



Brussels, 21 January 2026
(OR. en)

16925/25

LIMITE

**JAI 1921
MIGR 480
RELEX 1726
ASIM 101**

NOTE

From:	Commission Services
To:	Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)
No. prev. doc.:	10306/25
Subject:	Update on the state of play of external cooperation in the field of migration policy

Delegations will find attached an update on the 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**

January 2026

Contents

Part 1- Bilateral dialogues	5
A. AFRICAN COUNTRIES	5
CABO VERDE	5
CAMEROON	6
ETHIOPIA	9
MAURITANIA.....	11
MALI	14
NIGER.....	18
NIGERIA.....	20
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.....	23
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)	24
SENEGAL	25
CHAD	29
GUINEA.....	30
COTE D’IVOIRE.....	32
THE GAMBIA	34
SOMALIA	36
B. SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES.....	39
MOROCCO	39
TUNISIA	41
ALGERIA	44
EGYPT	46
LIBYA.....	52
JORDAN	57
LEBANON	60
C. WESTERN BALKANS.....	63
ALBANIA	68
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.....	71
NORTH MACEDONIA	74
MONTENEGRO.....	76

SERBIA.....	80
KOSOVO.....	82
TÜRKIYE.....	84
D. ASIAN COUNTRIES	88
CHINA	88
INDIA	90
BANGLADESH	92
PAKISTAN.....	95
AFGHANISTAN	98
IRAN.....	102
IRAQ.....	103
E. EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES.....	105
ARMENIA.....	105
AZERBAIJAN.....	109
BELARUS	110
GEORGIA	111
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	113
UKRAINE	116
F. RUSSIA.....	120
G. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	121
A. THE PRAGUE PROCESS	124
B. THE BUDAPEST PROCESS	127
C. THE AFRICA-EU MIGRATION AND MOBILITY DIALOGUE	129
D. THE RABAT PROCESS	130
E. THE KHARTOUM PROCESS	133
F. THE ACP-EU MIGRATION DIALOGUE.....	136
G. THE EU-CELAC MIGRATION DIALOGUE.....	139
A. GLOBAL FORUM FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT	141
B. UNITED NATIONS	141

The European Commission adopted the New Pact on Migration and Asylum 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 Working Party on the External Aspects of Asylum and Migration by the responsible European Commission and EEAS services.

This document also serves as a tool to follow-up the implementation of the European Council Conclusions (on external aspects of migration) as well as the outcomes of meetings of the Home Affairs and the Foreign Affairs Ministers.

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

Part 1- Bilateral dialogues

A. AFRICAN COUNTRIES

CABO VERDE

In 2007, the EU and Cabo Verde agreed on a Special Partnership Agreement and a Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership with Cabo Verde was signed in 2008. In December 2014, a visa facilitation and a readmission agreement, entered into force. The visa facilitation agreement was jointly evaluated in 2017, and the text has been subsequently amended to include further mobility facilitation. The negotiations started in October 2019 and were concluded on 24 July 2020. On 18 March 2021, the amendment of the EU-Cabo Verde Visa Facilitation Agreement was signed in Brussels. The European Parliament voted on the amended agreement on 15 September 2021, and it was adopted by the Council on 7 October 2021. On 3 May 2022, Cabo Verdean authorities informed the Council that the ratification process had been completed, and the amended agreement entered into force on 1 July 2022.

Key past and upcoming events

31 January 2023	EU – Cabo Verde Ministerial in Praia	Migration, mobility and VFA implementation on the agenda. In the final Joint Communique, the entry into force of the amended agreement is welcomed by both parties.
9 March 2023	5th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Readmission Committee meeting + 5th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Visa Facilitation Committee meeting – Praia	
31 January 2025	13th Ministerial Meeting Cabo Verde – European Union Special Partnership	
14 November 2025	Frontex Executive Director Hans Leijten met in Praia Cabo Verde’s Minister of State, Minister of National Defence, Minister of Territorial Cohesion, Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of Interior.	Frontex and Cabo Verde launched an aerial surveillance pilot project to strengthen maritime awareness and save lives at sea.
Q1 2026 (TBC)	6th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Readmission Committee meeting + 5th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Visa Facilitation Committee meeting – Brussels	

CAMEROON

Cameroon is a country of origin of migrants to the EU. Irregular arrivals significantly decreased in 2024 compared 2023 (1 569 v. 6 322; -75%). Between January - October 2025, arrivals further decreased compared to the same period in 2024 (579 v. 1 226; -53%). In 2025 arrivals occurred mainly via the Central Med route (53%), the Eastern Med (27%) and Western Med (13%).

Following the peak of arrivals in 2023, and under the midterm review of the Multiannual Indicative Programme in 2024, migration management has been included as a sector under the Priority area 1 “Governance, democracy, peace and stability”.

Since 2017, Cameroon has been undertaking important efforts on migration, especially last year’s ratification of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration or the monitoring of the Rabat Process. The country is now part of the Team Europe Initiative on the Central Mediterranean route.

Cameroon has bilateral readmission agreements with ES, FR, BE. The number of voluntary returns of Cameroonian nationals managed by IOM has been increasing. The national migration policy is currently under development, with the support of the EU (flexible mechanism) including EU technical assistance that was made available to the Cameroonian administration in the beginning of 2024. The Government has strengthened interministerial coordination on migration and is making efforts to reintegrate its returned nationals (mostly from Sahel and North Africa). The EU-Cameroon structured partnership dialogue under the Samoa Agreement, replacing the political dialogue, took place on 12 December 2024. Migration was one of the three points on the agenda and was discussed in a comprehensive way. Following the partnership dialogue, Cameroon sent a note verbale on 17 December 2024, expressing its availability to discuss a comprehensive migration agreement. The country has expressed interest in circular mobility schemes.

Key past and upcoming events

17 February 2023	Meeting between EEAS MDA Africa Bernard QUINTIN and DDG HOME Johannes LUCHNER with Ambassador ABE’E of CAMEROON, on returns and readmission (article 25a VC)	Follow up art. 25a Visa Code annual report.
June 2023	Structured partnership dialogue (SPD) EU-Cameroon, with migration high on the agenda.	Political assessment/validation by the political level of the work by the SPD sub-committee on migration. Cameroonian party presented recent additional efforts to increase cooperation with EU/MS re returns and readmission.
Last quarter 2023	Next technical meeting of SPD sub-committee on migration, to be followed by next session of Structured Political Dialogue	Assessment of progress towards the formulation of a national migration policy with EU financial and OIM technical support. Assessment of continuous tangible

		cooperation in terms of return and reintegration.
7 March 2024	Meeting at technical level (DG HOME C1 and A3 EEAS) with Ambassador ABE'E of Cameroon to discuss irregular arrivals and readmission.	The Ambassador assured of Cameroonian authorities' willingness to discuss
10 July 2024	Working lunch HoDiv of EEAS Africa.4 HoD with Cameroonian Ambassador on various issues including migration, in particular returns and readmission.	The Ambassador reiterated the government's commitment to improve cooperation in this area and presented concrete progress made and main challenges ahead.
7 March 2024	Meeting at technical level (DG HOME C1 and A3 EEAS) with Ambassador ABE'E of Cameroon to discuss irregular arrivals and readmission.	The Ambassador assured of Cameroonian authorities' willingness to discuss
12 December 2024	Partnership Dialogue, DG HOME (A3) attended the dialogue upon the invitation of EUD and EEAS.	Exchange on 5 subareas: (i) readmission and reintegration, (iii) legal/circular mobility, (iv) role of diaspora in the development of the country, (v) irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, (v) protection. Willingness to deepen cooperation on all migration areas.
19 December 2024	Signature of the contract with IOM for "Improving Cameroon's migration management capacity and cooperation" EUR 10M	Elaboration of the document for the creation of the piloting, supervision and governance committee of the project (MINREX and DUE co-chair). Elaboration of the communication and visibility plan Follow up on the implementation
2 nd semester 2025	Pre-identification of a new action in reintegration, circular migration and	Launching of meetings with stakeholders and partners. Discussion on circular migration and diaspora for the

	diaspora (national MIP, Annual action plan AAP 2027) Political partnership dialogue expected in July, to take stock of where we are on the migration file.	identification of an AAP 2027 action.
--	---	---------------------------------------

ETHIOPIA

The Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) was signed by the EU and Ethiopia in November 2015. A Joint Declaration "Towards an EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement", including a sectoral dialogue on migration, was signed on 14 June 2016. Procedures for the identification and return of Ethiopian irregular migrants from Europe were approved by the Council on 29 January 2018. Since 29 April 2024, visa restrictive measures under Article 25a of the Visa Code are applicable to nationals of Ethiopia considering the unsatisfactory level of cooperation on readmission. The visa measures were proposed based on the Commission's fourth assessment report of cooperation in 2022. The Joint Working Group under the Procedures took place on 27 June 2025. The next meeting is foreseen in January 2026, pending Ethiopia's confirmation.

Key past and upcoming events

February 2023	MD Africa Laranjinha met the Ambassador in Brussels	Discuss readmission cooperation in the broader context of relaunching broader cooperation
April 2023	HOME DDG Luchner met Ethiopian Ambassador to the EU Hirut Zemene	Meeting on readmission.
September 2023	DDG Luchner had two phone calls with Ambassador Hirut to inform her about planned adoption of COM proposal	Follow up article 25a Visa Code
4 October 2023	Visit to Ethiopia by Commissioner Urpilainen	Meeting with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, signature of the MIP.
December 2023	HOME DDG Luchner call with Ethiopian Ambassador to the EU Hirut Zemene	Follow up article 25a Visa Code
February 2024	Third Joint Working Group with Ethiopia	
April 2024	Several bilateral exchanges with DDG Luchner, Head of Unit C1, EEAS MD Africa in the run up to the adoption of the measures (29 April 2024)	Follow up article 25a measures Visa Code
May 2024	DDG Luchner met with the Ambassador of Ethiopia to the EU, Hirut Zemene.	Discussions on overall EU and Ethiopia partnership including 25a
June 2024	MD Africa Rita Laranjinha met Ethiopian Ambassador	Follow up article 25a measures Visa Code
14 October 2024	Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen mission to Ethiopia, accompanied by MD Africa	Meetings with President Taye Atske-Selassie and with Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

		(AUC).
November 2024	Fourth Joint Working Group with Ethiopia	
December 2024	MD Africa met with the Ambassador of Ethiopia to the EU, Eshete Tilahun	Discussions on overall EU and Ethiopia partnership including 25a
December 2024	DDG Luchner met with the Ambassador of Ethiopia to the EU, Eshete Tilahun	Follow up article 25a measures Visa Code
21 May 2025	Meeting of Commissioner Brunner with Min Gedion Timothewos Hessebon, Ethiopian MFA,	Follow up article 25a measures Visa Code
6 June 2025	DDG Luchner met with the Ambassador of Ethiopia to the EU, Eshete Tilahun	Follow up article 25a measures Visa Code
27 June 2025	Fifth Joint Working Group on Readmission with Ethiopia	
18 February 2026	Sixth Joint Working Group on Readmission with Ethiopia, Addis Ababa	

standard operating procedures adopted in May 2025. Mauritania continues to call for more EU financial support, to face the increasing number of mixed migratory flows from Mali and the number of disembarkations/ and they commit to further reducing departures. Many critical comments have been made against the EU in terms of alleged abused of HR in Mauritania. All this requires a discreet level of visibility and prudent communication.

Key past and upcoming events

7 and 9 December 2022 December, 8 January, 8 March 2023	Discussions/negotiations sessions with Mauritania on the status agreement via VTC	Negotiations on a status agreement have stalled
11 October 2023	Visit by VP Schinas and the Spanish Minister of Interior to Nouakchott, Mauritania.	The Spanish Minister of Interior and VP Schinas met with the president of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.
24 October 2023	European Commission President von der Leyen and the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani met in Brussels, on the eve of the Global Gateway Forum.	EU launched a Team Europe Initiative to develop green hydrogen in Mauritania and accelerate its energy transition.
11 December 2023	High level meeting on Migration in Brussels with Mauritania	Discussion on the migration dialogue.
08 February 2024, Nouakchott	Joint visit of European Commission President von der Leyen and Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez to Mauritania	Announcement of additional support on migration EUR 100 million individual measures that has just been approved (covering migration, addressing root causes, economic development). 90% of this amount will be disbursed through budget support. EUR 60 million under the Flexible Mechanism, earmarked for migration, notably support to refugees and host communities, border management and search and rescue, fight against migrant smuggling

7 March 2024, Nouakchott	Signature of the Joint Declaration establishing a Migration Partnership with Mauritania – signed by Commissioner Johansson and the Mauritanian Minister of Interior and Decentralisation, Mohamed Ahmed Ould Mohamed Lemine	
18-19 December 2024	Visit to Mauritania by Commissioner Síkela	Signature of the EUR 100 M Budget Support (which includes migration-related indicators).
21 January 2025, Nouakchott	Migration Dialogue	
17 January 2025, Nouakchott	Political Dialogue	
21 May 2025, Brussels	Commissioner Brunner and the EU Special Representative for the Sahel met with the Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad, Mr Mohamed Salem Ould Merzuog	In the margins of the EU-AU Ministerial.
1 July 2025	EU-Nigeria SOM	Migration including, smuggling and trafficking and the readmission agreement were discussed during the EU Nigeria SOM
16 October 2025	EU Delegation delivered the two migrant transit centres (refurbished with EU funding) in Nouakchott and Noadhibu to the Mauritanian authorities and they are operational.	The two centres host temporarily disembarked migrants, in accordance with the SOPs adopted in May 2025.
9 December 2025, Brussels	2 nd Migration Dialogue,	In the margin of second international conference of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling of 10 December 2025

cooperation on migration, including as concerns border management, counter-smuggling, return and reintegration and creation of socio-economic opportunities.

It will be important this year to implement as soon as possible the strategy for Mali the renewed Sahel strategy endorsed at the FAC of 20 November 2025 which allows for a response to migration and security challenges, and to operationalise the central Sahel mechanism, the funding mechanism supporting the renewed strategy. A new COP under HOME funds could be part of the package.

