged Jordan to actively explore all opportunities provided by the Mobility Partnership.
26 May 2021	EU-Jordan Subcommittee on justice and security	
31 May 2021	EU – Jordan Association Committee	Discussed a range of subjects including security and then Mobility Partnership

Lebanon

Relations between the EU and Lebanon are governed by an Association Agreement signed in June 2002 (entered into force in April 2006). On 10 December 2014, the EU and Lebanon launched a Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security. In 2016, the EU and Lebanon adopted the Partnership Priorities, migration and mobility being one of them.

Lebanon expressed in May 2019 an interest in starting the negotiations for a Visa facilitation agreement. In the autumn 2019, there were signals that Lebanon would be willing to relaunch the negotiations on the Mobility Partnership, but no concrete follow-up steps have been taken by Lebanon so far (also due to complicated domestic political situation).

Recent and upcoming events

7 December 2020	FAC adopted Council Conclusions on Lebanon	
18-20 June 2021	HR/VP visit to Lebanon	

(C) Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia)

Cooperation with all Western Balkans partners remains a top political priority for the EU. The work with the Western Balkan partners is also enhanced by the 2018 Western Balkan Strategy and its six flagship initiatives, including on security and migration. All partners except Kosovo* enjoy a visa-free regime with the EU.

The Western Balkan partners are transit countries for migrants. Partnership with the Western Balkans is a good example of the comprehensive approach to migration management as set out in the New Pact. Through the support of the JHA Agencies and with significant financial assistance, the EU is working closely with partners in the region in the area of asylum and reception, border management, return and readmission, migrant smuggling, and sharing of information.

There are various Justice and Home Affairs subcommittee meetings and joint readmission committees with Western Balkan partners.

Recent and upcoming events

15 May 2019	EU – Western Balkans JHA SOM, Brussels	Cooperation and challenges in managing migration discussed.
18- 19 November 2019	EU – Western Balkans JHA Ministerial, Skopje	Cooperation and challenges in managing migration were among discussed topics.

22 October 2020	EU – Western Balkans JHA Ministerial, VTC	Commissioner Johansson and Commissioner Várhelyi attended the meeting and conveyed the priorities in the Western Balkans in the context of the New Pact.
18 - 19 February 2021	Commissioner Johansson's mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Meeting with state level and local authorities and visit to Lipa reception centre
20 February 2021	Commissioner Johansson's mission to Albania	Meeting with Minister of the Interior and visiting Frontex joint teams at the border with Greece
17 May 2021	EU – Western Balkans JHA SOM	Asylum, migration, border management and police cooperation in the area of prevention and investigation of child sexual exploitation online and off-line were discussed.
9 - 10 June 2021	Brdo Process Ministerial conference	Main topics were the management of mixed migration and the prevention and investigation of online child sexual abuse.
17 – 18 June 2021	Commissioner Johansson's mission to Serbia	Meetings with President Vučić (accompanied by Minister of European Integration Joksimović) and Minister of Interior Vučić.
October/autumn 2021 (TBC)	EU – WB Summit	
2-3 December 2021	EU – Western Balkans JHA Ministerial	

C) COUNTER-SMUGGLING COOPERATION WITH AFRICAN PARTNERS

A ministerial conference to counter migrant smuggling with African partners was hosted by Italy on 13 July 2020, with the participation of France, Germany (as Presidency), Malta, Spain, as well as Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi. This initiative aims to improve operational cooperation between the above EU and African partners in countering migrant smuggling and border management.

Follow-up calls with senior officials from each African partner country are being organised, where possible as part of wider dialogues.

Recent and upcoming events

13 July 2020	Ministerial conference between EU and African partners to enhance operational cooperation on countering migrant smuggling	Chaired by Italian Minister Luciana Lamorgese with the participation of Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi
17 August 2020	Visit to Tunisia by Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi and Italian ministers Lamorgese and Di Maio	
18 September 2020	Visit to Mauritania by Commissioner Johansson and Spanish interior minister Grande-Marlaska	

30 November 2020	Follow-up video-conference with Mauritanian senior officials	
2021	Follow-up video-conferences with senior officials from Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Libya as part of migration dialogues or other engagements (separately per country)	

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(D) EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Armenia

EU relations with Armenia are currently governed by the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed in November 2017, which entered into force on 1 March 2021 (substantial parts of it had been provisionally applied already since 1 June 2018).

A Mobility Partnership was signed on 27 October 2011. The first EU-Armenia Mobility Partnership High Level Meeting took place in January 2018.

The Visa Facilitation Agreement was signed on 17 December 2012 and the Readmission Agreement on 19 April 2013. Both agreements entered into force on 1 January 2014.

The declaration of the Eastern Partnership 2017 Brussels Summit includes a reference to consider in due course, if conditions allow, the opening of a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with Armenia, provided that conditions for well-managed and secure mobility are in place, including the effective implementation of Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements.

