

Brussels, 06 September 2024

WK 11065/2024 INIT

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	MOCADDEM Roundtable
Subject:	Further facilitating the effective operation of the MOCADDEM mechanism - Streamlining the structure of Action Files - Presidency paper

Delegations will find in annex the Presidency paper on the above-mentioned subject in view of the MOCADDEM meeting on 12 September 2024.

Presidency paper

Further facilitating the effective operation of the MOCADDEM mechanism - Streamlining the structure of Action Files

Over recent years, Member States have confirmed in numerous fora that actions in the external dimension of migration are essential to effectively address the migratory challenges. In recognition of that fact, the MOCADDEM was established in 2021 as a forum to discuss operationalisation of strategic discussions in other Council's fora, notably EMWP, and has been continuously strengthening our work in this key area.

As a follow-up to the discussions on the 10 country-specific action plans already developed in the framework of EMWP and on the strategic approach for EU and Member States' cooperation with third countries, since 2022 action files and matrixes have been presented under the MOCADDEM mechanism for 12 countries¹. Apart from these a background document on Morocco and thematic action files on instrumentalisation and return were elaborated. In parallel to MOCADDEM/EMWP Action plans/files and as a general policy response to the migration situation across the four key migration routes, the European Commission presented EU action plans focusing on those routes², whose implementation was subsequently discussed also in MOCADDEM.

The dedicated work of the Commission, the European External Action Service, the Agencies and Member States coordinating within the Council over the past two and a half years has resulted in the development and implementation of action files and matrixes that are able to address the main migration challenges in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner with a country and route-based approach, while responding to both the partners' and EU's needs. The primary objectives of these documents are to ensure coordination and mobilisation of the instruments available to the EU and the Member States, and to transform plans into action. Since they are "living" documents, it is necessary to adapt them regularly to new circumstances in order to achieve effective and adequate responses.

¹ Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Gambia, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Tunisia, Senegal and Pakistan

² Central Mediterranean, Western Mediterranean and Atlantic, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan Routes

During the evaluation of the functioning of the MOCADDEM mechanism in 2023, Member States emphasised the achievement of concrete results and the quality of existing documents, while regularly assessing implementation, without prejudice to the possibility of developing new action files if necessary.

On 10 July 2024, the Coreper held a comprehensive discussion on EU coordination in the external dimension of migration, with a particular focus on the role and potential strengthening of the MOCADDEM. During a full round of comments, the added value of MOCADDEM was highlighted, while both Member States and the Commission agreed that there is always room for further improvement, notably on coordination between MOCADDEM and other Council formations, as well as sharing of information between the EU and Member State level delegations, missions and embassies on the ground in third countries.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned points, in order to make the actions in the external dimension even more visible, dynamic and transparent, and most importantly even better coordinated and more effective, the Hungarian Presidency would like to initiate a discussion on possibilities to further streamline the structure of the action files. Against this background, Member States are encouraged to reflect and share their views on the current structure of the action files while highlighting any possible room for further improvement.

Questions:

1. Would you agree with ensuring the possibility for the Member States to include some of their flagship projects/initiatives linked to the third country concerned as a specific element of the action files and implementation reports in a Team Europe approach? How can coordination on the ground between EU and MS better feed into the MOCADDEM discussions and vice-versa?
2. What is your assessment of the current practice of managing ongoing action files and the related implementation reports separately? Would you consider it desirable to include the regular monitoring of implementation as an integral part of ongoing action files in an effort to streamline the workflow and ensure more efficient assessment of their progress?

3. In light of the previous question and in view of the current structure of the action files and matrixes, do you have any further suggestions on how to improve the efficiency of the mechanism by streamlining the structure of the Action Files, for example to better reflect structures of the EU's Strategic and Comprehensive Partnerships with third countries?

 4. How do you currently use common messages that are part of the action files? Do you agree with the current structure of the common messages or would you suggest any modifications to further increase their effectiveness? How to better involve other Council formations, notably regional working parties, in drafting of the common messages?
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