Key past and upcoming events

11-13 September 2024	Joint EEAS/INTPA mission at HoU level to Bamako to identify, among others, the areas where the EU and Mali can find a win-win partnership.	The area of migration was discussed with Member States and identified as an essential EU interest.
19 September 2024	ESM participation in online EU OSINT RADAR project seminar	Seminar on the topic of “Asylum, Migration and Integration”, Funds for Internal Security, Instrument for border management and visas, under the direction of the Italian ministry of Justice
24 – 26 September 2024	ESM participation to annual AFIC ILOS – FRONTEX (Intelligence Liaison Officers in Africa) seminar in Dakar	Seminar on current situation in border management and migration in West Africa
8 October 2024	Joint ESM/EUDEL/IOM/UNODC seminar (<i>Groupe Exécutif de Coordination</i> , Working Group 4 – Peace & Security)	Seminar on integrated border management, securitisation of borders and migration flows. Delivered to 60 participants from the Malian authorities and other technical and financial partners
6 November 2024	TEI meeting on migration	ESM presentation of its migration-related activities and discussions on opportunities for joint action with EUDEL/EUMS
11 December 2024	VTC with Altaï Consulting	Consulting firm working with the EU institutions, in charge of identifying avenues for new EU financing in the area of migration

16 – 18 January 2025	CivOpsCdr visit to ESM	Visit to the Mission-sponsored Integrated Border Management Center and Border Police Post in Kourémalé, on the border with Guinea; meetings with the Malian authorities working in the areas of migration and border management
23 – 25 January 2025	Visit of the EUSR to Mali	Meeting with Malian authorities in the context of his mandate. Exchange on the EU-Mali relations in the current context, to relaunch the dialogue and define a renewed EU strategy in the Sahel.
6 February 2025	Meeting with INTPA	Discussions with INTPA on ESM activities related to border management and migration, and on possible activities that INTPA could undertake or support in Mali or in the Sahel region, particularly in the area of integrated border management or the control of migratory flows.
7 February 2025	Working Lunch with EUDEL and Defence Attachés of France and Spain	Discussions on current migration issues, the former POC on counter-smuggling, the current state of irregular migration prosecutions in Mali
19 March 2025	Signature of ESM-IOM technical agreement	Objective of this agreement is to enable for more info sharing and explore synergies of action
3 April 2025	First meeting of the IOM-ESM Technical Committee	Objective of this meeting is to develop ToR, develop a joint action plan and discuss avenues for joint work
	Second meeting of the IOM-ESM Technical Committee	Objective of this meeting is to develop ToR, develop a

21 May 2025		joint action plan and discuss avenues for joint work
11 June 2025	Visit of the CivOpsHQ.2	Visit to the Mission-sponsored waiting area of the airport and meetings with various Malian representative, among whom representatives of the Border Police Directorate and of the Brigade for the Suppression of Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking of Human beings
18 June 2025	ESM participation in EUDEL seminar on document fraud, with EUMS	Tour de table of activities, discussions on challenges and opportunities, technical aspects covered by ESM

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. An Action Plan on Niger has been elaborated in EMWP, in December 2021. An action file on Niger was discussed in MOCADDEM in February 2022. On 15 July 2022, an Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership was launched.

Following the coup on 26 July 2023, the cooperation with Niger authorities was put on hold. The projects implemented by international organisations in the benefit of the migrants, asylum seekers and refugees continue. However, the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) that allowed resettlement solutions to be found for refugees (mostly from Libya) has also been paralysed by the Niger authorities. EUCAP Sahel Niger ended on 30 September 2024. In May 2025, there was a resumption of cooperation, which led to the signing of five projects by the Delegation in different areas, such as migration (technical assistance), the private sector, education, communication and the Great Green Wall.

Key past and upcoming events

January 2023	Visit of acting DG ECHO Michael Koehler to Niger	Representing the EU at the 3 rd high-level conference on the Lake Chad, acting DG ECHO met Foreign Minister Hassoumi Massoudou and Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Magagi Laouan to discuss, among others, the Emergency Transit Mechanism
7-9 February 2023	Launch of EUAA-Niger Roadmap	Ministry of Interior officials (Abdou Salam HAROU, Director for refugees; Rawi Malam Habou, Head of Administrative Division for finance and procurement; Attahirou Mahamadou Maidouka, Head of communication and sustainable solutions division) visit Malta to launch the EUAA-Niger action plan
15 February 2023	President Bazoum visits Brussels	Lunch with PEC Michel to discuss migration, among others, meetings with HRVP and Commissioner Urpilainen, Commissioner Johansson (tbc)

March 2023	Signature of the third phase of the Joint Investigation Team with Niger for the fight against criminal networks linked to irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants	implemented by agencies from FR and ES. Funded under the Flexible Mechanism (Regional MIP 2021-2027), €13 million.
15-16 May 2023	Technical visit DG HOME to Niger	Discussions with NE authorities, OIM and UNHCR on migration related issues, including options for further cooperation
6 June 2023	First migration cluster meeting in ‘Team Europe’ format at EUD Niamey	EUD and MSs committed to have regular meetings in a ‘migration cluster’ format
5-6 July 2023	HRVP + EUSR visit to Niger	Visit to Agadez, commitment to fund €15M under AAP 2023 on governance and socio-economic development in Agadez
26 July 2023	Coup d'état	The bilateral cooperation with Niger authorities was put on hold.
26 November 2023	Repeal of the anti-trafficking law by <i>de facto</i> authorities	Cooperation with Niger still on hold
18 February 2025	EUSR Cravinho visit to Niger	Discussions with NE authorities on the cooperation between EU and Niger, and the willingness of the EU to continue collaborate with Niger.
24 May 2025	Resumption of limited cooperation with Niger	Signature of 5 projects by the Delegation in different areas such as migration (technical assistance), private sector, education, communication and great green wall.
January 2026	EUSR Cravinho will visit to Niger	Discussions with NE authorities on the cooperation between EU and Niger

NIGERIA

A Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) was signed on 12 March 2015. On 19 October 2023 a Strategic dialogue took place between the EU (Commissioner Urpilainen in the lead, associating Commissioner Simson) and Nigeria (Minister for Budget and Economic Planning + 5 Ministers) that also addressed migration management. After 13 rounds of negotiations of the EU Readmission Agreement negotiations, the Nigerian Ministry of Justice informed the EU Delegation of its green light on the document in a May 2024 meeting, while Nigeria would still like to clarify for itself the relationship of the EU RA with the bilateral Nigeria-MSs RAs. In a May 2024 IMEX meeting, some MSs signalled they would not support a local outreach to ask for a swift conclusion of the agreement as they did not support some of the EU RA provisions as negotiated. A Mission to Nigeria to re-negotiate the Member States' asks and clarify the relationship between the EURA and bilateral agreements is planned for early February 2026, with a view to strengthen the cooperation with Nigeria also on other migration aspects (such as borders, THB, security). Nigeria signed the EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement (Samoa Agreement) on 28 June 2024.

Nigeria features on the list of Frontex priority partners to conclude Working Arrangements.

An Action Plan on Nigeria has been elaborated in EMWP, in December 2021. An action file on Nigeria was discussed in MOCADDEM in ~~March 2022~~ June 2024.

As outlined in the Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU published on 27 April 2022, Nigeria was identified as a potential partner country for Talent Partnerships, as one of the key components of a reinforced migration management cooperation with this country. Nigeria's agreement to the readmission agreement is the first step towards a comprehensive partnership, of which the Talent Partnership could be a component.

Should it not be possible to finalise the EURA, it could be worth to be pragmatic and consider alternative ways to increase cooperation on readmission, including revamping the CAMM signed in 2017.

Nigeria took over the Chairmanship of Rabat Process, an EU-Africa Migration dialogue on 30 January 2025. Nigeria's core priorities during their chairmanship have been on:

- youth and innovation,*
- improving migration data management and the development of knowledge products,*
- facilitating pathways for regular migration (inclusive pathways that empower migrants and enhance mobility) and*
- promoting actions to respect the dignity and the human rights of migrants and persons in need of protection.*

Key past and upcoming events

10 February 2023	Article 8 Nigeria-EU Human Rights Dialogue	Including a point on migration at the request of Nigeria.
------------------	--	---

05 January, 24 February, 17 March, 22 May 2023	Meetings DDG HOME and Nigerian Ambassador/authorities	Meetings to discuss the negotiations
20 March 2023	Meeting Commissioner Johansson and Nigeria MFA	EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement
22-23 May 2023	13 th round of negotiation of the EU- Nigeria readmission agreement in Brussels	
6-8 October 2023	Senior Officials Meeting and technical meetings on the EURA in Nigeria	
18-19 October 2023	Visit to Nigeria of Commissioner for International Partnership Jutta Urpilainen and Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson	EU-Nigeria Strategic Dialogue: including migration.
25 October 2023	Meeting between Commissioner Johansson and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yusuf Tuggar in Brussels	EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement
March 2024	Meeting with chargé d'affaires of the Nigerian Embassy	
8 May 2024	HoD meets Minister of Justice in Abuja, who confirms his agreement to the RA	No further reaction since form MoFA
27 May 2024	IMEX meeting ->some MSs signalled they would not support a local outreach to ask for a swift conclusion of the agreement as they did not support some of the EU RA provisions as negotiated	
2 July 2025	Senior official meeting	Migration, including trafficking and smuggling and the readmission agreement was discussed during the SOM
15 July 2025	Peace and Security Dialogue	
4-5 November 2025	Meetings with the Nigerian authorities in charge of trafficking in human beings and reintegration of returning migrants, in the margins of the Joint Thematic Meeting of the Rabat, Khartoum and Niamey	

	Processes, hosted by Nigeria in Lagos.	
January 2026 (TBC)	Peace and Security Dialogue	
February 2026 (TBC)	DDG HOME visit to Abuja	EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement/Cooperation on migration/security
Q1/Q2 2026 (TBC)	Planned EU-Nigeria Ministerial	

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

There is no structured dialogue on migration between the EU and the Republic of Congo (RoC). Due to the low numbers of immigrants from RoC into the EU, migration is not included among the issues raised in bilateral meetings or political dialogues. On readmission, apart from the ACP- EU Cotonou Agreement, to which the RoC is party (replaced by the Samoa Agreement, signed on 15 November 2023 and that is now provisionally applicable), there is no other cooperation instrument or process in place at the EU level. Among MS, only France has a relevant bilateral agreement in place. In the context of article 25a of the Visa Code, the EU has reached out to RoC's authorities in order to explore ways to improve cooperation.

EU Delegation prepared a table jointly with the Congolese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and shared it with DG HOME (in 2023) to ensure that all readmission requests from MS could be addressed correctly to the accredited Congolese embassy. The EU Returns Liaison Officer in Kinshasa covers also Congo- Brazzaville and in 2024 held several meetings with the Congolese authorities, including with the structure of the Ministry of the Interior that has to clear readmissions. The issue of readmission was raised several times by EUDEL with Congolese authorities, as well as by MS bilaterally (FR and IT).

Key past and upcoming events

17 February 2023	Meeting of EEAS MDA Africa Bernard QUINTIN and DDG HOME Johannes LUCHNER with Ambassador Leon Raphael Mokoko of RoC, on returns and readmissions (article 25a VC)	Follow up art. 25a Visa Code annual report.
2 May 2023	Meeting EUDEL with Chief of Protocol of the MFA to raise the issue of readmissions.	In order to improve RoCs cooperation on migration and mobility issues, in particular on readmission.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

There is no structured dialogue on migration between the EU and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Due to the low numbers of immigrants from DRC into the EU, migration is not included among the issues raised in bilateral meetings or political dialogues. On readmission, apart from the Samoa Agreement signed on 15 November 2023 (that is now provisionally applicable), to which the DRC is party, there is no other cooperation instrument or process in place at EU level. Among MS, Belgium and France have signed a bilateral agreement with DRC on migration matters, which includes for example forced return and the possibility to organize Joint Return Operations (JRO). A EURLO is deployed in Kinshasa. There is a project on signing “Best practices” with Frontex, which will allow also to make returns to DRC more smoothly. The EU will continue to reach out to DRC’s authorities in order to explore ways to improve cooperation.

Key past and upcoming events

03 March 2023	Meeting of EEAS MDA Africa Bernard QUINTIN and DDG HOME Johannes LUCHNER with Ambassador Christian NDONGALA, on returns and readmissions (article 25a VC)	Follow up art. 25a Visa Code annual report.
28 May 2024	Meeting EUDEL and representatives from FR, IT, GE and BE with the Head of Protocol of MFA to discuss visa, legalizations and readmission issues.	In order to improve RoCs cooperation on migration and mobility issues, in particular on readmission.

cooperation with this country and part of a comprehensive approach, pursuing on all relevant migration areas.

Senegal has formally called for a “renewed partnership” with the EU in April 2024 at the occasion of PEC Michel’s visit to Dakar. This call for a renewed partnership was further reiterated at the Partnership Dialogue with the authorities that took place in January 2025.

Consequently, a high-level exploratory mission for the preparation of a Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership with Senegal took place from 29th September to 1st October 2025 followed by a technical mission in November 2025 (19th to 21st). While the first mission aimed at confirming Senegal’s interest in a Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership with the EU, the technical mission was an important occasion to discuss the three pillars of the partnership, identifying the interests and priorities of the parties.

A joint visit of Commissioners Brunner and Sikela is foreseen in Q1 of 2026. This visit should be followed by the signature of a Joint Declaration (NBI) by the PRESCOM and the President of Senegal.

Key past and upcoming events

21 March 2023	Commissioner Johansson met the Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs	
31 March 2023	DDG Luchner met with Senegalese Ambassador in Brussels	
3 May 2023	HOME senior level mission (DDG Luchner) to Dakar for the 2 nd technical dialogue on readmission	Readmission cooperation was discussed in the framework of the continuous engagement under Article 25a of the Visa Code.
31 August 2023	DDG Luchner met with Senegalese Ambassador in Brussels	Readmission cooperation was discussed in the framework of the continuous engagement under Article 25a of the Visa Code.
26 September 2023	VP Schinas Visit to Senegal to follow up on the Lampedusa 10 points action plan.	Senegal political engagement on an arrangement with Frontex and enhanced cooperation on returns and readmission.
5 December 2023	3 rd Technical Dialogue on readmission at senior level (DDG Luchner, VTC)	Readmission cooperation was discussed in the framework of the continuous engagement under Article 25a of the Visa Code.

20 March 2024	DDG Luchner met with Senegalese Ambassador in Brussels	Readmission cooperation was discussed in the framework of the continuous engagement under Article 25a of the Visa Code.
April 2024	PEC Michel's visit to Dakar	Senegal formally called for a "renewed partnership" with the EU during this visit
21 May 2024	DDG Luchner met with Senegalese Ambassador in Brussels	In preparation of the 4 th technical dialogue on readmission
19 September 2024	4th Technical dialogue with Senegal on Return and Readmission, back-to-back with discussions on cooperation on migration prevention of irregular migration and border management, with key Senegalese authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence).	Readmission cooperation was discussed in the framework of the continuous engagement under Article 25a of the Visa Code.
15-16 October 2024	Former Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen's mission to Senegal.	Migration was one of the discussions point of the mission agenda. Announcement of a package of EUR 30 million on the prevention of irregular departures, following the discussions on 19 September.
January 2025	Partnership Dialogue with the authorities	Senegal reiterates call for a "renewed partnership with the EU
14 May 2025	Meeting between DDG Johannes Luchner and the Senegalese Ambassador, SEM Mame Baba Cissé	The first meeting with new Senegalese Ambassador M. Cissé in his function as the focal point for readmission related efforts in the EU
30 June 2025	Meeting in Seville, Spain, between Council President Costa and President FAYE, in the margins of the fourth International Conference on development financing.	The comprehensive partnership was discussed
29 September 2025 October 2025	High-level (Deputy Director Generals INTPA and HOME, Deputy Head of CAB Sikela, EEAS) exploratory mission	Senegal confirmed interest for a renewed partnership with the EU

	for the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership	
19-21 November 2025	Joint (Commission – EEAS) technical mission for the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, including technical dialogue on readmission	All pillars of the Partnership have been discussed to identify both parties’ priorities and interests.