On 5 March 2019 President Juncker reiterated to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan that the technical conditions to start such a dialogue are considered to be fulfilled and indicated that the Commission is ready to provide support. He recalled that this requires prior political support of the Council and that Armenia needed to engage further with Member States. The Commission presented a Document 'EU-Armenia next steps on visa-related issues' with its view and data backing it, in the relevant Council Working Groups in September 2019, where it reiterated that the technical conditions are considered to be fulfilled. Some Member States indicated as a prerequisite that further reforms are addressed; subsequently Armenia engaged in a series of visits to Member States.

In July 2020, Armenia sent a 'Preparedness report to start a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with the EU', with a view to addressing existing gaps. Given the complexity of the issue, internal EU analysis on the Preparedness report is still ongoing.

Recent and upcoming events

2 April 2019	Joint Readmission Committee, Yerevan	
9 April 2019	EU-Armenia JLS Subcommittee, Brussels	
13 June 2019	EU-Armenia Partnership Council	
13 September 2019	EU-Armenia Joint Visa Facilitation Committee, Yerevan	
16 December 2019	EU-Armenia Partnership Committee, Brussels	
August 2020	EU-Armenia Joint Readmission Committee – written exchange	
17 December 2020	EU-Armenia Partnership Council	
28 April 2021	EU-Armenia Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	
27 May 2021	EU-Armenia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
29 June 2021	EU-Armenia Joint Readmission Committee	

Azerbaijan

EU relations with Azerbaijan are governed by the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which entered into force in 1999. Negotiations are currently taking place to agree on a framework agreement to replace the PCA (started in February 2017).

The declaration of the Eastern Partnership 2017 Brussels Summit includes a reference to consider in due course, if conditions allow, the opening of a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with Azerbaijan, provided that conditions for well-managed and secure mobility are in place, including the effective implementation of Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements.

These agreements entered into force on 1 September 2014. A Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan was signed on 5 December 2013 and the first High-Level Meeting was organised in February 2017.

Recent and upcoming events

5 February 2018	EU-Azerbaijan JLS Subcommittee, Baku	
27-28 February 2019	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Committee	
4 April 2019	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council, Brussels	
10 September 2019	EU-Azerbaijan Joint Readmission Committee, Baku	
6 November 2019	EU-Azerbaijan Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	
5 March 2020	EU-Azerbaijan JLS Subcommittee, Brussels	
Autumn 2020	EU-Azerbaijan Joint Readmission Committee (written exchange)	
19 November 2020	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Committee	
18 December 2020	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council	
27 April 2021	EU-Azerbaijan Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
Q3/Q4 2021 (tbc)	EU-Azerbaijan Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	

Belarus

Belarus is the only country in the Eastern Partnership region that does not have a framework document with the EU. The EU-Belarus Partnership and Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1995, but ratification was frozen in 1997. Negotiations on the EU-Belarus Partnership Priorities (a political document of non-binding nature) started in 2016, however were put on hold in 2020.

On 13 October 2016, Belarus and the EU signed a Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership. The kick off meeting took place on 10 November 2017.

In March 2019, after more than 5 years of negotiations of the EU-Belarus Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements, the Commission and Belarus reached an agreement on both texts. Both agreements entered into force on 1 July 2020. On 28 June 2021, Belarus announced its intention to launch

the procedure to suspend the Readmission Agreement with the EU. The EU has taken note of this decision of the Belarusian authorities. While awaiting an official notification from the Belarusian side, the EU has already started its internal reflection on next steps.

Recent and upcoming events

26 March 2019	6 th and final round of negotiations on the visa facilitation and readmission agreements, Brussels	Final texts were agreed between the chief negotiators on 29 March.
24-25 April 2019	7 th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, Minsk	

Georgia

The EU – Georgia Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Trade Agreement, (succeeding the PCA of 1999), was signed on 26 June 2014 in Brussels and entered into force on 1 July 2016.

The Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Georgia was signed in November 2009. The Readmission and Visa Facilitation Agreements with Georgia entered into force on 1st March 2011. Georgian citizens were granted visa-free travel to the Schengen area on 28 March 2017.

The third report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted on 10 July 2020 confirmed that Georgia has taken actions identified in the Second Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled.

Recent and upcoming events

5 March 2019	EU-Georgia Association Council, Brussels	Bilateral meeting between Commissioner Avramopoulos and Prime Minister of Georgia in the margins of the Association Council to discuss stepping up cooperation, followed by a visit of DG to Georgia (23-24 April 2019).
22 May 2019	JLS Subcommittee with Georgia, Tbilisi	Discussion to identify concrete operational measures to decrease irregular migration and crime-related challenges linked to the travel of Georgian citizens to the EU.
18 June 2019	EU-Georgia Association Committee, Tbilisi	
17 September 2019	EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee, Tbilisi	
1 July 2020	EU-Georgia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
15 December 2020	EU-Georgia Association Committee	
16 March 2021	EU-Georgia Association Council	

Republic of Moldova

The EU-Republic of Moldova) Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, (succeeding the PCA of 1994), was signed on 27 June 2014 and entered into force on 1 July 2016.

