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LIMITE

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	MOCADEM Roundtable

N° prev. doc.:	WK 3848/2025 INIT
Subject:	Action file - Mauritania

In view of the MOCADEM Roundtable meeting of 28 November 2025 delegations will find attached the "Action file - Mauritania".

Introduction / objectives

Strengthening a regular high-level dialogue within the framework of the Joint Declaration from March 2024 on the issues and challenges of migration and forced displacement. Dialogue is based on reciprocity, which provides a framework for agreeing on joint objectives and actions as well as joint recommendations. The objectives are:

- better organising legal migration and mobility;
- preventing and managing irregular migration – including through the creation of opportunities for the youth;
- better managing the borders;
- combating migrant smugglers and human traffickers;
- supporting Mauritania in hosting refugees and promoting international protection, while at the same time providing support to host communities;
- facilitating the return of Mauritanian nationals who do not have the right to stay in the EU, while respecting human rights and applicable international standards pertaining to persons in need of international protection.

Actions¹

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ²	Next Steps / Comments ³
1. Developing EU-Mauritania dialogue on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Migration (signed in March 2024)	Hold regular dialogues, at high level and at senior official level once a year – alternately in Mauritania and in the EU – and at technical/operational level as appropriate. This dialogue will aim to exchange information and views on legislation, policies and best practices, to continuously explore possibilities for practical cooperation, to formulate policy and operational recommendations and to progressively develop actions - with clear and measurable objectives - in all priority areas of the Joint Declaration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission/EEAS: Launch a comprehensive and regular dialogue to implement the Joint Declaration. Establish an action plan/timeline for upcoming dialogue at political and technical level and priority areas and objectives for each meeting. Discuss the action plan with the Mauritanian counterpart. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First formal migration dialogue under the migration partnership on 21 January 2025. Mauritania listed its many efforts in curbing irregular migration, departures towards the EU, as well as managing refugee inflow. [REDACTED] • Nearly all components of the EUR 210 million package are being implemented (border surveillance, fight against migrants smuggling and trafficking in human beings and support to migrants rescued at sea, support for Malian refugees hosted in the country and budgetary support). • As part of the above, EUR 100 million for budget support are also being implemented, with a first disbursement in December 2024 (EUR 23 million) and a second one in September 2025 (EUR 37 million). 	<p>Next migration Dialogue one year after the previous dialogue, on the 9th of December 2025, in Brussels.</p> <p>Keep implementing all components of EUR 210 million package.</p> <p>Regular meetings with national authorities on Budget Support are taking place (one third of the variable tranches of the budget support programme is linked to migration (for a total of EUR 18.4 million).</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

¹ As per the agreed new structure : List of actions with objectives following a list identified in the introduction

² As per agreed new structure: Key actions completed in the last 6-12 months

³ As per agreed new structure: Key actions planned for next 6-12 months

<p>2. Creation of socio-economic opportunities for the youth</p>	<p><i>Address the root causes of irregular migration, primarily by promoting the creation of employment opportunities for the Mauritanian youth (in particular through Technical and Vocational Education and Training - TVET). Improve the relevant skills and competences of the Mauritanian youth (in particular young women). Increase access to finance and microcredit, training and incubation of enterprises.</i></p>	<p>EIB: micro-credits for small enterprises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUR 20 million NDICI programme launched to focus on youth and refugees on preventing irregular migration in and from Mauritania through reinforcing its youth's and refugees' access to TVET and jobs. 	<p><i>Keep implementing micro-credit for small enterprises.</i></p>
<p>3. Protection and asylum</p>	<p><i>Strengthen the capacity to identify, register and document asylum seekers while ensuring compliance with the international protection framework. Strengthen reception and protection capacities for asylum seekers and refugees, while guaranteeing the respect for human rights with particular attention</i></p>	<p>Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation, Member States: Support UNHCR, IOM and local NGOs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) - sixth phase- until May 2025, implemented by UNHCR and IOM, among others, for the registration, documentation and refugee status determination and the protection of vulnerable migrants (children in particular). • EUR 5 million programme to support refugees and host communities in M'Berra. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUR 2 million project supporting Mauritanian Civil Protection and the Mauritanian Red Crescent (responsible for the first line assistance to migrants after disembarkation and Search and Rescue in shallow waters and recovery/transport of deceased persons). Under the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) and