CHAD

There is no structured dialogue on migration between the EU and Chad. Due to the low numbers of immigrants from Chad into the EU, migration is not included among the issues raised in bilateral meetings or political dialogues, but the Sudan crisis has been discussed in political dialogues, including refugee movements from Sudan, Chad, with a population estimated up to approximately 20 million citizens, is hosting approximately 1.7 M of forced displaced persons, of which around 1.2 M are refugees (1 million from Sudan). Their number is likely to continue increasing in the nearest future, depending in particular on the war dynamics in Sudan. On readmission, apart from the ACP- EU Cotonou Agreement, to which Chad is party (replaced by the Samoa Agreement, signed on 15 November 2023 and that is now provisionally applicable), there is no other cooperation instrument or process in place at EU level.

Key past and upcoming events

October 2024	Fact finding mission INTPA and HOME (HoU level)	Focus on refugee situation and dynamics following the situation in Sudan and possible movements towards EU.
--------------	---	---

return and readmission via the EU Guinea Joint Working Groups whereby DG INTPA/EUDEL provide an update on programming/ongoing projects if required. Support to the national authorities on reintegration and fighting irregular migration, including smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings is being envisaged.

Key past and upcoming events

25 September 2023	VP Schinas Visit to Conakry	Main objective was to discuss about cooperation on migration in particular control of irregular departures and cooperation on returns
23 October 2023	Guinean MAE visit to Brussels	
12 December 2023	5th EU-Guinea Joint Working Group	Assessing readmission cooperation in light of Annex to “Document partagé” (“Bonnes pratiques pour un déroulement efficace de la procédure de retour”)
13 – 19 April 2024	Visit of the DG Africa of the EEAS, Ms. Rita Laranjinha to Guinea	This mission was an opportunity to reiterate the need for the Guinean authorities to strengthen their cooperation on illegal migration, particularly on return and readmission.
3 May 2024	Meeting in Brussels between the President of the Guinean National Transition Council and the DG Africa of the EEAS, Ms. Rita Laranjinha	This meeting was a follow-up meeting of Ms. Laranjinha’s visit to Guinea in April, when it had not been possible to hold a meeting with the President.
26 June 2024	Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea to Brussels	Meeting addressing overall cooperation/relations with the EU including migration and return and readmission in particular.
9 July 2024	6 th EU-Guinea Joint Working Group	See above, 5 th meeting.
19 December 2024	7 th EU-Guinea Joint Working Group	See above, 5 th meeting.

15 July 2025	8 th EU-Guinea Joint Working Group	See above, 5 th meeting.
--------------	---	-------------------------------------

COTE D'IVOIRE

In 2023, irregular arrivals by Ivorians significantly increased compared to 2022 and reached a significant peak (17 835 v. 7 161; +149%). In 2024, irregular arrivals significantly decreased, 2 291 arrivals, - 87% compared to 2023) and further decreased during the first ten months of 2025 (1 191 irregular arrivals, - 24% compared to the same period in 2024). Migration is a sensitive issue, Ivoirian identity issues and land conflicts involving migrants' access to land are one of the root causes of conflicts. For this reason, Côte d'Ivoire is included in the Team Europe Initiatives on the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean Route, and on the Central Mediterranean route.

Côte d'Ivoire often raised the point that 26% of the total population in Ivory Coast is not Ivorian (mainly from Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Benin) and underscored the importance of tackling irregular migration and the fight against migrant smuggling, as well as trafficking in human beings.

Joint document of the Government of the Ivory Coast and the European Union on the procedures for identification and readmission of migrants presumed to be Ivorian nationals staying irregularly in the European Union (2018), as well as the holding of regular follow-up meetings are taking place since 2019.

7th meeting of the EU-Côte d'Ivoire Joint Working Group on the implementation of the readmission arrangement (Joint document) was held in Abidjan on 21 August 2025.

Cooperation on migration is positive and additional funding through the Flexible Mechanism has been validated, in the area of Civil registry – Document Fraud and Reintegration. Individual measure in favour of West Africa for 2025 adopted in December 2024 will support reintegration, the fight against the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, as well as root causes of irregular migration

Key past and upcoming events

24/25 September 2023	VP Schinas visit	Frank dialogue with the authorities and the commitment to better identify irregular migrant arriving in Europe; the need for new sensitization campaigns has been ascertained and can be supported by the EU.
28 September 2023	5 th Joint Working Group meeting	

28 November 2023	Commissionaire Ylva Johansson had a bilateral with General Vagondo Diomande, Minister of Interior and Security of Côte d'Ivoire	Meeting in the margins of the International Conference on a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling, organised by the European Commission. Discussions on cooperation on returns.
24-25 April 2024	Visit of President Charles Michel to Ivory Coast Cooperation on migration, security and geopolitics addressed during the visit.	Cooperation on migration, security and geopolitics addressed during the visit
15 October 2024	6 th Joint Working Group meeting	
9 April 2024	Technical consular workshop between the European Union and Côte d'Ivoire	
21 August 2025	7 th Joint Working Group meeting	
10 December 2025	Commissioner Brunner had a bilateral meeting with the Ministry of Interior, Mr Vagondo Diomande.	<u>The meeting took place in the margin of the second Global Alliance Conference against Migrant Smuggling. Ivory Coast expressed willingness to have another dedicated meeting.</u>

		avenues to combat trafficking and smuggling in addition to enhanced cooperation with Frontex.
12 April 2024	Meeting between DDG Luchner and Ambassador Jorbateh	The call took place in preparation of the 4 th EU-GM Joint Working Group
4 September 2024	VP Schinas' call with the Minister of Foreign Affairs	The call took place upon request of the EU side in the context of the restrictive visa measures under Article 25a and to discuss and overcome the gridlock by ensuring the restart of cooperation on return flights.
21 January 2025	6 th Joint Working Group	Discussion on implementation of the readmission arrangement and the follow up to the Article 25a visa measures
7-9 May 2025	EEAS Managing Director for Africa, Rita Laranjinha, visited The Gambia and co-chaired the Partnership Dialogue with the Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, and Employment,	The partnership dialogue was held in an open and frank atmosphere and led inter alia to two concrete positive outcomes, including a firm commitment from The Gambia to continue the cooperation on migration and from the EU's side, expressed satisfaction on various dimension of migration management. Several Member States noted the significant decline in irregular departures and expressed willingness to consider lifting restrictions if cooperation is sustained.

Key past and upcoming events		
Brussels, 28 November 2023	Meeting between DDG Luchner and (former) Minister of Interior Fiqi in the margins of the International Conference on a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling	Readmission cooperation and instrumentalization (Somalis at the border with Belarus) were discussed.
Brussels, 21 March 2024	Meeting of DDG Luchner and (former) Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Hashi	Discussion on cooperation on readmission in the framework of the continuous engagement under Article 25a of the Visa Code.
Brussels, 12 July 2024	Phone call of DDG Luchner with (former) Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Hashi	Discussion on cooperation on readmission in view of the upcoming adoption of the Commission's proposal for visa measures for nationals of Somalia (Article 25a of the Visa Code).
Mogadishu, 8 August 2024	Meeting of the EU Head of Delegation with the National Technical Return and Reintegration Committee (NTRRC)	Discussion on cooperation on readmission.
Brussels, 14 October 2024	Meeting of DDG Luchner with the Chief of Staff of the Office of the President of Somalia and the Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Ali	Discussion on cooperation on readmission and next steps were discussed in the follow up to the adoption of the proposal for visa measures under Article 25a of the Visa Code.
Mogadishu, 20 November 2024	1 st EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission	Discussion on cooperation on readmission in the follow up to the adoption of the proposal for visa measures under Article 25a of the Visa Code.

Brussels, 9 December 2024	Meeting of DDG Luchner with the Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Ali	Discussion on immediate follow up to the 1 st EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission held in Mogadishu on 20 November 2024.
Brussels, 12 March 2025	Meeting of DDG Luchner with the Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Ali	Discussion on follow up to the 1 st EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission.
22 May 2025	First technical level Team Europe Initiative Migration Policy Dialogue between the EU, EU Member States + NO, CH and the Somali Government	The Government reaffirmed its commitment to cooperating with the EU and its Member States in addressing migration challenges and strengthening sustainable programming for decreasing irregular migration.
Brussels, 8 July 2025	2 nd EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission	
Mogadishu, Q1-Q2 2026	3 rd EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission	

Under NDICI, the EU dedicated to Tunisia around EUR 210 million for the period 2021-2024, focusing on migration programmes in the area of border management, anti-smuggling, protection and socio-economic integration of Tunisian returnees. As part of this funding, Tunisia also benefits from regional actions in the areas of voluntary returns to countries of origin and legal migration. In addition, since 2015 Tunisia benefitted from funding under the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), which is in its seventh phase for a total of 10.8M €, mainly aimed at enhancing access to protection through registration and refugee status determination in Tunisia as well as strengthening capacities and enhance protection interventions for vulnerable migrants, notably children on the move and victims of trafficking. However, since June 2024, the Tunisian authorities suspended registrations of new asylum seekers and refugees by UNHCR (funded under the RDPP), creating a serious protection gap.

Key past and upcoming events

31 January 2023	Sub-committee on Migration and Social Affairs	Positive meeting discussed all areas of migration including Talent Partnerships and returns. Availability of Tunisia to discuss more, ascribing any challenges to lack of funding.
21 March 2023	Senior official mission, with participation of NEAR's DG Gert-Jan Koopman and HOME's DDG Johannes Luchner	Further exploring opportunities for cooperation on counter-smuggling, border management, returns (to Tunisia and from Tunisia to sub-Saharan Africa), legal pathways (Talent Partnership).
27 March 2023	Commissioner Gentiloni's visit to Tunisia	
27 April 2023	Commissioner Johansson's visit to Tunisia	
9-10 May 2023	Visit of Belgian and Portuguese Foreign Ministers on behalf of the HRVP	
11 June 2023	President von der Leyen's visit to Tunisia	Advancing comprehensive approach built around five pillars, including one on migration and one on people-to-people contacts; announcing extra available funding for migration management.
19 June 2023	Visit of French and German Ministers of Interior in Tunis	
22 June 2023	First Talent Partnership roundtable	
16 July 2023	Agreement on Memorandum of Understanding on a strategic and comprehensive EU-Tunisia partnership	Formalising the approach proposed by President von der Leyen during her visit.

17-18 January 2024	Technical EU mission (DG NEAR, DG HOME and EEAS) in Tunis on the implementation of the MoU	Taking stock and agreeing on the next steps and priorities in the implementation of all five pillars of the MoU, including on migration.
12-13 June 2024	EU-Tunisia business forum	
13 June 2024	Signature of EU-Tunisia MoU on energy	
21 June 2024	Second Talent Partnership roundtable	
29-30 October 2024	Second technical EU mission (DG NEAR, DG HOME and EEAS) in Tunis on the implementation of the MoU	Taking stock and agreeing on the next steps and priorities in the implementation of all five pillars of the MoU, including on migration.
6-7 February 2025	Subcommittees on Research, Innovation, Education and Culture and on Transport, Energy and Environment.	
26-28 February 2025	Visit of DG Sannino to Tunis	First visit to Tunis as new DG of DG MENA, preliminary consultations on the Pact for the Mediterranean and follow up on the implementation of the SCP.
17 June	Third Talent Partnership Roundtable	
2-3 July 2025	Holding of the Sub-Committees on Migration and social affairs and on Human Rights and Democracy	
1-2 October 2025	Visit of Commissioner Suica to Tunis	Commissioner Šuica visited Tunisia on 1-2 October 2025, the first political visit of the Commission since the signature of the EU-Tunisia MoU in July 2023.

20 June 2023	11 th Sub-committee on Justice and Home Affairs	Co-chaired by EEAS Head of Division Rosamaria Gili and Director Said Meziane (MFA, Directeur de la coopération avec l'UE et des institutions européennes). Home affairs discussed although it was agreed to discuss migration in upcoming informal dialogue
13 July 2023	Seventh Informal Dialogue on Migration and Mobility followed by a technical meeting on irregular migration, including readmission.	
14 December 2023	EU-IOM-DZA trilateral technical meeting	Hosted by the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DG Consular affairs) with the participation of the Ministry of the Interior, DG NEAR and DG HOME (remotely), the EU Delegation, IOM (Algeria office + regional director remotely). Agreement to scale up AVRR from the EU's side.
30-31 January 2024	COM DG NEAR technical mission to Algeria	Follow-up on the AVRR programme with IOM.
4 June 2024	COM DG NEAR/HOME technical mission to Algeria	2 nd trilateral EU/DZ/IOM meeting to discuss increase support to AVRR
27-30 January 2025	COM DG NEAR/HOME & EEAS	EU programming mission and 3 rd trilateral EU/DZ/IOM meeting to assess increased support to AVRR
22-24 April 2025	DG MENA Stefano Sannino mission on overall cooperation	Presentation of the future Pact for the Mediterranean and review of the cooperation including migration
21-22 January	Commissioner Suica mission to Algeria on overall cooperation	
2026 - tbc	8 th Informal dialogue on migration	
2026 tbc	12 th Sub-committee on Justice and Home Affairs	

with Egypt on legal migration and labour mobility. The third Talent Partnership roundtable will take place in 2026 (date tbc). On 4 December 2025, a second workshop on returns, readmission and reintegration was also organised in Cairo, as a follow-up to the previous one held in December 2024.