The EU-Moldova Visa Facilitation Agreement and Readmission Agreement entered into force in January 2008. An amended Visa Facilitation Agreement entered into force in July 2013. A Mobility Partnership was signed in June 2008.

Moldovan citizens were granted visa-free travel to the Schengen area on 28 April 2014.

The third report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted on 10 July 2020 confirmed that Moldova has taken actions identified in the Second Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled.

Recent and upcoming events

30 September 2019	Association Council	
15 October 2019	EU-Moldova Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
14 November 2019	JLS Subcommittee	
24 September 2020	JLS Subcommittee	
18 November 2020	EU-Moldova Joint Readmission Committee	

Ukraine

The PCA entered into force in 1998. Negotiations on an EU-Ukraine Association Agreement started in September 2008 and initialised in 2012. Ukraine and the EU parliament simultaneously ratified the economic and political parts of the Association Agreement on 16 September 2014.

The Readmission and Visa Facilitation agreements were concluded in 2008. An amended version of the Visa Facilitation agreement with Ukraine entered into force in July 2013. As of the 11 June 2017, Ukrainian citizens, can travel visa-free to the Schengen area.

The third report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted on 10 July 2020 confirmed that Ukraine has taken actions identified in the Second Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled.

22 March 2019	JHA Subcommittee, Kiev	
8 July 2019	EU-Ukraine Summit, Kiev	
6 September 2019	12 th EU-Ukraine Joint Readmission Committee Meeting, Kiev	
5 November 2019	EU-Ukraine Association Committee	
December 2019 (tbc)	EU-Ukraine Association Council	
1 July 2020	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
1 October 2020	EU-Ukraine Summit	
10 November 2020	EU-Ukraine Association Committee	

8 December 2020	EU-Ukraine Association Council-	This was replaced by a call on 8 December and the EU-Ukraine Association Council will take place on 11 February 2021
11 February 2021	EU- Ukraine Association Council	
19 May 2021	EU-Ukraine Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	

(E) RUSSIA

Russia

The EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) came into force in 1997. Ministerial meetings for Freedom, Security and Justice area (PPC) were organised regularly until the Ukraine crisis. The Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force on 1 June 2007. On 11 April 2011 the Council adopted a mandate for the renegotiation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

However, further cooperation with Russia in the Home Affairs area was affected by the illegal annexation of Crimea and Russian destabilisation of eastern Ukraine, which led to the introduction of sanctions against Russia. Meetings at ministerial and senior officials levels were suspended and all negotiations on new home affairs agreements, namely on visa liberalisation, upgraded Visa Facilitation Agreement (VFA), Europol and Eurojust (agreements on operational cooperation), have been suspended.

Collaboration with Russia continues mainly at expert level, such as the Visa Facilitation Agreement (VFA) and Readmission Agreement (RA) Joint Committees or Drugs expert meetings or migration dialogues, when deemed feasible and of interest to the EU.

Recent and upcoming events

21 October 2019	EU-Russia Counter-Terrorism Talks (high-level), Moscow	
22 November 2019	EU-Russia Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
4 December 2019	EU-Russia expert dialogue on Drugs, Brussels	
24 November 2020	EU-Russia Drugs Dialogue, Brussels	
2021 (tbc)	EU-Russia Joint Visa Facilitation Committee, Brussels	
2021 (tbc)	EU-Russia Joint Readmission Committee, Moscow	

(F) AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Cabo Verde

In 2007, the EU and Cabo Verde agreed on a Special Partnership Agreement. The Mobility Partnership with Cabo Verde was signed in 2007. Cabo Verde ratified visa facilitation and readmission agreements in October 2014. They entered into force on 1 December 2014. The visa facilitation and readmission agreement text has been amended to include further mobility facilitations. The negotiations started in October 2019 and were concluded on 24 July 2020 and on 18 March 2021 the amendment of the EU-Cabo Verde Visa Facilitation Agreement was signed. The text has now been transmitted to the European Parliament. It is expected that the amended agreement will enter into force this autumn.

Recent and upcoming events

10 September 2019	4th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Visa Facilitation Committee meeting – Brussels	Meeting confirmed the overall satisfactory implementation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement. The Commission requested the Council the authorization for opening negotiations to amend the EU-Cabo Verde VFA (notably to adjust to Visa Code) and the Council adopted the mandate on the 24 October.
28 November 2019	Formal opening of negotiations on Visa Facilitation Agreement - Brussels	
30 January 2020	Further round of talks on Agreement – Praia	
24 July 2020	Initialling of agreement text via email	
21 March 2021	Signing of amendment of the EU-Cabo Verde Visa Facilitation Agreement	
14 July 2021	Amended agreement text sent to European Parliament for vote of consent	All EP groups in favour except for one
29 June 2021	EU-Cabo Verde Ministerial in Lisbon	Migration and VFA on the agenda

Ethiopia

The Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) was signed by the EU and Ethiopia on in November 2015. A Joint Declaration "Towards an EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement", including a sectoral dialogue on migration, was also signed on 14 June 2016. Procedures for identification and returns of Ethiopian irregular migrants from Europe were approved by the Council on 29 January 2018.

