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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Joint Declaration on the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling

Delegations will find in the Annex the draft Joint Declaration on the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling, as drafted by the Commission services.

The text will be presented and examined in the JHA Counsellors meeting on 24 July 2025.

Joint Declaration on the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling

Brussels, 10 December 2025

We, representatives of the European Union and partner countries [list of countries], and International Organisations [list] gathered in Brussels on 10 December 2025 for the second international conference of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling;

Acknowledge the growing challenges posed by migrant smuggling as a transnational crime that endangers the lives and dignity of migrants, fuels criminal networks operating across borders, and undermines national migration systems;

Reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, alongside other relevant international law, including human rights instruments;

Confirm our joint determination to strengthen international cooperation in implementing a comprehensive and coordinated global response under the [Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling](#), launched in November 2023, to address smuggling in all its forms, in a ‘whole of route’ approach, in the spirit of shared responsibility, and guided by the three pillars of the Call to Action of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling: better prevention, stronger response, and alternatives to irregular migration, including legal pathways;

Recognise that migrant smuggling networks are often linked to trafficking in human beings, exploitation, violence, and human rights violations, as well as to other transnational organised crimes, and reaffirm the importance of coordinated efforts that uphold human rights and dignity.

[On prevention of migrant smuggling, we:]

Reaffirm the need for strong national legal and institutional frameworks that criminalise migrant smuggling in line with international standards;

Highlight the importance of collecting and sharing situational awareness data to improve our understanding of smuggling patterns;

Support awareness-raising campaigns along the main migratory routes to counter the narratives of smugglers, and inform about risks and the safe, regular, and accessible pathways for legal migration, including economic opportunities in countries of origin and transit;

Intend to enhance collaboration with transport operators, authorities, and stakeholders to counter the use of commercial transport for irregular migration, in particular air transport;

[On response to migrant smuggling, we:]

Strengthen operational cooperation at all levels, involving law enforcement, border authorities, and justice systems, in particular through joint investigations and judicial cooperation in criminal matters;

Enhance measures aimed at strengthening legislative, investigative and judicial responses to effectively prevent, deter, and combat the smuggling of migrants;

Step up financial investigations to trace, seize, and confiscate smuggling proceeds and dismantle the economic infrastructure of smuggling networks;

Combat corruption and fraud facilitating migrant smuggling, in line with the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, and the UN Convention Against Corruption, to fight against any form of corruption and fraud enabling these crimes.

Enhance capacity-building, technical assistance, regional dialogues, and peer-to-peer cooperation—working closely with the UN agencies, and in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and relevant regional and international actors;

Promote cooperation with digital platforms and tech providers to detect, prevent and remove online content on migrant smuggling, ensuring transparency, regulatory accountability, and building capacities of national authorities in this field;

Recall that, in line with international law, migrants shall not become liable to criminal prosecution for the sole fact of having been smuggled, and humanitarian assistance, extended in accordance with international law, shall not be criminalised;

Renew our commitment to facilitating the safe, and dignified return of migrants not entitled to remain on the territory of the destination country, while supporting their sustainable reintegration.

[On alternatives to irregular migration, we]

Reaffirm our commitment and determination to promote safe and regular migration pathways for people in need of international protection, resettlement, humanitarian admission, and complementary pathways for work and education;

Increase efforts to facilitate legal and orderly migration by supporting training, skills development, international labour mobility, and labour market integration through mutually beneficial partnerships;

Recognise the importance of strengthening protection and support within countries of origin and neighbouring regions, enabling individuals to find safety, security, and opportunity without the need for dangerous, long-distance migration journeys and by offering young people tangible future opportunities in countries of origin through job creation and vocational education and training.

We, the representatives of the partner countries and international organisations, endorse this Declaration and reaffirm our commitment to work in solidarity, responsibility, and partnership to prevent and combat migrant smuggling globally.

We reaffirm that the Global Alliance and this Joint Declaration shall remain open for endorsement by other partner countries and international organisations that share our commitment to advancing collective efforts to counter migrant smuggling worldwide.