Key past and upcoming events

27 January 2023	Meeting between HOME DDG Luchner/EEAS MD Hallergard and the Egyptian Ambassador to Brussels	Follow up Article 25a, upcoming visit of VP Schinas, legal migration
25 – 28 February 2023	VP Schinas to Cairo	Addressed migration issues in a comprehensive manner, discussed interfaith dialogue
27-28 February 2023	CT Coordinator Salmi	
2-3 May	Coordination Committee of the GCTF	Coordination meeting in view of our Joint co-chairmanship of the GCTF
7 June 2023	Talent Partnership roundtable	
13 June 2023	Senior level meeting on law enforcement and security	Covering also migrant smuggling; First positive signals on possible cooperation in this area, including with the EU agencies; to be followed up at technical level
Fall 2023	Visits from Europol and CEPOL deputy executive directors to Cairo. Visit of a Ministry of Interior delegation to Frontex headquarters	As a follow-up to 1 st SOM Security
18 – 19 June 2023	HRVP to Cairo	Meetings with President Al Sisi, FM Shoukry and MoD Zaki: On bilateral issues, migration was a prominent theme across meetings. HRVP announced a 20 MEUR support to EGY in their response to the flux of refugees from Sudan.
19-20 June 2023	EUMC Chairman	Exchange with Ministry of Defence on CSDP missions
October 2023	CT Dialogue	1 st CT Dialogue: examined regional threats
17 November 2023	President von der Leyen’s visit to Cairo	Presentation of a Strategic

		and Comprehensive partnership with Egypt
23 January 2024	10 th EU-Egypt Association Council	Both parties reaffirmed commitment to pursue an elevated partnership through the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership.
April 2024	Visit of a Ministry of Interior delegation to Europol headquarters	
29-30 June 2024	EU-EG Investment Conference	
2-3 July 2024	Aswan Forum for sustainable peace and development	The EEAS MD Africa was represented by Nicola Bellomo (acting DMD, HoD Africa.1). DHoD Riccardo Mosca attended the panel dedicated to Peace support operations in Africa
15-16 July 2024	4 th EU-EG Migration Dialogue, back-to-back with SOM Security on 15 July	Both parties reiterated their commitment to reinforce cooperation on migration, in line with the comprehensive approach and agreed on the organisation of three workshops by end-2024 as a direct operational follow-up to the meeting.
9 September 2024	Commissioner Johansson visit to Cairo	Meetings with Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Interior with substantive outcomes to strengthen the migration and mobility and security pillars of the strategic and comprehensive partnership signed in March 2024.
3-4 December 2024	Workshops on Programming, Talent Partnership, and Return and Readmission	A direct follow-up to the 4 th Migration Dialogue
9 January 2025	EP President Roberta Metsola visited Egypt 8-9 January and met Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo and FM Abdelatty, among others	Discussed ways to develop relations between Egypt and the EU and regional issues, including Gaza, Syria, Libya and the Horn of Africa. President Al Sisi urged support for Egyptian efforts to combat irregular

		migration, referring to a high number of migrants present in Egypt (amounting to 8.7% of the population).
1-6 March 2025	Visit of Commissioner ŠuicaŠuica to Cairo, in conjunction with MENA DG Sannino.	Assessed progress in Discussed state of play of the implementation of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership (all 6 pillars, including migration), and presented initial ideass well as on the forthcoming Pact for the Mediterranean and collected Egypt's views.
23 March 2025	HRVP visit to Cairo	
9-10 April 2025	Visit of Commissioner Brunner to Cairo	Participation to the Khartoum Ministerial meeting and several bilateral meetings with Egyptian counterparts to discuss cooperation on the pillars related to migration and mobility and security of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership.
21 May 2025	8 th Subcommittee on Political Matters, Human Rights and Democracy – International and Regional Issues	
22 May 2025	9 th meeting of the Subcommittee on Justice and Security, Working Group on Migration, Social and Consular Affairs	Discussed EG priorities for the operationalisation of the EUR 200 million foreseen until 2027 under the SCP (formal feedback to be received by EG by end June)
15 June 2025	Launch of the EU-EG Investment Guarantees for Development Mechanism in Cairo	
July 2025	Signature of the MoU for the EUR 4 billion MFA	
20-26 September 2025	Migration programming mission	
24 September 2025	Association Committee	
25 September 2025	3 rd Security Dialogue SOM in Cairo	Discussions were held related to organised crime (including smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings), border

		management and cooperation with agencies.
22 October 2025	EU-EG Leaders' Summit in Brussels, back-to-back with high-level event on reforms, competitiveness, investments, innovation and skills	
9-13 November 2025	Bilateral programming mission to Cairo	
4 December 2025	2 nd Workshops on Return, Readmission and Reintegration, in Cairo	The workshop was held with a view to improve cooperation on returns in the context of the application of the Pact from mid-2026 and an increase in irregular migration from Egypt.
7 December 2025	2 nd roundtable Talent Partnership, in Cairo	Set the way forward on how to enhance labour mobility in identified sectors, starting with tourism and hospitality.
9-10 December 2025	International Conference on a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling in Brussels	
15 January 2026	Disbursement of the first instalment of EUR 1 bn of EUR 4 bn MFA	
8-11 January 2026	HRVP Kallas visit to Cairo	
18-22 January 2026 (tbc)	Migration-border management formulation mission	
20 January 2026	Second EU-EG Counter Terrorism Dialogue (in Cairo)	
Before summer 2026 (date tbc)	5 th Migration Dialogue in Cairo	

	Rome	
5-8 February 2024	HOME, NEAR and EEAS technical mission to Libya	Meeting the relevant legal authorities to engage on migration and border management, as well as on anti-smuggling. The visit highlighted a set of concrete opportunities for enhancing the EU-Libya cooperation on migration
31 March 2024	Demarche of the EU-AU-UN Task Force to key Libyan Ministers	The demarche focused on the establishment of due process for migrants in detention, release of vulnerable migrants from detention, humanitarian access, alternatives to detention, migrant workers regularisation.
15 May 2024	PM Dbeibeh visit to Brussels	Bilateral Meeting with President von der Leyen Bilateral meeting with President Charles Michel
16 May 2024	Libyan counterparts of the technical mission in February paid a migration-related technical return visit to Brussels	Identification of several concrete next steps to advance work: continuing work on the MRCC, recalling states' international obligations; border management, including on the southern border; improving the conditions of migrants in Libya, including the transfer of children and their caregivers from detention centres into the care of UN agencies or MoSA shelters; more meaningful access of UN agencies and implementing partners at disembarkation points and in official detention centers and abolishing the exit visa for IOM assisted voluntary returnees.
29 June – 2 July 2024	HOME, NEAR and EEAS technical mission to Libya (Tripoli and Benghazi)	Meeting the relevant legal authorities to engage on migration and border management, as well as on anti-smuggling.
17 July 2024	VP Schinas participation at the Trans-Mediterranean Migration Forum on 17 July in Tripoli	The Conference organised by the Tripoli based Government of National Unity aimed at promoting partnerships between countries of destination and transit, and crucially the EU, to support

		development in countries of origin, particularly in infrastructure and energy
7-10 December 2024	HOME, NEAR and EEAS technical mission to Libya (Tripoli and Benghazi)	Meetings the relevant technical authorities, recognised throughout the country, to engage on migration and border management, protection and human rights, as well as on anti-smuggling. The mission also aimed to discuss the implementation of current EU support, and to identify further needs and possible options to support addressing those needs.
13 February 2025	Libya (Tripoli and Benghazi) technical mission to Brussels – with HOME, MENA and EEAS	Meetings the relevant technical authorities, recognised throughout the country, to engage on migration and border management, protection and human rights, as well as on anti-smuggling. The mission also aimed to discuss the implementation of current EU support, and to identify further needs and possible options to support addressing those needs.
10 April 2025	Meeting of Commissioner Brunner with the Libyan minister of labour Ali Al-Abed	Message were passed to the Libyan side on the importance of upholding migrant rights and protection as well as on regularisation
8 July	Mission of Commissioner Brunner, together with the relevant ministers of IT, EL and MT to Libya	The mission focused on cooperation on migration
10 July 2025	Joint HOME, MENA and EEAS technical mission to Tripoli	The technical mission will follow-up on the measures discussed during the commissioner visit
15 October 2025	Technical dialogue meeting with Libyan authorities in Brussels	Meeting with the relevant Libyan technical-authorities, to engage on migration and border management, protection and human rights, voluntary return as well as on anti-smuggling.
10 December 2025	2 nd conference of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling	Participation of the Libyan Minister of the Interior Emad Altrablssi
3-4 February 2026	Next technical dialogue with	

	Libyan authorities in Libya	
--	-----------------------------	--

and beyond.

The overall figure includes the €2.5 billion pledged by the EU for 2025 and 2026, announced during the conference by High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas. The total amount pledged by the EU and its Member States amounted to more than €3.3 billion, reaffirming them as the largest donor to the Syria response. Since 2011, the EU and its Member States have mobilised almost EUR 38 billion to help those affected by the Syrian conflict. This makes the EU collectively the largest provider of international aid in response to the Syria crisis, delivering humanitarian, stabilisation and resilience assistance inside Syria and in neighbouring countries. On 1 September 2025, the Commission adopted a new Special Measure in Support of the Refugee response for Jordan, the 80 million support aims at providing protection assistance and services to the most vulnerable refugees and promote durable solutions to the protracted displacement of Syrian refugees, including return.

Key past and upcoming events

6 February 2024	EU-Jordan Association Committee	Migration, support and protection of refugees is included among the 5 priorities (pillar V) issues part of the agenda
11 June 2024	EU-Jordan Business Forum Research and Innovation Subcommittee	
15 July 2024	EU-Jordan Association Council	
29 January 2025	Signature of the EU-Jordan Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership	Migration, support and protection of refugees is included among the 5 priorities (pillar V) issues part of the agenda
20 May 2025	Subcommittee on Climate Action and Green Economic Growth	
22 May 2025	Subcommittee on Research and Innovation	
Sept 2025	EU Special Measure for Jordan “Protection and support to refugees” adopted in NDICI committee	The EUR 80 M proposal includes maintaining cash assistance and access to services to the most vulnerable refugees and promote durable solutions to the protracted displacement

		refugees in Syria.	
5 October 2025	EU-Jordan Subcommittee on Justice and Security in Amman		
8 January 2026	EU-Jordan Summit in Amman		

2 May 2024	PCOM von der Leyen accompanied by CY President Christodoulides, meetings with Prime Minister Designate H.E. Mr Najib Mikati and Speaker of the Parliament H.E. Mr Nabih Berri,	Mission to Lebanon following EU Council Conclusions 17-18 April.
24 November 2024	HRVP Josep Borrell mission to Lebanon	Meetings including with Prime Minister Najib Mikati, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Lebanese Armed Force Commander Josef Aoun.
19 December 2024	European Council Conclusions	The EU stated its continued support to the Lebanese State's sovereignty, territorial integrity and State-building efforts, including by contributing to the strengthening of the Lebanese Armed Forces.
21 February 2025	Commissioner Šuica's mission to Lebanon	Meetings including with President Joseph Aoun, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Foreign Minister Raggi.
15 December 2025	EU-Lebanon Association Council	The ninth EU-Lebanon Association Council, the first one in 8 years, took place in Brussels and was co-chaired by HR/VP Kallas and Lebanon's Foreign Minister Raggi. Commissioner Šuica and EU Foreign Ministers also participated. <i>[In preparation for the Association Council, a technical scoping mission on migration was conducted in Lebanon in July 2025 by EEAS, Commission and Frontex.]</i>
9 January 2026	Visit to Lebanon of PEC Costa and PCOM von der Leyen	Meetings including with President Joseph Aoun, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, Foreign Minister Youssef Raggi, Lebanese Armed Forces Commander Rodolphe Haykal.

		Member States, JHA agencies, Western Balkan partners. Special Envoy on external aspects of migration.
3-4 April 2023	Ministerial Conference Brdo-Process	Two main topics were discussed at the Ministerial Conference: 1. regional cooperation in the fight against migrant smuggling 2. return management and cooperation on readmissions
15 May 2023	EU-WB JHA SOM	Preparation of the annual Western Balkans JHA Ministerial meeting which took place on 26 October 2022 in Skopje, under the Spanish Presidency.
16 May 2023	Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)- Ministerial	
8-9 June 2023	Sarajevo Migration Dialogue	The aim of this conference was to define concrete follow-up actions towards the implementation of the Skopje Declaration commitments to address smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, increase access to alternative pathways for migrants in protracted transit situation and work towards a holistic return management approach. The conference was co-hosted by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU with facilitation by IOM.

15-16 June 2023	Prespa Dialogue Forum	This year was the 5 th anniversary since the signature of the Prespa agreement between Greece and North Macedonia. “EU-Western Balkans Migration Management: Solidarity and Shared Commitments” session was organised.
14 September 2023	Berlin Process Home Affairs ministerial, Tirana	Organised by Albania. Topics: migration management, cybersecurity and fight against organised crime
26 October 2023	EU Western Balkans Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Forum, Skopje	Organised by ES. Topics: strengthening migration and asylum and border management, counterterrorism, illicit drugs. Follow-up on the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Western Balkans.
29 October – 1 November 2023	President von der Leyen tour of the Western Balkans	President von der Leyen visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.
First semester 2024	Joint HOME-NEAR-MS-HOME Agencies missions to the Western Balkan partners, led by DDG HOME Onidi	Implementation of the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans (Belgrade and Sarajevo in February 2024, Tirana and Podgorica in March 2024, Skopje in July 2024)
20-21 March 2024	Ministerial Conference Brdo-Process	Organised by SI. Focus on irregular migration and trafficking in human beings, together with the role of international cooperation and the increasing importance of financial investigations as well as of digital sector.
16 April 2024	EU-WB JHA SOM	Preparation for JHA Ministerial meeting to be held on 28-29 October 2024 under HU

		Presidency. Focus on EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans, in particular on tackling migrant smuggling and on fight against corruption.
25-26 June 2024	Salzburg Forum	Attended by DDG Onidi. Working sessions on the Security of the Danube and digitalisation and on migration and migrant smuggling.
17 September 2024	Berlin Process Ministerial, Berlin	Organised by DE. Attended by DDG Onidi. Working sessions on irregular migration and migrant smuggling and on fight against organised crime.
23-26 October 2024	President von der Leyen tour of the Western Balkans	President von der Leyen visited Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia
28-29 October 2024	EU Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs Budva	Organised by HU. Topics: strengthening migration and asylum and border management and fight against organised transnational crime and illicit trafficking.
April-July 2025	Joint HOME-ENEST -MS-HOME Agencies missions to the Western Balkan partners, led by DDG HOME Onidi	Follow-up on implementation of the EU Action Plan on Western Balkans (Albania in April, Montenegro in May, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia planned for July)
7-8 April 2025	HRVP visit to the Western Balkans	High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Kallas visited Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina

8 April 2025	EU-WB JHA SOM	Attended by DDG Onidi. Focus on EU Action Plan in particular on fighting migrant smuggling and on the fight against organised crime
27 March 2025	Brdo Process Ministerial	Attended by Commissioners Brunner and Kos. Organised by SI. Topics: counterterrorism and addressing trafficking in human beings.
12-16 May 2025	PEC Costa regional tour of the Western Balkans	
17-18 June 2025	Salzburg Ministerial Forum with participation of Western Balkans on 18 June	Attended by Commissioner Brunner. Organised by HR. Topics: cross border cooperation on tackling irregular migration and organised crime
13-15 October 2025	President von der Leyen visit to the Western Balkans	The Commission President visited Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo and North Macedonia.
30-31 October 2025	EU-WB JHA Ministerial (Sarajevo)	
20 November 2025	Enhancing Cooperation in the Fight against drug trafficking: bridging EU, Latin America and Caribbean, and Western Balkans	Chaired by DDG Luchner. Topic: developing Cooperation between the three regions on fighting drugs trafficking
17 December 2025	EU-Western Balkans Summit	
5-6 February 2026 (ME +AL) 26-27 February 2026 (RS+NM)	Commissioner Brunner tour of the Western Balkans	
30 April 2026	EU-Western Balkans JHA SOM	

ALBANIA

Albania formally agreed an association with the EU by signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement in 2006 (entry into force in 2009). Albania was awarded candidate status in 2014. The accession negotiations were officially opened in 2020 and launched in on 19th July 2022 with the first Inter-governmental Conference. On 15th October 2024, a second Intergovernmental Conference was held, opening negotiations on cluster 1 – Fundamentals. The launch of negotiations on the fundamentals paved the way to open the other negotiating clusters and set out the Interim Benchmarks to be met for closing chapters. On 17th December 2024 a third Intergovernmental Conference was held, opening negotiations on cluster 6 – External Relations, followed by two other Intergovernmental Conferences on 14 April and 22 May 2025 respectively opening negotiations on cluster 2 (Internal Market) and 3 (Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth). The two additional Intergovernmental Conferences were held respectively on 16 September and 17 November 2025, opening negotiations on Cluster 4 (Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity) and Cluster 5 (Resources, Agriculture and Cohesion). Negotiations are opened on all negotiating Clusters of the revised Enlargement methodology. The EU-Albania Security and Defence Partnership was signed in December 2024, the first EU-Albania Security and Defence Dialogue was held in Tirana on 8 April 2025 and the second EU-Albania Security and Defence dialogue will be held in Brussels in April 2026. Albania has agreements or arrangements signed with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (Status Agreement signed in 2023 (to replace previous SA from 2019)) with teams currently deployed at Greek border, along the Adriatic, and at border crossing with Montenegro, as well as a working arrangement (negotiations on an updated working arrangement are ongoing); Europol (2013); CEPOL (2013); the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EUDA) (2019), and a Roadmap with the European Union Asylum Agency, and has signed the 2019 Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans, whose implementing arrangement was revised in December 2022. Albania is a beneficiary of the regional capacity building project WB PaCT, managed by CEPOL and supported by Europol.