	<p><i>to the most vulnerable. Strengthen access to socio-economic services for refugees, asylum seekers and host communities, and support Mauritania's efforts to implement the commitments made at the World Refugee Forum in 2023.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Migrants rescued at sea will be given assistance with the support of the Red Crescent, and then screened with the assistance of UNHCR, IOM and the National Commission for Human Rights, to identify their possible vulnerabilities, determine their legal status and receive assistance and protection accordingly. 	<p><i>implemented by ICMPD (launched in 2025 until January 2027).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Seventh phase of RDPP is running since January 2025 with a budget of EUR 4.9 million for Mauritania (until 2028).</i> • <i>EUR 60 million package addressing the challenges of migration, refugees and host communities in Mauritania' being implemented. Component 1 'Protection and durable solutions for asylum seekers, refugees and host communities' comprises two actions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tawafoug project promoting socio-economic development and peaceful coexistence of hosts, refugee and returnees in the wilaya of Hodh el Chargui. The project is running since the end of July 2024 (until July 2027) implemented by NGOs (EUR</i>
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				<p>20 million from NDICI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Socio-Economic Integration Based on Agro-Pastoral Activities for Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Hodh El Chargui (MIRECAM)" project ongoing acting on the nexus between humanitarian and development challenges, including elements that contribute to social cohesion and stability (HDP) Implemented by ENABEL -BE- (EUR 8 million from NDICI).
<p>4. Legal migration and mobility</p>	<p><i>Encourage mobility of students, researchers and entrepreneurs. Explore possibilities to enhance circular mobility, by improving information on legal migration opportunities, taking into account the respective labour market situation</i></p>	<p>Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation</p> <p><i>Ongoing call for proposals in 2025.</i></p>	<p>- Ongoing call for proposals under HOME funds (AMIF, which will remain open in 2025), for legal migration projects including mobility schemes (Lot 2) and support to the EU's migration priorities with partner countries (Lot 1).</p> <p>- EUR 2.5 million allocated for the first labour mobility scheme with Mauritania. [REDACTED]</p>	<p>- Project Wafira II ongoing which will prepare the ground for mobility and reintegration projects for seasonal workers, based on the WAFIRA I project carried out with Morocco. It started in August 2025 (running until November 2028). Implemented by ES, FR and</p>

	<p>and national legislation. Support Mauritanian diaspora networks in Europe and the integration of Mauritanian legal migrants in the country of residence, including with regard to remittances, in the interests of Mauritania's sustainable development.</p>		<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>ILO (around EUR 5 million from AMIF -including Mauritania among other countries).</p> <p>- Design and implementation of project on labour mobility scheme.</p>
	<p>Work towards improving the procedures for issuing visas within the respective legislative frameworks,</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation:</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Schengen coordination, local level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local Schengen cooperation in Mauritania is being reinvigorated with the support of the Commission. 	<p>On 11 September 2024, the Commission adopted a harmonised list of supporting documents for visa applicants from Mauritania. The harmonised list facilitates the Schengen visa application procedure for Mauritanian citizens.</p> <p>EUR 300 000 "Schengen Visa Information Campaign" project (HOME funds) ran between January and August 2025. The campaign explained the visa procedure to the public, dispelled myths and misinformation and provided practical tips for a smooth application, contributing to reducing the refusal rate. A top up of 140.000 euro was approved to support Mauritania in the certification of</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>

			commercial intermediaries in visa matters, in order to limit the risks of fraud (bringing the total to 440.000).	
6. Irregular migration, migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings, return and readmission	<i>Step up efforts to prevent irregular migration, including through information and awareness-raising campaigns and border management measures as a key element in the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and the protection of the most vulnerable.</i>	Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation <i>Several initiatives already implemented, being implemented and planned.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme on preventing irregular migration in and from Mauritania included an action on improving information on migration (EUR 1,75 million) and was implemented by IOM. • A new AMIF call for proposals (EUR 10 million) was launched on 19 November 2024 to fund awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in selected third countries and within Europe. Mauritania has been identified as a priority third country to be addressed by project proposals. 	<p>- The regional programme Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration (MPRR, implemented by IOM -NDICI funds) is ongoing and supporting the assisted voluntary returns of migrants from Mauritania to their countries of origin.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
	<i>Combat and prosecute criminal networks engaged in migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, including through joint investigations, capacity building of the security services and judicial</i>	Member States with EU funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish Policía Nacional will continue to lead the Common Operational Partnership (COP) in Nouakchott. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project “Migration Intelligence Services Partnership to foster Euro-Africa Cooperation (MISPEAC) on anti-migrant smuggling” (implemented by ES, around EUR 1,7 million from ISF) complements the Common Operational Partnership. The project seeks to promote peer-to-peer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase III of GARS project aims at creating 160 Security Forces at the Police Unit for the surveillance of the borders of Mauritania with Senegal and Mali.