Recent and upcoming events

24 January 2019	Visit of PM Abiy to Brussels	Meetings with President Tusk, President Juncker and the HR/VP
9 February 2019	EU-Ethiopia Ministerial Meeting, Addis Ababa	Co-chaired by the HR/VP and the Ethiopian MFA. Both sides acknowledged the need for further actions and cooperation, in particular to continue adequately implementing the Joint Valletta Action Plan. Both sides underscored the need for continued dialogue on migration between EU and Ethiopia.
13 May 2019	Joint Working Group on the implementation of Admission Procedures, Brussels	
8 October 2019	First Technical Meeting on the implementation of Admission Procedures, Addis Ababa	
28 November 2019	2 nd meeting of the Joint Working Group on the implementation of Admission Procedures + Consular Workshop, Warsaw	
26-28 February 2020	Visit of Commissioner Johansson to Addis Ababa, as part of the College to College discussions with the African Union.	
9-10 February 2021	Finnish Foreign Minister Haavisto meeting with PM Abiy, at the request of HR/VP	

4-9 April 2021	Second mission of Finnish Foreign Minister Haavisto mandated by the HR/VP	
2021 (TBC)	2 nd EU-Ethiopia dialogue on migration	

Niger

High-Level Dialogue on migration launched on 18 September 2015. The EUCAP Sahel Niger mission was enlarged in July 2015 including a new objective on migration. The EUCAP field office in Agadez opened April 2016. Since November 2017, refugees have been evacuated in a humanitarian evacuation scheme from Libya to Niger via the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger.

Recent and upcoming events

January 2019	Sherpa visit to Niger	Visit to the border with Algeria and meetings with the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Plan as well as implementing partners and local authorities.
July 2019	HR/VP visit to Niger	Meeting with Nigerien authorities in the context of the Sahel tour on occasion of the G5 Sahel Ministerial in Ouagadougou.
23 April 2021	HR/VP visit to Niger	Meeting with Nigerien authorities in the context of the Sahel tour (Part of visit to Mauritania, Mali and Niger on 21-24 April 2021);
18 June 2021	RSUE visit to Niger	Meeting with Nigerien authorities in the context of his end of mandate

Nigeria

Under the umbrella of the EU-Nigeria Ministerial meetings, several political dialogues session on migration have taken place in the last few years. A Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (Camm) was signed on 12 March 2015. 5 rounds of the EU Readmission Agreement negotiations took place but stalled at the end of the electoral period in Nigeria in 2018. On 18 November 2021 the 7th EU Nigeria Ministerial saw the relaunching of a high level political dialogue with this key partner country, after a 4-year hiatus, with a confirmed commitment towards a strategic, comprehensive and balanced partnership. Both Parties strongly stated their common will to step up cooperation on migration and security, and agree to relaunch readmission negotiations. Following five additional rounds of negotiations at the start of 2021, it was decided to refer back to the political level in order to get guidance on the continuation of these talks and the contentious issues identified. These negotiations are embedded in wider EU-Nigeria relations on migration and mobility (protection, remittances, fight against trafficking and smuggling, legal migration) to be discussed depending on the progress of the readmission agreement negotiations.

Recent and upcoming events

11-12 June 2018	Visit of Nigerian Delegation to Brussels	Discussion on Migration and Mobility package (including growth and investment, legal migration, Erasmus +, smuggling, THB, border security management, digital identity) and continuation of the
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		Readmission Agreement negotiations.
13-14 September 2018	Mission to Abuja	Continuation of the Readmission Agreement negotiations
19-20 November 2018	Visit of Nigerian Delegation to Brussels	Continuation of the Readmission Agreement negotiations (5 th round of negotiations).
16 November 2020	Bilateral VTC between Csr Johansson and Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs	To discuss migration and security prior to the Ministerial meeting, including testing the political will to relaunch the readmission negotiations.
18 November 2020	EU-Nigeria Ministerial Summit	Relaunch a comprehensive dialogue for cooperation and launch of a strategic partnership. Ministerial also allowed for relaunching of stalled readmission negotiations.
28 January 2021	Resumption of the negotiations on the readmission agreement (6 th round)	Full day session with a presentation of the new Pact and the resumption of the negotiations on the readmission agreement.
18 February 2021	7 th round of the negotiations on the re-admission agreement	Discussion on the provisions of the text
25 February 2021	8 th round of the negotiations on the re-admission agreement	Discussion on the provisions of the text
2 March 2021	9 th round of the negotiations on the re-admission agreement	Discussion on the provisions of the text
18 March 2021	10 th round of the negotiations on the re-admission agreement	Negotiations referred to political level; a number of outstanding issues remain unresolved at technical level.
17- 22 June 2021	Commissioner Urpilainen's discussion with the Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Onyeama.	The Ministerial roadmap and the readmission negotiations were addressed.

Senegal

Partnership compact launched by visit of Commissioner Avramopoulos in Dakar on 26 July 2016.

Political dialogue with the EU on migration started in 2016, but political commitments have not been fully turned into action so far; progress on returns and readmissions from Europe remains limited.