The eighth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in December 2025 confirmed that Albania has taken actions identified in the seventh Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled. In June 2025, Albania joined the European Migration Network as observer.

Key past and upcoming events

31 January-1 February 2023	Visit of DDG HOME to discuss the WB Action Plan	Commitments taken by the Albanian authorities to implement the Action Plan
15-16 March 2023	EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council	

28-29 March 2023	Immigration Liaisons Officers (ILO) Network regional meeting in Tirana, Albania.	Technical meeting organised by DG HOME for the operationalisation of the Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership with Western Balkans. Participants: Immigration Liaison Officers from EU Member States, JHA agencies, Western Balkan partners.
14-15 June 2023	14 th EU-Albania Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security	
September 2023	Signature of upgraded Status Agreement for additional Deployments of EBCG Standing Corps at Albania's border with non-EU countries	Entry into force of the upgraded Status Agreement on 1 June 2024
5 October 2023	10 th EU-Albania Joint Readmission Committee meeting, Brussels	
6-7 March 2024	Visit of HOME Director, with NEAR, MS and HOME Agencies to follow-up on the implementation of the WB Action Plan	
20-21 March 2024	15 th EU-Albania Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security, Brussels.	
19 November 2024	Signature of EU-Albania Security and Defence Partnership	This new political framework establishes a platform for enhanced dialogue and cooperation on security and defence issues, including crisis management, support to Ukraine, countering hybrid threats, cyber security, capability building and training, counterterrorism and

		external aspects of integrated border management.
11-12 February 2025	16 th EU-Albania Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security, Tirana.	
6-7 April 2025	DDG Onidi-led visit on the implementation of the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans	
3-4 March 2026	17 th EU-Albania Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security, Brussels.	

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU entered into force in June 2015 and the country applied for EU membership in February 2016. The European Council granted the status of EU candidate country to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 15 December 2022, and on 21 March 2024 decided to open EU accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The European Council invited the Commission to prepare the negotiating framework with a view to its adoption by the Council the moment all relevant steps set out in the Commission's recommendation of 12 October 2022 are taken. Among these steps, Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to decisively advance work to ensure effective coordination, at all levels, of border management and migration management capacity, as well as ensuring the functioning of the asylum system. Significant financial support has been provided to the country to strengthen the response capacity to manage migration flows.

The Frontex Status Agreement with the EU was signed on 11 June 2025 with a joint operation ongoing since November 2025. A Working Arrangement with Frontex on operational cooperation was signed in 2009 (negotiations on an updated working arrangement are ongoing). Bosnia and Herzegovina concluded an Agreement on Operational and Strategic Co-operation with Europol (2016) and a Working Arrangement with CEPOL (2014). The country is a beneficiary of the regional capacity-building project WB PaCT, managed by CEPOL and supported by Europol. In January 2025, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) agreed on a roadmap for cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The country adopted a new Law on Border Control in January 2025, followed by a strategy and action plan on Integrated Border Management. The Strategy for Fighting Human Trafficking 2024-2027 has been adopted on 23 October 2024, and corresponding Action Plan in October 2025.

-Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the 2019 Joint Action Plan on Counterterrorism for the Western Balkans.

The Eight Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted on 19 December 2025 confirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina' has taken some actions to address the recommendations of the Seventh Report Visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled, but additional efforts are necessary in priority areas of visa policy and border management.

Key past and upcoming events

20-21 February 2023	Mission DDG HOME to discuss WB AP	To discuss the engagements of BiH authorities for the implementation of the AP
16 June 2023	EU-BiH 6th SA Committee	
23-24 March 2023	Visit Mr. Nestic to Brussels and meeting with Commissioner Johansson and DDG Onidi	
28 March 2023	9 th EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Joint Readmission Committee	

	meeting, Brussels	
22 June 2023	Opening Ceremony Europol National Focal Point	The creation of this National Contact Point, who coordinates the communication between relevant BiH law enforcement authorities and Europol, was followed by the deployment of a BiH Liaison Officer to the agency.
12 September 2023	Bilateral Commissioner Johansson and Minister of Foreign Affairs Konakovic	Discussions focused on visa alignment and on the appointment of the Frontex negotiation team
28 November 2023	Bilateral DDG Onidi and Min Nestic in the framework of the International Conference on a Global Alliance to counter migrant smuggling	Discussions focused on visa alignment and on the appointment of the Frontex negotiation team
29 November 2023	Phone meeting DDG Onidi and Minister of Foreign Affairs Konakovic	Discussions focused on visa alignment
6-7 December 2023	Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security with BiH	
29 January 2024	Meeting Commissioner Johansson and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Josip Brkić	Discussions focussed on visa alignment, the start of Frontex revised Status agreement negotiations, smuggling and returns
12-14 February 2024	Visit of DDG Onidi	Follow up of implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan
25 April 2024	VTC Director Ullrich with representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Security and SFA	Presentation of the EU proposed operational actions to decrease irregular migration resulting from the abuse of visa free regimes with TU, CN and RU
19-20 September 2024	Sarajevo migration dialogue	Regional authorities, international

		organisations, and EU member states discussed operationalisation of police cooperation in the Western Balkans, the European Union's role in migration management in the region, combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and improving voluntary and involuntary return and readmission policies.
10-11 December 2024	Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security with BiH	
8 April 2025	Visit of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Kallas	
28 April 2025	10 th EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Joint Readmission Committee meeting	
11 June 2025	Signing of Frontex status agreement & bilateral meetings of Commissioner Brunner and Kos with Chairwoman Kristo	
8-9 July 2025	Mission DDG Onidi on the EU Action Plan for the Western Balkans	Follow up of implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan
30 October 2025	EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on JHA, with participation of Commissioner Brunner	On the margins: bilateral meetings, formal launch of Frontex Joint Operation Bosnia and Herzegovina with executive powers.
24-25 February 2026	Justice, Freedom, and Security Subcommittee	

NORTH MACEDONIA

North Macedonia formally agreed an association with the EU through the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, which entered into force in 2004. It applied for EU membership in 2004, and the Council decided in December 2005 to grant the country candidate status. In March 2020, the General Affairs Council decided to open accession negotiations under the revised methodology. In July 2020 the draft negotiating framework was presented to the Member States. In July 2022, the first political intergovernmental conference opening the accession negotiations process took place. The screening process which started in 2022 was completed in December 2023 and all screening reports were submitted to the Council by March 2025. However, North Macedonia has not yet opened the first cluster due not yet having implemented constitutional changes as set out in July 2022 Council conclusions.

North Macedonia concluded agreements or arrangements with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (2009 working arrangement (an update is currently being negotiated) and 2022 status agreement, operational since April 2023); Europol (2011); CEPOL (2017); and signed the 2019 Joint Action Plan on Counterterrorism for the Western Balkans. The country is a beneficiary of the regional capacity-building project WB PaCT, managed by CEPOL and supported by Europol.

The Eight Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in December 2025 confirmed that North Macedonia has taken some actions to address the recommendations of the Seventh Report, and the Visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled.

North Macedonia has Observer Status in the European Migration Network.

Key past and upcoming events

15-16 March 2023	EU-North Macedonia Sub- Committee meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security	
April 2023	Launch of Frontex JO North Macedonia Land (on basis of status agreement)	
6 February 2024	EMN Fact finding mission	
5-6 March 2024	EU-North Macedonia Sub- Committee meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security in Skopje	
18-19 July 2024	Mission DDG Onidi on the EU Action Plan for the Western Balkans	Follow up of implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan

28 October 2024	North Macedonia signed the Administrative Arrangement granting it Observer Status to the European Migration Network.	
November 2024	Signature of Security and Defence Partnership with EU	
13-14 March 2025	EU-North Macedonia Sub- Committee meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security in Brussels	
Q3 2025 (tbc)	10 th EU-North Macedonia Joint Readmission Committee meeting	
27 February 2026	Commissioner Brunner's visit	
12 March 2026	EU-North Macedonia Sub- Committee meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security in Skopje	

MONTENEGRO

Montenegro formally agreed an association with the EU by signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement in 2007 and was awarded candidate status in 2010. The accession negotiations started in 2012 and to date 33 negotiating chapters have been opened (including Chapter 24 on Justice, freedom and security) of which 12 have been provisionally closed. Sub-Committees on Justice, Freedom and Security take place annually. An Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) took place on 26 June 2024 June with Montenegro, on the basis of the Interim Benchmarks Assessment Reports (IBARs) prepared by the Commission relating to chapters 23 and 24 of the acquis. The latest IGC took place on 16 December 2025, leading to the provisional closure of five negotiating chapters.

The Commission IBARs concluded that Montenegro has overall met the interim benchmarks set in the European Union Common Positions (CONF-ME 13) for Chapters 23 and 24, while some have been only partially met. Based on this assessment, the Council adopted EU Common Positions for chapters 23 and 24 that set closing benchmarks and provide further guidance for the work ahead. Building on the current momentum on enlargement, Montenegro has now moved to the next phase of accession negotiations, in which further negotiating chapters are being provisionally closed: at the IGC in December 2025, Montenegro provisionally closed chapters 3 (right of establishment and freedom to provide services), 4 (free movement of capital), 6 (company law), 11 (agriculture and rural development) and 13 (fisheries).

Montenegro concluded agreements or arrangements with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (2019 Status agreement; new agreement signed on 16 May 2023 with teams deployed at EU borders, as well as a 2009 working arrangement (update currently being negotiated)); Europol (2014); and CEPOL (2011); and signed the 2019 Joint Action Plan on Counterterrorism for the Western Balkans and a 2025 second Joint Roadmap for cooperation with the EUAA. The country is a beneficiary of the regional capacity-building project WB PaCT, managed by CEPOL and supported by Europol. In October 2024, Montenegro signed a Working Arrangement with the EUDA.

The eighth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in December 2025 confirmed that Montenegro has taken actions identified in the seventh Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled. Montenegro has observer status in the European Migration Network.

Key past and upcoming events

25 January 2023	Stabilisation and association committee Montenegro	To discuss progress on chapters 23 and 24
1-2 February 2023	Mission DDG HOME to discuss the WB AP	Discussion and commitments taken by MNE authorities for

		the implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan
23 March 2023	Visit to Brussels Min of Interior Adzic and meeting with Commissioner Johansson	
22-23 March 2023	12th EU- Montenegro Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security	
16 May 2023	Signature of new Status Agreement for the deployment of EBCG Standing Corps	
28 November 2023	Signature the revised Counterterrorism (CT) Arrangement and bilateral with Commissioner Johansson	First courtesy visit by the new Minister Saranovic. Discussions focused on visa alignment and on WB Action Plan priorities.
7-8 March 2024	Visit of Director Nielsen	Follow up of implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan
13-14 March 2024	13th EU- Montenegro Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security in Podgorica	
19 April 2024	8 th EU-Montenegro Joint Readmission Committee meeting, Brussels	
18-20 June 2024	Peer Review Mission on the Joint Action Plan on Counter Terrorism	
26 June 2024	Intergovernmental Conference	Closing Benchmarks set for Chapters 23 and 24
22 October 2024	Radicalisation Awareness Network Tailor-made Support Service on the review of the strategy on preventing and countering radicalisation	
28-29 October 2024	Bilateral visit of Commissioner Johansson in the margin of the JHA Ministerial	

October 2024	Signature of Working Arrangement between the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and Montenegro	
16 December 2024	Intergovernmental Conference	Provisional closure of Chapters 7 (Intellectual property law), 10 (Information society and media) and 20 (Enterprise and industrial policy)
18 February 2025	14 th Stabilisation and Association committee with Montenegro	
18-19 March 2025	14th EU-Montenegro Justice Freedom and Security Subcommittee in Podgorica	
March 2025	Signature of second Joint Roadmap for Cooperation between the EUAA and Montenegro	
May 2025	DDG Onidi-led visit to follow-up on the implementation of the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans	
27 June 2025	Intergovernmental Conference	Provisional closure of Chapter 5 (Public Procurement)
Q4 2025	9 th EU-Montenegro Joint Readmission Committee meeting	
16 December 2025	Intergovernmental Conference	Provisional closure of Chapter 3 (Right of establishment and freedom to provide services), Chapter 4 (Free movement of capital), Chapter 6 (Company law), Chapter 11 (Agriculture and rural development) and Chapter 13 (Fisheries).
5 February 2025	Bilateral visit of Commissioner Brunner	

5-6 February 2026	Regional Awareness-raising event on Schengen Action Plans	
10-11 February 2026	15th EU-Montenegro Justice Freedom and Security Subcommittee in Podgorica	

SERBIA

In March 2012 Serbia was granted EU candidate status. In September 2013 a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Serbia entered into force. 18 out of 35 negotiating chapters have been opened, including, “Judiciary and fundamental rights” (so-called chapter 23) and “Justice, freedom and security” (so-called chapter 24) since the start of accession negotiations with Serbia in January 2014. The first inter-governmental conference with Serbia under this revised methodology agreed by the Council in May 2021, was held on 22 June 2021. No new cluster has been opened since December 2021 (Cluster 4 on Green Agenda).