			<p>million EU contribution) is being implemented in a number of countries globally by UNODC; in addition to the Global Action against the financial and digital-based dimensions of migrant smuggling (EUR 15 million) by UNODC too.</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
	<p>The EU and Mauritania will strengthen their cooperation on return and readmission and ensure that the rights and dignity of individuals are fully protected and respected, in line with the Samoa agreement.</p>	<p>Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>7. Border management, surveillance and control</p>	<p>Strengthen the resources and capacities of the authorities responsible for border management, surveillance and control, including through enhanced cooperation between Mauritania and Frontex in accordance with the needs identified by Mauritania in this</p>	<p>Frontex</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Frontex opened an AFIC (Africa Frontex Intelligence community) risk analysis cell in Mauritania in September 2022. AFIC provides a framework for regular knowledge and information sharing in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • A EUR 10.5 million programme (NDICI) on control of territory, stability of border areas, and migration management was adopted in 2022. This was 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • A land-sea continuum strategy was adopted in the context of CIVIPOL cooperation to prevent dangerous sea departures, involving police, gendarmerie, coast guards, and navy. Equipment

	<p><i>field, in particular in terms of equipment and training, and in compliance with its sovereignty.</i></p>	<p><i>the field of border security (migration flows and cross-border criminality).</i></p> <p>████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p><i>complemented in 2023 with the adoption of another programme (NDICI, EUR 6.4 million) about strengthening the management of land and sea borders.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In addition, another EUR 25 million (NDICI, Flexible Mechanism) was signed with CIVIPOL in August 2024 on strengthening operational and border management capacities as well as search, rescue and protection of migrants at sea and on the coast.</i> 	<p><i>delivery began in November 2025 and will continue until mid-2026.</i></p>
	<p><i>Strengthen search and rescue operations.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Support to search and rescue is part of the EUR 25 million (NDICI, Flexible Mechanism) programme signed with CIVIPOL in August 2024. In May 2025 Mauritania adopted national standard operating procedures SOPs to set clear procedures for search and rescue at sea, for disembarkations, and for the subsequent treatment of disembarked migrants in line with international human right laws, including monitoring of human rights and a complaint mechanism.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A training program is in place, alongside regulatory frameworks and the setup of the MRCC, a maritime rescue coordination centre.</i> <i>EUR 2 million made available from HOME funds for needs after disembarkation (support to Civil Protection and Mauritania Red Crescent).</i>

ANNEX I - Member States actions

Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
DE Action 2	Technical and Vocational Education and Training - project "ProEmploi" for young Mauritians and officially registered migrants, to foster employment, implemented by GIZ	BMZ: EUR 7 million and EU: EUR 8 million	07/2023 – 03/2028
DE Action 2	Technical and Vocational Education and Training - project "Strengthening TVET": Construction, renovation and equipment of TVET-Centers, implemented by KfW	EUR 21,5 million	2015 - 2028
DE Action 2	Project "DEIM II" for integrated economic development in the mining sector, implemented by GIZ	EUR 5 million	11/2021 – 11/2025
DE Actions 2 and 3	Ongoing project "ProNexus" for socio-economic inclusion of refugees and vulnerable members of host communities, implemented by GIZ and UNHCR	EUR 8 million	11/2024 - 09/2027
DK	Strengthening Mobility in West Africa (Mauritania among others). The project is a separate "add-on" to the EU's ECOWAS program "Free Mobility and Migration in West Africa (FMM II)". Financing a secondment in ECOWAS's department for mobility and migration as well as a "demand driven facility" in ECOWAS, to get help in implementing relevant ECOWAS protocols at country level.	EUR 4 million	Until 19 December 2028
ES Action 4	ES - GECCO Circular migration Address the root causes of irregular migration and promote legal/labour migration pathways. 50 workers to be recruited for the agricultural sector.	Financed by private sector	April to November 2025
ES Action 4	ES – THIERRA FIRM Vocational training program for youth	EUR 400 000 (for 2025)	October 2024- May 2025