In 2020, Senegal has pleaded for more legal pathways towards the EU. It has lamented the no-lifting of restrictions on non-essential travel towards and from Senegal (with a negative impact on the tourism industry, as many tourists are from the EU) while it asked for EU support to relaunch the economy in the aftermath of the COVID crisis. Following the significant increase of irregular flows towards the Canary Islands, as well as a number of shipwrecks and incidents which affected Senegalese nationals, Senegal has asked the EU and relevant EUMS to enhance joint efforts in reducing irregular flows, fighting migrant smugglers and saving lives at sea.

Recent and upcoming events

15 May 2019	Meeting in Brussels between Commissioner Avramopoulos and M. Mamadou	Senegal is looking for financial support in the frame of the Youth Summer Olympic Games 2022 to
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	Diagna Ndiaye, President of the National Olympic and Sport Committee of Senegal	be hosted in the country. They see the event as an opportunity to create jobs and address the root causes of irregular migration.
12 June 2019	EBCGA and Senegalese authorities inaugurated the AFIC Risk analysis cell in Senegal	
9 July 2019	EBCGA's mission to Dakar	To finalise the Working Arrangements (with the DG of National Police) and the Umbrella agreement (with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The finalisation is still pending.
13 April – 14 April 2021	Meetings of Commissioner Johansson and Commissioner Urpilainen with President of Senegal M. Sall	The commitment of both sides to step up cooperation in a balanced and comprehensive way was noted.

(G) ASIAN COUNTRIES

China

The EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership came into force in 2003. China signed an Approved Destination Status Agreement in 2004, facilitating the entry of Chinese tourists into EU Member States and including provisions on readmission. Formal negotiation of an EU readmission agreement, based on 2002 negotiating directives, has not started yet. Negotiation of a PCA, including an article on readmission and visa cooperation, started in 2007.

At the 14th 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. At the 16th EU-China Summit (20-21 November 2013), shared commitments were taken to reinforce the objectives in the 2020 Agenda. Following that, a Roadmap, which consists of a two-stage approach, was finalised during the 2nd meeting of the EU-China Migration and Mobility Dialogue (Beijing, 9 April 2015). The first stage of the Roadmap, which comprises the signature of the EU-China short stay visa waiver for holders of diplomatic passports, the permission for EU Member States to open Visa Application Centres in 15 Chinese cities and the first Expert meeting held in Beijing on 5 November 2015, is considered finalised. The implementation of the 2nd phase of the roadmap is currently on-going. It involves parallel negotiations on: A visa facilitation agreement (VFA) covering holders of other types of passports (including ordinary passports). This also includes discussions on China allowing EU Member States to open further Visa Application Centres (VACs) in additional Chinese cities; and an agreement on cooperation in combating illegal migration (CIMA – including provisions on readmission in line with the EU mandate).

Recent and upcoming events

9 April 2019	EU-China Summit	China committed "to actively engage in the EU-China Mobility and Migration Dialogue (MDD) and to swiftly conclude the parallel negotiations on the agreements on visa facilitation and on cooperation in combating illegal migration." The EU has invited China to indicate dates for the 5 th meeting of the
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		MDD, but there has been no concrete reply by the CN side yet.
28 May 2019	Third round of negotiations on EU-China Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illegal Migration (CIMA) in Brussels	For the first time, China accepted to discuss concrete procedures on readmission and did not question the structure of the draft submitted in October 2018 after the second round of negotiations.
3 July 2019	Comments from China on draft Visa Facilitation Agreement	
26-27 November 2020	Technical meeting on immigration systems (webinar): policies and regulations	
10-11 December 2020	Seminar on cross-country cooperation to fight transnational organized crime: experiences of investigation, prosecution and conviction of trafficking in human beings' cases	
11 May 2021	Trainings for EU-Embassies in China on victim of trafficking identification	

India

The EU-India Co-operation Agreement entered into force in 1994. In 2004 the EU and India established a Strategic Partnership. The EU-India 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. After the first EU-India migration dialogue meeting held in 2006, the December 2010 EU-India Summit emphasised the importance of movement of people, and agreed to deepen cooperation by establishing a regular, comprehensive and structured dialogue on migration issues.

The 2012 EU-India Summit discussed possible ways to facilitate mobility – a recurring Indian request – in parallel with preventing and combating irregular migration. A Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) was signed and subsequently endorsed at the 2016 EU-India Summit. CAMM implementation is referred to in the EU-India Agenda for Action-2020, also endorsed at 2016 Summit as well as in the EU-India Roadmap 2025, endorsed at the 2020 EU-India Summit. The EU-India Leaders' Meeting in Porto on 8 May 2021 confirmed the commitment for close and comprehensive cooperation from both sides on all pillars of the CAMM and the continued engagement under the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility.