Serbia has Working Arrangements in place with Frontex (2009) (an updated is currently being negotiated)); CEPOL (2017); and EUDA-(2020). The country is a beneficiary of the regional capacity-building project WB PaCT, managed by CEPOL and supported by Europol. An Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation with Europol was signed in 2014. A new Status Agreement with the EU, allowing the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to deploy personnel to Serbia’s borders with its neighbouring Western Balkans partners, in addition to the country's border with the European Union, was signed on 25 June 2024. Serbia has a Joint Roadmap with EUAA in place.

The EU-Serbia Readmission Agreement entered into force on 1 January 2008. EU Member States continue to assess readmission cooperation with Serbia as good.

The eight report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in December 2025 confirmed that Serbia has taken steps to address the Commission’s previous recommendations. However, further progress is required in several key areas, particularly with regard to migration, visa policy, and acquisition of citizenship. In particular, Serbia must refrain from granting citizenship under accelerated or simplified procedures to nationals of countries, including Russia, that pose illegal migration or security risks to the EU.

Serbia was granted observer status in the European Migration Network in March 2023.

Key past and upcoming events

24 January 2023	Commissioner Johansson’s meeting with Deputy First Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dačić	Discussion about Serbia’s progress on the Western Balkans’ Action Plan on Migration.
16 March 2023	Commissioner Johansson’s visit to Serbia	Discussion about the EU Action Plan, visit of Frontex deployment at the HU border
29-30 March 2023	EU-Serbia Subcommittee for Justice, Freedom and Security	
4 April 2023	Meeting with Serbian authorities on the implementation of the third countries national’s clause of the Readmission Agreement	

30 November 2023	Technical meeting on the readmission of third country nationals under the EU-Serbia Readmission Agreement	Meeting with Serbia and Slovakia on practical solutions for the readmission of third country nationals
11 September 2023	Commissioner Johansson's meeting with EU Integration Minister Tanja Mišćević	Discussion about migration management, Frontex Status Agreement, returns, visa alignment, draft amendments to the law on citizenship
25 October 2023	Commissioner Johansson's meeting with Prime Minister Ana Brnabić	Discussion about Frontex Status Agreement, visa policy alignment and state of play on passports for Kosovo Serbs
6-7 February 2024	Mission of DDG HOME to follow-up on the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans	
12-13 March 2024	EU-Serbia Justice Freedom and Security Sub Committee	
15 March 2024	10 th EU-Serbia Joint Readmission Committee meeting, <u>Brussels</u>	Discussion on the third country national's readmission provision
25 June 2024	Commissioner Johansson's mission to Serbia for signature of the new Frontex Status Agreement	Discussion with authorities on visa policy alignment
11-12 March 2025	EU-Serbia Justice Freedom and Security Sub Committee	
Q1 2026	11 th EU-Serbia Joint Readmission Committee meeting, <u>Belgrade</u>	
26 February 2026	Commissioner Brunner visit to Belgrade	

KOSOVO*

The EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Agreement has been in force since April 2016. Kosovo is a potential candidate and submitted an application for EU membership in December 2022. In 2018, the Commission confirmed that Kosovo had fulfilled all outstanding visa liberalisation benchmarks. The visa free regime for Kosovo passport holders entered into force on 1 January 2024.

Kosovo has Working Arrangements with EBCGA (Frontex) since 2016 (updated currently being negotiated); Europol (2020); CEPOL (2017); and EUDA (2020). Kosovo is a beneficiary of the regional capacity-building project WB PaCT, managed by CEPOL and supported by Europol. Kosovo has a Joint Roadmap with EUAA in place since March 2022. The eight report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in December 2025 covered Kosovo for the second time and confirmed that Kosovo continues to fulfil its visa liberalisation requirements, while offering recommendations for areas to improve, such as alignment of visa policy, addressing unfounded asylum applications or strengthening document security.

Key past and upcoming events

14-15 March 2023	Visit of DDG HOME to discuss the WB Action Plan	Commitments taken by the Kosovo authorities to implement the Action Plan
21-22 June 2023	EU-Kosovo Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security	Postponed
16 November 2023	COM proposal to grant visa free travel to holders of passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate	Final adoption to take place under the new European Parliament
18 April 2023	Final vote in EP on COM proposal to grant visa free travel to Kosovo passport holders	
1 January 2024	Entry into force of visa free regime for Kosovo passport holders	
13 October 2024	Entry into force of visa free regime for holders of passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate	

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

13-14 November 2025	EU-Kosovo Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security	
---------------------	---	--

		migration.
22-24 May 2024	Commissioner Várhelyi visit to Türkiye	Meeting with Turkish authorities following the local elections (including migration).
3-4 December 2024	DDG HOME Johannes Luchner visit to Ankara	Meetings with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Presidency of Migration Management
17 December 2024	Visit of President von der Leyen to Türkiye	
24 January 2025	Visit of HRVP Kallas to Türkiye	
23 May 2025	20 th Steering Committee meeting	Chaired by Director Adrienn Kiraly ENEST.C
25-26 June 2025	DDG HOME Johannes Luchner visit to Ankara for Senior Official Meeting between DG HOME and Turkish authorities	Accompanied by Frontex (Director STRAT)
2 July 2025	EU-Türkiye High Level Dialogue on Migration and Security in Istanbul	Co-chaired by Commissioner Brunner and Interior Minister of Türkiye Ali Yerlikaya
July 2025 –	Commissioner Kos visit to Türkiye	
November 2025	President VDL met with President Erdogan on the margins of G20	Main discussion point was migration
January 2026	DG Koopman visit to Türkiye	
February 2026	Commissioner Kos visit to Türkiye	
Q1-Q2 2026	Senior Official Meeting DG HOME - Presidency of Migration Management - TBC	

24 July 2025	EU-China Summit	
25 September 2025	4 th EU-China Dialogue on Drugs	

Key past and upcoming events		
20 October 2023	EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility + launch of the 2 nd phase of the CAMM/HLDMM support project, New Delhi	
21 October 2024	Hybrid workshop on digital skills and IT worker mobility	Outside of CAMM project but supported by the implementing partners in cooperation with the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue
28 November 2024	EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility, Brussels	
29 November 2024	Hybrid workshop on readmission management	
28 February 2025	College visit to India	Incl. Participation of Commissioner Brunner.
17 September 2025	Publication of the Joint Communication of a New Strategic EU-India Agenda	
December 2025/January 2026	Negotiation of the new EU-India Strategic Agenda and Comprehensive framework of cooperation on mobility; launch of the European Legal Gateway Office	
12 November 2025	EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility, New Delhi	
26-27 January 2026	EU-India Summit, New Delhi	Possibly agreement on the Comprehensive framework of cooperation on mobility and launch of the European Legal Gateway Office pilot in the ICT sector.

February 2026 and broad changes in the ranks of the national public administration are expected to continue in the coming months.

The EU and Bangladesh are currently negotiating the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. The position of a European Migration Liaison Officer in Bangladesh has remained vacant since September 2024.

Key past and upcoming events

1 March 2023	7 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the Implementation of the SOPs, Dhaka	
1-2 March 2023	First meeting of the Migration Dialogue back-to-back with the Joint Working Group on the implementation of the SOPs on return of irregular migrants	Discussions on readmission, operationalisation of a Talent Partnership, countering migrant smuggling, and trafficking in human beings.
2 May 2023	Visit of MD Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, to Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Johansson with to discuss migration and broader geopolitical issues
1 December 2023	Meeting of co-chairs of the JWG + Technical meeting on the EU-Bangladesh RCMS in Brussels as a follow up to the JWG	
4 March 2024	8 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the Implementation of the SOPs, Brussels	
5 March 2024	2 nd Talent Partnership Roundtable with Bangladesh, Brussels	
-5 March 2024	2 nd Migration and Mobility Dialogue (MMD) with Bangladesh, Brussels	
8 July 2024	Signature of the first EU-Bangladesh Talent Partnership contract (EUR 3 million, implemented by ILO) and of the complementary Skills21 extension project of EUR 1.8 million (focused on talent partnership activities, implemented by ILO).	
4 November 2024	11 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission	Subgroups on Human Rights and good governance (31 October), Subgroup on trade and economy (22 October), Subgroup on

		development (February 2025)
5-6 November 2024	Explanatory meeting on the draft Partnership and Cooperation Agreement	
January 2025	DG HOME/EEAS technical mission to Bangladesh	Preparatory mission to follow-up on the series of meetings held with Bangladesh in March 2024, ensure continuity and to prepare the next iteration of annual meetings.
1-3 March 2025	Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for preparedness and crisis management visits Bangladesh.	Allocation of Euro 76 million for crises in South and South East Asia. Out of this amount Euro 32.3 million for support of Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh
10-11 April 2025	1 st round of negotiations on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, Brussels	
15-16 July 2025	2 nd round of negotiations on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, virtual	
9 September 2025	9 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the Implementation of the SOPs, Dhaka	
9 September 2025	3 rd Talent Partnership Roundtable with Bangladesh, Dhaka	
10 September 2025	3 rd Migration and Mobility Dialogue (MMD) with Bangladesh, Dhaka	Including migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings
17 November 2025	Withdrawal of the Commission Proposal for restrictive measures under Art 25a of the Visa Code	
Q2/Q3 2026	10 th EU-Bangladesh JWG for the implementation of the SOPs, 4 th Talent Partnership Roundtable with Bangladesh, 4 th Migration and Mobility Dialogue with Bangladesh. Brussels.	

Key past and upcoming events

15 March 2023	14 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee, Islamabad	
15-16 March 2023	First meeting of the Migration and Mobility Dialogue back-to-back with the 14 th Joint Readmission Committee and Talent Partnership roundtable, Islamabad	Discussions on readmission (within the JRC); operationalisation of a Talent Partnership; countering migrant smuggling, international protection of Afghan refugees and trafficking in human beings
31 May – 1 June 2023	Consular Workshop on cooperation with Pakistan on readmission, Berlin	
12 June 2023	Visit of Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, to Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Johansson to discuss migration and security issues
23 June 2023	EU-Pakistan Joint Commission	A point on migration and mobility on the agenda.
4 July 2023	Technical Workshop on operational cooperation on readmission with Pakistan, Warsaw	
26 July 2023	HOME/MOVE meeting with the Pakistani civil aviation authority and Federal Investigation Agency	
September 2023	Commissioner Johansson met Minister for Foreign Affairs on the margins of UNGA	
27 November 2023	Bilateral meeting between Commissioner Johansson and Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani, Caretaker Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan	Bilateral took place in the margins of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling, to discuss migration and security issues, incl. cooperation with Pakistan on tackling migrant smuggling
06 March 2024	9 th Round of the EU-Pakistan Political Dialogue	The meeting itself, together with targeted meetings with the Pakistani Special Envoy for Afghanistan and the representatives of the Pakistani military gave the opportunity to raise migration related issues, notably the implementation of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan
04-07 March 2024	DG HOME/EEAS mission to Pakistan (meetings at Federal	Preparatory mission to review the state of implementation of bilateral

	Investigative Agency, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	commitments in the area of migration cooperation.
23 April 2024	2 nd Talent Partnership roundtable with Pakistan, Brussels	
24 April 2024	15 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
25 April 2024	2 nd meeting of the Migration and Mobility Dialogue, <u>Brussels</u>	
12 November 2024	Bilateral meeting between DG HOME and Pakistan's delegation led by Minister of Interior, in the margins of the Budapest Process Ministerial meeting	Courtesy meeting to take stock of the state of play of EU-Pakistan cooperation in the area of migration management
21 November 2024	14 th EU-Pakistan Joint Commission	
6 March 2025	Global Core Group Meeting in Geneva	
19-20 June 2025	Budapest Process Thematic Meeting on Legal Pathways for Migration, Islamabad	For the first time in 10 years, Pakistan hosted a meeting under the Budapest process
29 October 2025	16 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee, Islamabad	Annual series of meetings to address all migration-related topic in a comprehensive manner.
29 October 2025	3 rd Talent Partnership Roundtable with Pakistan, Islamabad	
30 October 2025	3 rd EU-Pakistan Migration and Mobility Dialogue, Islamabad	Discussions including migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings
Q3/Q4 2026	4 th EU-Pakistan Migration and Mobility Dialogue, 4 th EU-Pakistan Talent Partnership Roundtable and 17 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee foreseen to take place in Brussels	

AFGHANISTAN

Since 2016, the EU has been engaged with Afghanistan in a constructive dialogue on migration and forced displacement, with the aim to build a long-term partnership in this area in a spirit of solidarity. This balanced and comprehensive cooperation on migration was reflected in the Joint Way Forward (JWF) and its successor arrangement entitled 'Joint Declaration on Migration Cooperation (JDMC- signed on 26 April 2021) which built on the JWF and consolidated the already very good EU-Afghan cooperation on migration governance by adapting it to the migratory situation in 2021. These documents had been instrumental in allowing Afghans residing irregularly in the EU to return in a safe, dignified and orderly way, and in reintegrating them in Afghanistan. Since the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August 2021, this arrangement is on hold. While any decision on returns is the competence of EU Member States within the limits imposed by EU law and fundamental rights like the principle of non-refoulement, carrying out returns remains difficult in the current circumstances where human rights in Afghanistan are systematically abused. In October 2024, the European court of justice (ECJ) ruled that gender and nationality alone are sufficient grounds for EU Member States to grant asylum to women from Afghanistan. In response to a letter by 19 EU Member States and Norway to Commissioner Brunner and High Representative Kallas in October 2025, requesting the EU to assist returns of Afghan nationals, the European Commission assisted by the EU Delegation conducted two technical missions to discuss returns with the de-facto authorities in Kabul.

The EU's policy towards Afghanistan is based on Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions adopted in September 2021 and March 2023. These are the benchmarks that determine the EU's engagement with the Taliban. The EU maintains contact with the de facto authorities to allow for dialogue on the political priorities of the EU and ensure the EU can provide support to the Afghan people.

From the beginning of the crisis in mid-August 2021, the Commission and the EEAS put in place a set of priority actions:

- 1. Safe evacuation and passage of EU nationals from Afghanistan, as well as of those Afghans and their families who have worked for the EU and for its Member States.*
- 2. Ensure safe and legal pathways for Afghans in need of immediate protection, with a strong gender dimension. Building on the Resettlement Forum of July 2021, Commissioner Johannsson repeatedly called on EU Member States to step up their engagement on resettlement, increase their quotas and consider other complementary pathways to ensure the highest possible number of legal admissions of Afghan refugees, notably women and children.*
- 3. On 7 October 2021, Commissioner Johannsson and High Representative Vice-President Josep Borrell convened a High-level Forum on providing protection to Afghans at risk dedicated to taking stock of the EU Member States' intentions as regards providing protection to the various categories of people at risk in Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries. In addition, a specific, multi-annual Support Scheme for Afghans was announced with the aim to combine short-term measures, notably evacuations/safe passage, and more medium- and long-term measures, including resettlement from neighbouring countries (based on referrals from UNHCR, e.g. from Iran and Pakistan), humanitarian admissions, and other complementary pathways (family reunification and pathways linked to study or work). For 2022, Member States committed 38,000 pledges for humanitarian admissions (as of November 2022, 41 000 humanitarian admission arrivals of Afghan nationals were reported) and 1,111 for resettlement. Furthermore, 13 000 places for Afghans at risk in 2023 were pledged by 16 Member States. Under the EU resettlement and humanitarian admission scheme for 2024-2025, 8 Member States made specific pledges for Afghans. In total, MS pledged 29 310 places,*

of which 2 910 for resettlement (9% of total resettlement pledge) and 26 400 for humanitarian admission. Several Member States indicated transfer of Afghans as one of their priorities in the framework of the 2026-2027 Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Plan.