	Address the root causes of irregular migration and promote legal/labour migration pathways		
ES Action 6	ES – MAURITANIA JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM Fight against smuggling of migrants. 6 members of Policía Nacional and 6 of Mauritanian police forces	EUR 108 000 per year	Indefinite (started in 2008)
ES Action 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Spain will continue to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support the Mauritanian Coastguard's border surveillance operations;</i> • <i>Support the presence of two Mauritanian Liaison Officers (1 Gendarmerie Nationale and 1 Police Nationale) in Guardia Civil's Regional Coordination Center (CCRC);</i> • <i>Develop joint border surveillance patrols with Mauritanian Security Forces;</i> • <i>Deliver relevant equipment;</i> • <i>Deliver relevant training both in border surveillance and border inspection.</i> 		
FR Action 7	<p>Strengthening the criminal justice system in fighting migrant trafficking:</p> <p>Ensure a better judicial response to the rise in migrant trafficking in Mauritania, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving the efficiency (1) and capacities (2) of judicial cooperation between police forces, prosecutors, judges and the prison administration; - supporting the judicial protection of migrants (3). 	EUR 1 million	2 years

FR Action 7	[REDACTED]		
IT Action 3	Strengthening the protection of minors and direct assistance to vulnerable migrants, in cooperation with IOM.	EUR 2 million	1 April 2025 – 31 December 2027
IT Action 3	Improving the systems of protection for refugees and asylum seekers in Mauritania, in cooperation with UNHCR.	EUR 2,9 million	1 January 2025 – 31 December 2027
SE Action 3	Development cooperation project (UNHCR) “Protecting Lives, Strengthening Systems: Operationalizing a route-based approach to manage mixed movements along the West Atlantic Route	EUR 1,5 million EUR 4,5 million in total in the region.	2025

ANNEX II: Common messages

[Strengthening exchanges on migration issues]

- Underline the strategic interest of Mauritania for the EU, and the comprehensive approach to our cooperation, therefore not only regarding migration, but also security, fisheries and energy among others.
- Emphasise that in this regard the mobilisation of **EUR 210 million** is not only to support migration management but also to support Global Gateway initiatives, including investments, infrastructure and job creation primarily in the field of energy.
- Welcome the strengthening of relations between the EU and Mauritania within the framework of the **Joint Declaration** and underline the importance to maintain a regular dialogue on migration, following a holistic and human rights-based approach, in order to work on the implementation of the Joint Declaration.
- Encourage Mauritania to actively engage in the forthcoming discussions to ensure that upcoming projects respond to Mauritania and the EU's needs and priorities.
- Underline the importance of promoting safe, orderly and **legal migration** on the basis of the Joint Declaration and in accordance with international standards.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Discuss possible opportunities for triangular cooperation between Mauritania, other Northern African and sub-Saharan countries e.g., in the framework of the TEI for the Western Mediterranean route.

[Border Management]

- Acknowledge the important efforts Mauritania is already making to strengthen maritime and land borders management; prevent or intercept departures; improve coordination on search and rescue at sea and dismantle criminal networks.
- [REDACTED] In 2024 Mauritania was the main country of departure to the Canary Islands, accounting for more than half of departures (almost 25 000 migrants departed from Mauritania in 2024). [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Between January – September 2025, departures from Mauritania almost halved compared to the same period in 2024.
- Encourage MRT to continue its efforts. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[Fight against migrant smugglers]

- Encourage Mauritania to support the activities of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling, including the 2nd International Conference on the Global Alliance to be organised by the Commission on 10 December 2025 and endorse the Joint Declaration.
- Welcome Mauritania's active participation in **cooperation at regional level** aimed at combating the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings in the region, particularly through the activities of the Netcop II project and the Niamey Process. Encourage Mauritania hosting the next regional conference of the Niamey Process in 2025.

[Identification of topics for migration cooperation]

- Underline that, in the perspective of budgetary programming, in particular that of the NDICI— Global Europe, the EU is determined to favour the axes of cooperation best suited to Mauritanian interests.
- Indicate that the EU could notably support the action of the new government in several of the most transformative areas with the greatest impact on the population and support the stability of Mauritania through economic and social recovery.
- [REDACTED]

[Readmission]

- Encourage the Mauritanian authorities to take advantage of the regular dialogue to identify measures to progress in the field of readmission and return (both voluntary and non-voluntary).
- Underline the importance to ensure swift and reliable cooperation on readmission in all phases of the process and for all Member States.
- Recall the terms of the Samoa Agreement [REDACTED]

[Protection]

- Recognise the government's efforts to take in approximately 280 000 refugees (the vast majority of whom are from Mali), in line with the commitments they took during the Global Refugee Forum.
- Support the creation of screening centres that will make it possible to identify persons in need of protection.