Recent and upcoming events

9-11 July 2019	EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM), India, New Delhi and side meetings with Ministry of Interior, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC).	Discussions on possible parallel negotiations on a visa waiver agreement for diplomatic passport holders and a readmission agreement between India and the EU.
9-11 July 2019	2 nd Project Advisory Committee of the CAMM/HLDMM support project & Migration governance seminar	
18 June 2020	Webinar on EU-India Remittances and the Impact of Covid-19	
2 July 2020	3 rd Project Advisory Committee of the CAMM/HLDMM support projects	

15 July 2020	EU-India Summit	Adoption of Joint Statement and 2025 Roadmap
26 February 2021	Webinar on Indian Diaspora in Ireland	
8 May 2021	EU-India Leaders Meeting	Adoption of Connectivity Partnership (including a section on people-to-people connectivity focused on students and researchers)
10 June 2021	Virtual seminar on Irregular Migration	
24 June 2021	4th Project Advisory Committee of the CAMM/HLDMM support project	

Bangladesh

The EU-Bangladesh Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Return of Persons without an Authorisation to Stay (SOPs) was signed on 20 September 2017. However, most recently some EU MS have expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of cooperation on the Bangladeshi side. To support capacity to implement the SOPs, DG HOME started in July 2018 a project under the Readmission Capacity Building Facility (RCBF, EUR 4.8 million) aiming at developing a Returnee Case Management System (RCMS) in Bangladesh and deploying an AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) to enable search by fingerprints in the copy of the Machine Readable Passport database owned by the Special Branch Police. The pilot phase was launched on 9 November 2020. Four Joint Working Groups on the implementation of the SOPs with Bangladesh have taken place to date. DG INTPA also contributing to the sustainable reintegration of returnees through the PROTTASHA project, which aims to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed policies.

Bangladesh has been providing assistance with the support of the EU, international community and humanitarian and development organisations to the Rohingya refugees, who fled violence in Myanmar in 2017.

Recent and upcoming events

4-5 April 2019	3rd EU – Bangladesh Joint Working Group on the Standard Operation Procedures for return	
17 October 2019	EU-Bangladesh Sub-group on Human Rights and Good Governance (including a point on Rohingya), Dhaka	
20 October 2019	EU-Bangladesh Sub-group on Development (including points on migration and forced displacement)	
21 October 2019	EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission (including points on migration and Rohingya situation), Dhaka	
16 January 2020	4th EU – Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the implementation of the SOPs, Dhaka	
21 June 2021	5th EU – Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the implementation of the SOPs	

19 July 2021	EU-Bangladesh Diplomatic Consultations (VTC)	
October 2021 (tbc)	10th EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission (and subgroups on Trade, Development and Human Rights and Good Governance)	

Pakistan

Pakistan is a major country of origin, transit and destination of refugees and migrants. Under the Strategic Engagement Plan of 2019, Pakistan and the EU are working towards launching of a comprehensive EU-Pakistan Migration Dialogue. At the moment, the main regular platform for cooperation in the migration area are the meetings of the Joint Readmission Committee for the implementation of the EU-Pakistan Readmission Agreement, as well as interactions at regional level through the Budapest Process. The full and effective implementation of the Readmission Agreement remains a priority. Ensuring protection space in Pakistan and support for Afghan refugees and host communities in the country, addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, reducing further arrivals of irregular migrants, strengthening migration governance, border management, countering migrant smuggling and opportunities for legal migration (a major interest of Pakistan) are areas to continue to be addressed. At the same time, migration-related cooperation with Pakistan cannot be isolated from the regional dimension of Afghan displacement and cooperation with Afghanistan and Iran.

Recent and upcoming events

20 March 2019	EU-Pakistan Political dialogue, Brussels	
26 March 2019	EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, Islamabad	
15 November 2019	EU-Pakistan Joint Commission	Including a point on migration and mobility
28 January 2020	11th Joint Readmission Committee and high level mission (DG HOME DDG meeting various migration related counter-parts)	
8 October 2020	EU-Pakistan Political Dialogue	Including point on migration (return and readmission) and implementation of Readmission Case Management System
24 February 2021	12th Joint Readmission Committee, VTC	
16 June 2021	EU-Pakistan Joint Commission	Including a point on migration and mobility.

Afghanistan

Relations with Afghanistan on migration are strongly embedded in the EU's overall relations with the country. After a peak in 2015 (267.480 irregular border crossings), migration from Afghanistan has risen again in 2018 and 2019. In 2019, Afghan nationals were the number one nationality of irregular arrivals to the EU with over 34,000 irregular border crossings which were reduced again to just over 10,000 in 2020. From a high of 28% in 2016, the effective return rate of Afghan nationals has gradually decreased to 8% in 2019. The average EU asylum recognition rate for Afghan nationals, including humanitarian status was 46.48% in 2019, though the rates vary significantly among the EU Member States. These figures cumulate and are translated into a high number of Afghan nationals who are irregular migrants and are now subject to return.