4. Continue supporting the neighbouring countries to Afghanistan and countries of transit in their efforts to provide protection, safe and dignified reception conditions for displaced Afghans and to support the host communities. Continuation of ongoing EU programmes and strengthening cooperation, including on capacity building for host communities in Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan, as well as other countries in the region, to prevent the unsafe and irregular movements of people, to strengthen border management with the support of Frontex and support protection systems, further reinforce existing programmes on law enforcement cooperation to counter migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings networks, with the support of Europol whenever feasible. In close cooperation with UNHCR and IOM, the regional Team Europe Initiative has generated 1.1 billion euros in indicative financial allocations and aims to support Afghan IDPs and host communities through policy dialogue, protection (including social inclusion and sustainable reintegration), provision of basis services, job creation and access to the labour market.
5. The Regional Team Europe Initiative on the Afghan displacement situation put forward by the Commission is the EU's response to the Afghan regional displacement crisis. It links to the Support Platform for the Solution Strategy for Afghan refugees (SSAR) run by UNHCR, and covers Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Central Asian countries. In full compliance with the Council Conclusions of 21 September 2021 and March 2023, EU and Member States support protection, improve livelihood conditions and provide durable solutions for displaced Afghans and their host communities. The TEI also supports better migration management and fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, thus contributing to the operationalization of the external dimension of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in countries of primary relevance for the EU. The Regional TEI gathers humanitarian and development actors from EU Services (DG INTPA as well as ECHO and HOME) and 13 EU Member States.
6. Enhanced political outreach and dialogue and further strengthening the international community's response on Afghan displacement is also carried out through the Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solution Strategy for Afghan refugees (SSAR). The EU has used its lead role as chair of this Group in this respect in 2021 and 2022, followed in 2023 by Qatar and the Netherlands as the Chair and co-Chair. To note, that - since October 2023 - the EU has been also actively engaged in providing assistance to Afghans returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan in the framework of the Pakistani "Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan" [see the table on Pakistan for more details]. DG ECHO mobilised EUR 61 million to assist the returnees (EUR 60 million directed to the Afghan side of the border and EUR 1 million to assist on the Pakistani side of the border).

Key past and upcoming events

27 October 2023	Meeting of the Regional Team Europe Initiative on the Afghan Displacement Situation	
5 December 2023	EUAA Expert Platform on Safe Pathways for Afghans focusing on integration practices &	

	housing support for Afghan refugees Brussels		
27 February 2024	Regional Team Europe Initiative on the Afghan Displacement Situation	High level coordination meeting	
20 March 2024	EUAA Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Network Expert Platform on Safe pathways for Afghans		
10-11 June 2024	Senior Official Meeting on Afghanistan	Gathering of 50plus delegations from the European Union and like-minded partners to discuss the situation in Afghanistan in a triple nexus approach. The issue of Afghan internally displaced persons as well as the Pakistani IFRP have been discussed.	
26 June 2024	Global Core Group meeting of the SSAR platform	Discussion about creating an enabling environment for Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan and host communities to successfully integrate	
25 September 2024	EUAA Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Network Expert Platform on Safe pathways for Afghans		
17 October 2024	Regional Team Europe Initiative on the Afghan Displacement Situation	Coordination meeting	
10 December 2024	EUAA Expert Platform on Safe Pathways for Afghans		
19 June 2025	EUAA Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Network Expert Platform on Safe pathways for Afghans		
30 September 2025	EUAA Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Network Expert Platform on Safe pathways for Afghans		

13 November 2025	Meeting of the Team Europe Initiative meeting on the Afghan Displacement Situation (VTC)	Attendees : EU : Commission, DEL AF, DEL PK, EEAS, EUAA EU MS : AT, IT, FR, DE, IR, SE	
15 December 2025	EUAA Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Network Expert Platform on Safe pathways for Afghans		
18-20 January 2026	Joint DG HOME – Belgium mission to Kabul on returns		

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 endorsed during the EU-Iran High Level Dialogue of December 2020 (not yet signed). The EU has repeatedly approached the Iranian side, also at a high level, with the proposal of holding the first meeting of the dialogue at senior official level, however up till now, the dialogue has not been launched. The deterioration of EU-Iran relations prevented the European Commission from fully implementing bilateral cooperation since 2022, except for the support to Afghan refugees in Iran, collaborating with International Organisations and international NGOs.

If circumstances created by Iran significantly improve, the situation will be re-assessed as well as the possibility to resume cooperation.

Key past and upcoming events

None after 2022

IRAQ

Several technical meetings under the informal Migration Dialogue took place during the last years. Discussions comprised irregular migration, return and readmission, migration governance as well as root causes of fragility and displacement. The 2025 EU-Iraq Cooperation Council emphasized the continuously improving EU-Iraq relations. Migration was notably mentioned as an area where Iraq made significant progress, while not losing sight of the need to (re)-commit to the general reform path in Iraq and to address the root causes of fragility in a holistic manner.

The readmission of its nationals is included as a legally binding obligation in the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (art. 105) in force since 1 August 2018.

Iraq was one of the countries for which restrictive measures were proposed by the Commission, in July 2021, following the first report under Art. 25a of the Visa Code. The intense engagement with the Iraqi authorities led to a meeting called by Foreign Minister Hussein on 23 May 2023, during which he announced a new policy on return and readmission based on the acceptance of all types of returns, and a firm commitment to cooperate and deliver tangible results. Since April 2022, the Frontex European Reintegration Programme is being implemented in Iraq.

In July 2025; the 6th assessment report acknowledged substantive and sustained progress on readmission cooperation and the Commission withdrew its proposal.

Discussions are continuing with Iraq on returns, including non-voluntary, through regular meetings with the Iraqi authorities at the political and technical level.

Throughout 2025 regular monitoring meetings took place with the Iraqi Ambassador/embassy in Brussels to discuss readmission cooperation. Negotiations on practical arrangements for readmission at EU level (non-binding EU readmission arrangement) are ongoing. The signature of the EU-Iraq readmission arrangement is currently pending the formation of a new Iraqi government after the November 2025 elections.

Key past and upcoming events

19 March 2023	EU-Iraq Cooperation Council (Brussels)	Discussion to also include migration, including readmission cooperation.
Since Q4 2023	Regular monitoring meetings on readmission hosted at the Iraqi embassy (Brussels)	DG HOME, EEAS and Presidency attendance
06 May 2023	EU demarche delivered on cooperation on return and readmission (Baghdad)	The demarche was delivered in the presence of Mr Mohammed Bahr al-Uloom, Deputy Foreign Minister. Attendance: AT - BG - CZ - DE - EL – ES – HU - FI - FR - IT - NL -RO - SE. Norway was invited as Schengen country.

15 June 2023	HRVP Borrell's meeting with FM Hussein at the margins of the VII. Syria Conference	HRVP thanked the Government of Iraq for the proactive cooperation on the migration file
02 May 2024	Meeting between Commission, EU Member States and Iraq hosted by the BE Presidency	Discussion on cooperation on return and readmission
03 May 2024	Meeting for Negotiations of practical arrangements on readmission cooperation (Brussels)	
29-30 September 2024	Negotiations of practical arrangements on readmission cooperation (Baghdad)	
2025	Regular (bi-monthly) monitoring meetings with the Iraqi Ambassador/embassy in Brussels to discuss readmission cooperation including negotiations of a non-binding EU readmission arrangement. DG HOME/EEAS and Rotating EU Presidency participate.	
19 October 2025	4th EU-Iraq Cooperation Council	Iraq was lauded notably on migration as having come a long way, but it was stressed that Iraq needs to continuously enact reforms
17 November 2025	Withdrawal of the Commission Proposal for Art 25a measures (OJ 17/11/2025)	

		influx of the displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh.
13 February 2024	EU-Armenia Partnership Council	The EU and Armenia shared issues related to migration, mobility and the possible launch of a visa liberalisation dialogue.
3-4 June 2024	Frontex Technical Mission to Yerevan	Frontex/EUD and Government discussed next steps to update the cooperation agreement with Frontex and possibilities to extend cooperation.
11-12 June 2024	EU-Armenia Partnership Committee	Armenia inquired about the process of the Visa liberalisation dialogue as well as issues related to the EU Asylum Agency (requesting potential for support on training) and informed about their progress on the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan and their cooperation with Frontex.
9 September 2024	VP Schinas high level visit	Launch of visa liberalisation dialogue (VLD)
5-6 November 2024	HOME technical mission VLD	Objective: to explain visa liberalisation dialogue process
11 December 2024	Senior Official meeting VLD	Senior Officials overseeing the visa liberalisation dialogue met. AM side was the Minister of Interior. HOME side: DDG Luchner.
10-14 February	VLD expert mission I	
18 February 2025	EU-Armenia Justice, Freedom and Security Sub-Committee	
7-11 April 2025	VLD expert mission II	
8 July 2025	EU-Armenia Partnership Committee	
9 October 2025	10 th EU-Armenia Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels.	
9 October 2025	8 th EU-Armenia Joint Visa Facilitation Committee meeting	

22 October 2025	Endorsement of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan by Coreper	
5 November 2025	Hand over the Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP) to the Government of Armenia	
2 December 2025	EU-Armenia Partnership Council	
8-12 December 2025	1 st VLAP expert mission	
3 February 2026	EU-Armenia Political and Security Dialogue	3 February 2026
March 2026	EU-Armenia Sub-committee on Justice Freedom and Security	March 2026
March 2026	Human Rights Dialogue	March 2026
March 2026	EU-Armenia Sub-committee on Energy, Transport, Environment, Climate Action and Civil Protection	March 2026
May 2026	EU-Armenia Summit	May 2026

AZERBAIJAN

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

The EU-Azerbaijan Mobility Partnership was signed on 5 December 2013 and the first High-Level Meeting was organised in February 2017. The Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force on 1 September 2014. The Visa Facilitation Agreement and the Readmission Agreement are implemented in a satisfactory manner. Strengthening border management is another strand of EU's cooperation with Azerbaijan. A working arrangement between Frontex and Azerbaijan is in place since 2013.

Azerbaijan is a beneficiary of two EU-funded regional capacity-building projects: TOPCOP and "Fighting organised crime in the Eastern partnership region., managed by CEPOL and supported by Europol.

Key past and upcoming events

22-23 May 2023	EU-Azerbaijan Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
23 November 2023	EU-Azerbaijan 7th Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	
13 June 2024	5 th EU-Azerbaijan Security Dialogue	
12 July 2024	8 th Joint Readmission Committee	
22 May 2025	6 th EU-Azerbaijan Security Dialogue	
13 June 2025	3 rd EU-Azerbaijan high-level energy dialogue	
9 October 2025	2 nd EU-Azerbaijan high-level transport dialogue	
TBC	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council (TBC)	
TBC	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Committee (TBC)	

revised working arrangement between Frontex and Georgia has been in place since February 2021. Since 2021 Georgia is an observer in the European Migration Network.

Key past and upcoming events

18-19 July 2023	EU-Georgia Association Committee	
26 October 2023	13 th EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee, Tbilisi	
20 February 2024	EU-Georgia Association Council	
28 November 2024	14 th EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	

	Management in Moldova	
23-25 September 2024	Bilateral screening meeting on Chapter 24 acquis (Justice, Freedom and Security)	
24 September 2024	11 th meeting of the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova	Thematic focus: FIMI
4 March 2025	Visit of PEC Costa	4 March 2025
6 March 2025	12 th meeting of the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova	Thematic focus: FIMI in elections and politics
24 April 2025	Visit of HRVP Kallas	
4 June	9 th EU-Moldova Association Council	
13 June 2025	13 th meeting of the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova	Thematic focus: Trafficking of Firearm and Small and Light Weapons (SALW)
4 July 2025	EU-Moldova Summit	
22-23 January 2026	14 th meeting of the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management for Moldova	
5-6 March 2026	JLS Subcommittee	

		management and border security. It also included a short discussion on the diversion of small arms and light weapons.
30 November 2023	Association Committee (Trade formation)	
14-15 December 2023	European Council	
1 February 2024	EU leaders agree to provide Ukraine with regular and predictable support via a new dedicated financial instrument. The 'Ukraine Facility' will make available up to €50 billion in grants and loans until 2027.	
6-7 February 2024	Visit of HRVP to Kyiv	
20 February 2024	Technical part of the 2 nd EU-UA Internal Security Dialogue	Technical part of the 2 nd EU-UA Internal Security Dialogue focused on firearms trafficking and Integrated Border Management. On border management, UA agreed to adapt their reviewed strategy on the basis of the new EIBM. UA committed to establish its own roadmap on firearms trafficking.
20 March 2024	9 th 'EU-Ukraine Association Council' (Brussels)	
21 March 2024	European Council	The European Council welcomed the progress of Ukraine (and the Republic of Moldova) in advancing on the necessary reforms on the EU path. Further to the submission of the draft negotiating frameworks for Ukraine (and the Republic of Moldova), the European Council invited the Council to swiftly adopt them and to take work forward without delay.
25 June 2024	1 st 'Ministerial meeting opening the Intergovernmental Conference on the	

	Accession of Ukraine to the European Union (Luxembourg)	
27 June 2024	European Council + signature Joint security commitments between the European Union and Ukraine	
8-9 July 2024	First bilateral screening meeting held on 8-9 July on "acquis" chapter 5 (Public Procurement).	
September 2024	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
23-25 October 2024	Bilateral screening meeting on Chapter 24 acquis (Justice, Freedom and Security)	
26 November 2024	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
16 January 2025	Screening report on Cluster 1 (Fundamentals, including chapters 23 and 24) was submitted by the Commission to the Council	
9 April 2025	EU-Ukraine Association Council (Brussels)	
14 May 2025	EU-Ukraine Association Council (Brussels)	
1 October 2025	Mission of Special Envoy for Ukrainians Ylva Johansson to Kyiv	

13-14 November 2023 (DC)	EU – US JHA Ministerial Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine. May also cover other migration issues
22 January 2024. (Washington DC)	Annual Strategic Dialogue on Humanitarian issues	Exchanges centred on top line humanitarian emergencies and policy priorities, e.g. humanitarian funding gap, collaboration with the private sector, humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus).
5-10 February (Washington DC)	EEAS SG Sannino working visit	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine.
11-12 March 2024 (Brussels)	EU-U.S. JHA Senior Official’s Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine and irregular migration issues
20-21 June 2024 (Brussels)	EU-U.S. JHA Ministerial meeting o	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine and irregular migration issues
16-17 October 2024 (Budapest)	EU-U.S. JHA Senior Official’s Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, instrumentalization and visa reciprocity.
21 November 2024 (Geneva)	Informal working breakfast between US and EU humanitarian and migration teams	Updates were shared on refugees, IDPs, migration, climate, and protection and gender issues. Respective Budgets and Policy Framework were also discussed.

