

Mécanisme opérationnel de coordination des actions pour la dimension externe des migrations

MOCADEM

Action file

NIGER

8 February 2022

Specific objectives

- Continue support to Niger to establish and implement a comprehensive migration policy, notably to:
 - Ensure European support for the reception of IDPs, asylum seekers and refugees from Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso or evacuated from Libya.
 - Ensure early access to asylum procedures for asylum seekers
 - Strengthen border management capacities on a permanent basis, and combat smuggling networks, while assessing, if conditions allow, the possibilities for tripartite cooperation with the Libyan and Algerian authorities.

Output: A first report will be prepared on the progress achieved by the end of March.

Actions

Political and technical outreach

Action 1: Prepare regarding migration aspects, the EU's political contacts with Niger (Commissioner Johansson's visit on 14-15 February 2022; bilateral meetings in the margins of the EU-AU Summit on 17 and 18 February). Determine the possibility of future joint political contacts at the level of Ministers of the Member States.

- **Lead actors :**
 - Commission, EEAS and Member States
- **Timeframe :**
 - **S1 2022:** Follow up the February mission with potential political or high-level meetings of the Commission/EEAS and Member States

Action 2: Continue the migration dialogue between the EU and Niger, also taking into account Niger's own structures such as "Cadre de concertation migration", and articulate it with the migration activities put in place in the framework of the Central and Western Mediterranean/Atlantic TEIs concerning Niger, in support of its 2020-2035 migration action plan.

- **Lead actors :**
 - o Member States, Commission, EEAS: strengthening the existing dialogue on migration

- **Timeframe :**
 - o **S1 2022:** At the February political meetings and the Summit : agree on the principle and on a date with Niger for the migration dialogue.

Action 3: Reactivate the AU-EU-UN Trilateral Task Force on the situation of refugee migrants in Libya, following the EU-AU Summit, through a meeting of senior officials, to facilitate the resumption of evacuations, and to identify areas of further support for Niger, notably in the framework of the EUIOM Protection and Reintegration Initiative.

- **Lead actors :**
 - o Commission, EEAS

- **Timeframe :**
 - o **S1 2022:** Organisation of a meeting of senior officials of the Tripartite Task Force once conditions allow

Support measures for the protection of refugees and IDPs

Action 4: Provide financial support to UNHCR's Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger (ETM Niger), as well as in Rwanda, through NDICI programming (€56M support for centres in Niger and Rwanda validated in NDICI committee) and resettlement offers (funded by FAMI).

- **Lead actors:**
 - o Commission: financial support for ETMs and resettlements
 - o Member States (resettlements):
 - FR: 200 places from Niger in 2022
 - DE: 250 places
 - FI: 60 places (already selected)
 - IT: 70 from Niger (coupled with 500 directly from Libya)
 - BE: 100 places
 - SE: exact figure to be provided
 - NL: exact figure to be provided

- **Timeframe :**

- **Q1 2022:** Inform on the status of Member States' resettlement offers specifically for Niger, notably on the basis of pledges made in October 2021.

Action 5: Support the Nigerien authorities in the management of refugees and IDPs through the NDICI (e.g. programme in the Tillabéri regions, €50M) and the "North Africa" Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP NA – lead by IT), and the EUAA Regional Pilot Project for North Africa and Niger (supported by AT, BE, CZ, DK, IT, NL, DE). Implement an EUAA-Niger pilot project on capacity building on asylum and reception, proposed by the European Asylum Agency (EUAA), with expert support from Member States. Support to enhance access to asylum procedures.

- **Lead actors:**

- Commission: Financial support from NDICI and AMIF
- European Asylum Agency: EUAA-Niger pilot project, EUAA Regional Pilot Project for North Africa and Niger
- Member States: Implementation of the RDPP NA, and bilateral projects including :
 - FR: OFPRA/Direction Générale de l'état-civil, des migrations et des réfugiés partnership (December 2021) on asylum capacity building in Niger (continuation of previous projects).

- **Timeframe:**

- **End of March/April 2022:** start of the EUAA-Niger pilot project ('EUAA-NE Pilot Roadmap'), after consultation and a formal exchange of letters, according to the protocol to be agreed with the Nigerien authorities in February.
- **S1 2022:** continuation of RDPP activities (country mission planned in Europe in 2022) and MS bilateral projects
- **Ongoing until November 2023:** the EUAA Regional Pilot Project for North Africa and Niger.

Support measures in the field of border management and fight against irregular migration

Action 6: Determine the possibilities of setting up an anti-smuggling operational partnership (ASOP), drawing on the police and judicial cooperation actions already under way (joint investigation team, support for the Compagnies Mobiles de Contrôle des Frontières), in conjunction with the CSDP mission EUCAP Sahel Niger and the activities by Frontex.

- **Lead actors :**

- Commission: set up an ASOP, in conjunction with the Member States active in Niger (DE, ES, FR, NL, IT, BE) and international partners (IOM) and share the relevant information with Europol via SIENA once up and running.

- **Timeframe :**

- **Q1 2022:** Identify the axes for structuring and strengthening police cooperation in the framework of the ASOP, and notably by assessing the need for revising the mandate of the Compagnies Mobiles de Contrôle des Frontières.
- **S1 2022:** High-level demarches to the Nigerien authorities to raise awareness and identify their needs and expectations with a view to setting up the ASOP.

Action 7: Strengthen Frontex' action in Niger, including via its liaison officer, by finalising working arrangements with the CSDP missions EUCAP-Sahel Niger and EUBAM Libya, in order to facilitate border control actions in the south of Libya (supported by Italy with IOM) and any cooperative action that could allow for an intensification of patrols along the borders with Algeria and Libya. In the context of the ILO network, further consolidate a regular framework for the exchange of information between the various European actors involved in these initiatives and the Frontex liaison officer.

- **Lead actors:**

- Frontex, Commission, EEAS: finalisation of working arrangements
- Frontex, Commission, Member States, EEAS: set up regular information exchange consultations between the liaison officers of the Member States, the Frontex liaison officer and Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), on actions to combat migrant smuggling and border management.
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- **Timeframe:**

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- **S1 2022:** Finalisation of Frontex/CSDP working arrangements
- **Q1 2022:** Establishment of an enhanced European consultation framework between liaison officer on migrant smuggling and border management at local level.

Socio-economic support measures

Action 8: Seek the development of an economic basis to creating employment in the regions of Maradi, Niamey, Agadez and Zinder, and of training capacities (e.g. ongoing €50M project under NDICI), through EU budget and national funding coordinated under the TEIs.

- **Lead actors:**

- Commission: see Action Plan
- Member States: update Annex II of the Action Plan

- **Timeframe:**

By March 2022: Update Annex II of the Action Plan