Since October 2016, the EU has engaged in a constructive dialogue on migration with Afghanistan within the framework of the Joint Way Forward on Migration Issues (JWF) in a spirit of partnership and with full respect of international law, including the principle of non-refoulement. The JWF has been instrumental in allowing the dignified, safe and orderly return of Afghan nationals from the EU Member States to Afghanistan and their reintegration in Afghanistan. With a view to its expiration on 2 October 2020, the Commission has successfully concluded negotiations with Afghanistan on a successor arrangement - a "Joint Declaration on Migration Cooperation (JDMC)" which similarly to the JWF, is a joint commitment to step up cooperation on a range of issues of mutual concern regarding migration. These include addressing and preventing irregular migration, countering migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, facilitating the return process of Afghan nationals who do not qualify for international protection and providing support for the sustainable reintegration of returnees. It comes in support to existing (or eventual future) bilateral agreements between EU Member States and Afghanistan.

The JDMC, was endorsed by Member States on 4 February 2021 following the successful completion of the written procedure and signed on 26 April 2021.

The EU continues to provide financial support for the sustainable reintegration of Afghan returnees into Afghan society. The EU Chairmanship of the Core Group of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) Support Platform in 2021 provides an opportunity to steer comprehensive responses to the Afghan displacement situation in the region. These include establishing the conditions for predictable, safe, orderly and dignified returns of Afghan nationals from neighbouring countries, e.g. Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, as well as providing for the protection and documentation of displaced Afghan populations in the region, and basic services for their and their host communities' development.

Recent and upcoming events

8 May 2019	6 th Meeting of the EU – Afghanistan Joint Working Group under the JWF on migration	
14 May 2019	2nd EU – Afghanistan Joint Committee, Kabul	
9 May 2019	2nd meeting of the Special Working Group on Human Rights, Good Governance and Migration, Kabul	
6 December 2019	7 th Meeting of the EU – Afghanistan Joint Working Group under the JWF on migration, Brussels	
17 – 18 February 2020	International Conference on 40 years of hosting Afghan refugees in Pakistan , Islamabad	
11 November 2020	8th meeting of the EU - Afghanistan Joint Working Group under the Joint Way Forward (JWF) on migration issues	

23 -24 November 2020	Ministerial Pledging Conference on Afghanistan	
24 February 2021	Special Working Group meeting on Human Rights, Good Governance and Migration	
2nd half of 2021	EU – Afghanistan Joint Committee	

Iran

In February 2019, the Council adopted the text of the Framework for a Comprehensive Dialogue Between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union on Migration and Refugee Issues, i.e. the terms for reference for a migration dialogue. The document was not yet been signed or otherwise endorsed.

Recent and upcoming events

8 December 2020	High-Level Dialogue with Iran – endorsement of Dialogue on Migration and Refugees Issues, agreement to start discussions at technical level while awaiting political launch.	
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Iraq

Four meetings under the informal Migration Dialogue took place in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 respectively, discussions comprised irregular migration and return, migration governance and migration and development.

A readmission clause is included as a legally binding obligation in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (art. 105) in force since 1 August 2018. However, cooperation on non-voluntary returns remains unsatisfactory.

Recent and upcoming events

27 March 2019	3 rd meeting of Informal Migration Dialogue	
8 September 2020	Sub-committee meeting on Human Rights and Democracy under the PCA.	
17 September 2020	Visit of Iraqi Foreign Minister in Brussels/meeting HRVP	Intention to hold the next iteration of the informal Migration Dialogue was confirmed
15 February 2021	4th meeting of the informal Migration Dialogue	
17 June 2021	Meeting of the EU Delegation with Iraqi Prime Minister to deliver a letter addressed to three migration-related ministers and co-signed by HRVP and the EU Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs focusing on Iraqi lack of cooperation on non-voluntary returns.	
21 June 2021	Irqi Foreign Minister took part in FAC	

30 June 2021	Irqi Prime Minister met PCOM in Brussels	
2021 (tbc)	Visit to Iraq by HR/VP Borrell	

(H) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Relations between the EU and the US were formalised 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. In 2015, the framework of the EU –US cooperation for 2014-2020 was further developed in the "Renewed EU-U.S. Statement on Enhancing transatlantic cooperation in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security".

Further to this commitment cooperation has been developed on migration and asylum issues in the context of the EU-US Cooperation Platform on Migration and Refugee issues, launched in 2010. Activities included areas such as unaccompanied minors, biometrics, refugee resettlement, trafficking in human beings and development of capacity building for migration management in third countries and contribution of the Diaspora to the development of countries of origin of migration. The dialogue was not continued under the Trump administration. The new administration is interested in reengaging with the EU on migration related topics, including at the UNVIGC fora and exploratory discussions on such a renewed dialogue are currently ongoing. Issues related to border management and visas are discussed in the regular EU US Justice and Home Affairs Senior Officials and Ministerial meetings.

Recent and upcoming events

27-28 February 2019	EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting, Bucharest, Romania	Topics covered counterterrorism, cybersecurity, border management (including visa reciprocity) and migration (combating migrant smuggling and trafficking).
19 June 2019	EU-US JHA Ministerial, Bucharest, Romania	Topics covered: counterterrorism, information exchange, cybersecurity, borders, visas and migration (including updates by the EU on EBCGA and ETIAS)).
26 September 2019	EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting-SOM, Brussels, Belgium	Topics discussed included visa reciprocity (US are in the process of assessing Member States' replies to their questionnaire, progress expected to be achieved quickly), counterterrorism, cybersecurity, aviation security, resilience of electoral systems, hybrid threats, cross-border access to e-evidence.
10-11 December 2019	EU-US JHA Ministerial, Washington D.C, USA	The agenda included mostly security related issues and visa reciprocity. It was decided to launch a transatlantic exchange of experiences on violent extremism

28 May 2020	VTC - EU-US JHA	A VTC focused on Covid-19 related developments in the EU and US (including travel restrictions). EU and US informed about each other's measures and confirmed the willingness to continue the information exchange.
15 September 2020	VTC - EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting	While the most salient points of the discussion covered PNR and data protection, US informed that Croatia was close to meet the US Visa Waiver Requirements. Both sides explained their different travel restrictions related to COVID-19.
14-15 April 2021	VTC - EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting	The agenda included mostly security related issues, but also covered migration. EU and US expressed interest to reengage on migration and in this context to explore possible issues of mutual interest.
22 June 2021	EU-US JHA Ministerial, Lisbon	Agenda included EU and US migratory situation and the Principals confirmed their agreement to pursue a transatlantic migration dialogue. Possible issues to discuss could include protection of those in need, community sponsorships, integration, legal pathways, partnerships with countries of transit and origin, readmission, and tackling smuggling of migrants.
9 July 2021 (online)	High Level Resettlement Forum	Event organised by Commissioner Johansson. The US and Canada are invited at ministerial level.
20 September 2021, Slovenia	EU-US Justice and Home Affairs' Senior Officials' meeting	



Part 3 - The global processes

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.

The process emerged after the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on 14-15 September 2006. The second High-level Dialogue on 3-4 October 2013 confirmed the GFMD as a valuable forum for holding frank and open discussions, which has helped to build trust among participating stakeholders.

The 8th GFMD Summit came immediately after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes migration as a recognised development enabler. During Turkey's Chairmanship,

an important feature was the insertion of forced displacement and refugees on the agenda, not the least due to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Ecuador is currently chairing the process.

Recent and upcoming events

20-24 January 2020 (POSTPONED)	11 th GFMD Summit, Quito	<p><i>Theme: Upholding rights, strengthening state agency, and advancing development through partnerships and collective action". Under this theme, the main three substantive focuses of the Chairmanship are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Joint responses to mixed migration flows: Partnerships and collective action to protect rights.</i><i>2. Migration narratives and communication: What role, responsibility and resources do governments have?</i> <p><i>Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies.</i></p>
18-26 January 2021	13 th GFMD Summit UAE on-line, opening speech by Commissioner Johansson	Theme: The Future of Human Mobility: Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development

UNITED NATIONS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015 recognizes that migration contributes to circular growth and development. It calls on UN Member States to increase international cooperation by facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. In this respect, the EU counts on a long-standing strategic partnership with the UN. In December 2018, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) were adopted by the UN General Assembly. This concluded the intense two-year process launched with the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. Follow-up and review under the Global Compact on Refugees will be conducted through the Global Refugee Forum (held every four years unless otherwise decided); high-level officials' meetings (held every two years between Forums); as well as annual reporting to the United Nations General Assembly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The first Global Refugee Forum took place on 16-18 December 2019. A high-level officials meeting will take place in 2021 to take stock of progress and look ahead to the next Global Refugee Forum. UN Member States will review implementation of the GCM through the International Migration Review Forum, to take place every four years beginning in 2022.

Recent and upcoming events

Feb/May 2019	Consultations by the co-facilitators on the modalities for the International Migration Review Forum	
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June 2019	Negotiations on the modalities for the International Migration Review Forum, New York	
March 2019	First UNHCR Preparatory Meeting in Geneva for the Global Refugee Forum of 17 and 18 December 2019	
June 2019	Second UNHCR Preparatory Meeting in Geneva for the Global Refugee Forum of 17 and 18 December 2019	
July 2019	UN General Assembly adopted the modalities for the International Migration Review Forum (Global Compact on Migration)	
11 December 2019	First Annual Meeting of the UN Network on Migration	
17-18 December 2019	First Global Refugee Forum (Global Compact on Refugees)	
12-13 November 2020	First Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the UNECE Region	
1 December 2020	High-level launch of first biennial UN Secretary-General Report "From Promise to Action" on the GCM	<i>UNSG Report on GCM implementation, focusing on key achievements and advancements in GCM implementation mainly among its champion countries. It could not escape the shadow that the COVID-19 pandemic put on its progress. The report present a good snapshot of the achievements of the past two years.</i>
27 January 2021	Virtual consultation on the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting and proposed orientations for the GCR indicator report	
4-8 October 2021	UNHCR Executive Committee meeting	Adoption of conclusions on International protection and durable solutions in the context of a public health emergency
14-15 December 2021	High-level Officials meeting under the Global Compact on Refugees	
2022	International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)	

Compiled by DG HOME/A3