13 January 2025 (online)	Call on irregular migration cooperation	Issues discussed included: policy updates and statistics, cooperation with new US administration, migrant smuggling, Latin America and Syria.
31 March – 1st April 2025, Warsaw, Poland	EU-US JHA SOM	The SOM was a useful first engagement focusing on areas of common interest/understanding, avoiding contentious issues.
2-3 June 2025, Warsaw, Poland	EU-U.S. Ministerial Meeting on Justice and Home Affairs	The European Union and the United States reviewed recent joint achievements and identified concrete joint actions in areas of common interests and priorities, such as fighting transnational organised crime and drug trafficking, counterterrorism, illegal migration, and cyber-related criminal activity.

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).

Key past and upcoming events

26 January 2023	Policy Talk ‘Looking into 2023: What migration dynamics and policy developments to expect’	
27-28 April 2023	Senior Officials’ Meeting, Lisbon	The SOM endorsed the proposed way forward for the partial implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan 2023-2027, which shall be operationalised via the ‘ <i>Comprehensive Action Plan Support</i> ’ initiative (CAPS).
25 May 2023	Panel Discussion ‘Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and its implications for migration in the Prague Process region’	
22 June 2023	Webinar ‘Capacity Development in the Prague Process region: The important work of the Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX+) Initiative’	
7-8 November 2023	Kick-off Workshop 'Thematic Component 2: Promoting readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration', Tirana.	
13-14 February 2024	Kick-off Workshop of Thematic Component 1: <i>Preventing and fighting irregular migration and migrant smuggling</i> , Budapest	
23-24 April, 2024	Kick-off Workshop under the Thematic Component 3: Legal and Labour Migration, Vilnius	On 24 April 2024, the EMN Lithuania Conference ‘Navigating a Changing Labour Migration Landscape’ took place, also featuring PP representatives. The first event held together with the countries of the PP was attended by more than 100 participants from 30 different countries.
4-5 June 2024	Kick-off Workshop of Thematic Component 4: Strengthening Capacities on Asylum and International Protection, Malta	
18-19 June 2024	EMN Cyprus and Prague Process Workshop on Reintegration, hosted and co-organised by the European Migration Network Cyprus (EMN) in Larnaca	
24-25 September 2024	Senior Official Meeting, Chisinau	<i>This SOM marked the 15th</i>

		<i>anniversary of Prague Process.</i>
30 January 2025	Policy Talk “Looking into 2025: What migration-related developments to expect?” (with Ralph Genetzke and Jean-Louis de Brouwer)	
8-9 April 2025	Workshop on Border Surveillance, Belgrade	
29-30 April 2025	Study Visit on Return, Readmission and Reintegration, Copenhagen	
17-19 June 2025	Identity Week Europe & Document Security Training provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND) under the Ministry of Asylum and Migration of the Netherlands	
9-11 September 2025	Training on Countering Trafficking in Human Beings, Vienna	
7-8 October 2025	Senior Official Meeting, Warsaw	
24-26 February 2026	Study Visit on Border Management, Hungary	
March 2026	Training Workshop on Labour Migration, Brussels	
June 2026	Roadmap to the 5 th Ministerial Conference	
9-10 June	Identity Week Europe/Document Security training, Amsterdam	

B. THE BUDAPEST PROCESS

The Budapest Process is an interregional dialogue on migration stretching from Europe to the Silk Routes region. It provides a platform for dialogue and operational cooperation for over 50 governments and 17 international organisations. During its 30 years of operation, the Budapest Process has built up a network among participating states and across a wide thematic coverage. The dialogue is non-binding and intergovernmental in nature. It also offers a platform for facilitating concrete project development. The Budapest Process is permanently chaired by Türkiye with Hungary as a co-chair. In November 2024, the Budapest Process members agreed to a joint vision of migration governance, endorsing a new Ministerial Declaration and Call for Action (2025-2030).

Key past and upcoming events

4 May 2023	3rd Meeting of Community of Law Enforcement Practitioners (COLEP)	
31 May 2023	Thematic Working Group meeting on Return and Reintegration	
31 May 2023	Sixth meeting of the Reference Group	
21 November 2023	Seventh meeting of the Reference Group	
4 December 2023	Eight meeting of the Reference Group	
5 December 2023	Senior Officials Meeting	The SOM initiated a discussion on the new Ministerial Declaration and its Action Plan, which is to be endorsed at the next Ministerial Conference of the BP in late 2024. This year's SOM marked 30 years since the start of the BP and 10 years since the start of the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration.
7-8 May 2024	Reference Group meeting. Thematic Working Group meeting on legal pathways for migration.	
26-27 June 2024	Reference Group and Senior Officials meeting	Aligning of views on the new Ministerial Documents

14 October 2024	Senior Officials meeting	Final revision of the latest versions of the Ministerial Documents which were later adopted in the November Ministerial Conference
11-12 November 2024	36 th Senior Officials meeting followed by the 7 th Ministerial Conference	Adoption of the new Ministerial Declaration and Call for Action, strengthening regional cooperation in migration with emphasis on the Silk Routes Region
15 May 2025	Thematic Working Group on Return and Reintegration	
19-20 June 2025	Thematic Working Group meeting on Legal Pathways	
6-7 October 2025	Thematic Working Group Meeting on Law Enforcement Cooperation	
26-27 November 2025	37 th Senior Official Meeting	

C. 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.

Key past and upcoming events

27 June 2024	AU-EU Continent-to-Continent Migration and Mobility Dialogue (C2CMMD) - Strategic Coordination Meeting of the C2CMMD Co-Chairs	
	3rd EU-AU Ministerial Meeting, Brussels	Migration as part of the draft joint communique'
18 October 2024	AU-EU Continent-to-Continent Migration and Mobility Dialogue (C2CMMD) Senior Officials Meeting	
21 May 2025	3rd EU-AU Ministerial Meeting, Brussels	Ministers took stock of progress made on commitments from the sixth EU-AU Summit of 2022.
24-25 November 2025, Luanda, Angola	7th EU-AU Summit, Africa	“Promoting peace and prosperity through effective multilateralism”. Under this theme, Angola successfully hosted the 7 th AU-EU Summit. A Joint Declaration resulting from intense negotiations for a political, substantial and ambitious text was signed.
May 2026 (tbc)	4 th EU-AU Ministerial Meeting	

D. 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 Valetta Action Plan, adopted at the EU-Africa Summit on Migration on 11-12 November 2015.

Key past and upcoming events

21 February 2023	Steering Committee, Brussels	
25-26 April 2023	Thematic meeting on voluntary return and reintegration, Yaoundé, Cameroon	
22-23 June 2023	Thematic Meeting on Humanised Border Management, Marrakesh, Morocco	
20-21 September 2023	Thematic Meeting ‘Separation of families and missing persons in the context of migration: prevention, tracing and reunification’	
19-20 October 2023	Thematic Meeting ‘Migration, Youth and Development’	
31 January – 1 February 2024	Rabat Process Comité de Pilotage, SOM and Special Event on circular migration ‘Circular Migration: a cycle of opportunities and skills development’	
15 March 2024	Steering Committee (CoPil)	
15th & 16th May 2024 – Lisbon, Portugal	Thematic meeting: “Promoting the positive effects of regular migration for sustainable development: the role of entrepreneurship and diaspora engagement”	
20 th & 21 st June 2024 – Praia, Cabo Verde	Thematic meeting: “Mobility schemes as drivers of change: how to unpack their full potential?”	
16th & 17th October 2024, Lisbon	High-Level Thematic Meeting: “Labour Migration, Skills Development and Legal Pathways”	Joint Rabat Process & Khartoum Process event.

19-21 November, Rome	Fourth Conference of Directors General and Senior Commanders of Internal Security Forces and Senior Justice Officials on the fight against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.	
29-30 January 2025, Porto	Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) and Steering Committee (CoPiL).	The high-level meetings provided an opportunity to take stock of the achievements under Portugal's Chairmanship and assess the implementation of the Cadiz Action Plan over 2023 and 2024. Handover Chairmanship to Nigeria.
27 March 2025,	Third meeting of the Network of National Focal Points (NFPs) for Missing Migrants	It marked another key milestone in the international community's efforts to improve cooperation on missing migrant cases.
13-14 May 2025, Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria and Spain co-chaired in Abuja a meeting on Youth, Education, and Innovation: Driving the Future of Migration.	Over 120 participants from 38 African and European partner countries highlighted that young people are not only stakeholders in migration policy – but vital architects of its future. A session on Skills Without Borders highlighted practical approaches to legal migration. Central to the meeting were two youth-centred breakout discussions that resulted in 32 concrete recommendations
9-10 July 2025, Banjul, The Gambia	Rabat Process thematic meeting on Bridging the gaps: Advancing cooperation on Missing Migrants in the Rabat Process Region	
4-5 November 2025, Lagos, Nigeria	Joint Khartoum Process / Rabat / Niamey Process meeting on anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling	
25 November 2025	Extraordinary Steering Committee Meeting	Dedicated to discussing the United Kingdom's expression of interest to rejoin the Rabat Process.
28 November 2025	Consultation of the European members of the Khartoum and Rabat Processes Steering Committees	Dedicated to a discussion amongst the European countries on the United

		Kingdom's expression of interest in rejoining the Khartoum and Rabat Processes.
28-29 January 2026	Senior Officials Meeting + Special event on climate-induced migration, Abuja (Nigeria)	

E. 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.

Key past and upcoming events

22-24 November, Cairo	Thematic Workshop on Innovative Law Enforcement Tools to Tackle Irregular Migration	
15 - 16 March 2023, Berlin.	Khartoum Process Senior Officials' Meeting.	Handover of chairmanship from South Sudan to Germany, governance issues.
4-5 July 2023, Nairobi	Thematic Meeting on Building Resilience and Ensuring the Protection of and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	
7 September 2023, Vienna	Khartoum Process Steering Committee Meeting	Governance of the Khartoum Process
4-5 October 2023, Berlin	Thematic meeting 'Exploring the Potential of mobility in the Context of Climate Change'	
7-8 February 2024, Nairobi	Thematic Workshop on enhancing regional multi-stakeholder partnerships on combatting trafficking in persons	
7-8 February 2024, Nairobi	Thematic Meeting on Building Resilience and Ensuring the Protection of and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	
16-18 April 2024, Cairo	Steering Committee and SOM Khartoum Process	Handing over the Chairmanship to Egypt (until April 2025)
11 th & 12 th September 2024, Helsinki	Thematic Meeting Whole-of-Government Approach in the Context of Migration and Development	Co-hosted by Finland and Somalia.
15 October 2024, Lisbon	Steering Committee	

16 th & 17 th October 2024, Lisbon	High-Level Thematic Meeting: “Labour Migration, Skills Development and Legal Pathways”	Joint Khartoum Process & Rabat Process event.
5-6 November 2024, Luxor	Thematic Workshop - Navigating the Nexus: Climate Change and Displacement in conflict-affected Settings	
19-21 November	Fourth Conference of Directors General and Senior Commanders of Internal Security Forces and Senior Justice Officials on the fight against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.	
10-11 December 2024, Mombasa	Thematic Meeting - Innovative Strategies for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Migrant Smuggling	
14 & 15 January 2025, Cairo	Steering Committee and SOM	
19-20 February 2025 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Thematic Workshop Return, Readmission and Reintegration Ethiopia Co-hosted by Switzerland	The meeting brought together around 100 participants, including representatives from member states, international organisations, civil society, academia, and the private sector, to discuss best practices and challenges related to return and reintegration.
8 & 9 April 2025, Egypt.	Ministerial Conference + Senior Officials ‘Meeting + Steering Committee	Signing of Ministerial Declaration & Action Plan Handover of Chairmanship to France
10 June 2025	Steering Committee (on line)	Presentation of French Chairmanship priorities, update on JVAP and MMD grants.

25-26 June 2025	Thematic Meeting on Legal Identity and Civil Registration, in Paris. Kenya as co-host.	The meeting emphasized that legal identity is essential for protection, access to services, and migration governance.
4-5 November 2025	Joint (with Rabat and Niamey Process) high-level meeting on trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling, in Nigeria (Lagos)	
10-11 December 2025	Thematic meeting on Legal Pathways, recognition of qualifications, Egypt	
March 2026	Thematic Meeting: Mobility related to climate vulnerabilities, the role of cities, Uganda (Kampala)	
April 2026	Senior Official Meeting, Steering Committee hand over of chairmanship, and special event on combating disinformation and misinformation, Paris	

- *Legal Migration and Mobility (Chapter 1).*
- *Migration and development (Chapter 2).*
- *Root causes of irregular migration (Chapter 3) including provisions on Smuggling of migrants (Art. 71) human trafficking (Art. 72).*
- *Return, readmission and integration (Chapter 4), referring to the return and readmission process set out in Annex I of the Agreement; and*
- *Protection and asylum for refugees and other displaced persons (Chapter 5).*

These provisions are complemented by comprehensive migration and mobility chapters under the three regional protocols (Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific)

The agreement sets that joint commitments on return, readmission and reintegration shall be monitored under the regular partnership dialogues foreseen in article 3, which shall cover all areas of the Samoa Agreement. Guidelines for these dialogues are being discussed with EU MS and OACPS.

Key past and upcoming events

15 November 2023	46th session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, Samoa.	Signature of the new EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement.
27-29 March 2026	11th OACPS Summit, Malabo (Equatorial Guinea).	
2026 (tbd)	EU-OACPS Joint Council of Ministers	

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.

Key past and upcoming events

2022 – TBC	Valletta Partners SOM (including approval of update of JVAP)	
16 October 2024, Lisbon	JVAP Follow-up Stock-Taking Event	

G. 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 EU-CELAC Summit held in Brussels in June 2015 but not at the EU-CELAC Summit held in Brussels in July 2023. **In November 2025, the 4th EU-CELAC Summit took place in Colombia.** The Joint Declaration on an EU–LAC Alliance for Citizen Security was endorsed by the EU and 18 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the IV EU–CELAC Summit in Santa Marta (9 November 2025). This Joint Declaration includes a commitment to increase cooperation in border management and resilience, notably to combat trafficking in human beings, criminals’ mobility, migrant smuggling, and irregular migration.*

Key past and upcoming events

27-28 September 2023	EU-CLASI Ministerial Meeting, Brussels	Exchange between CLASI and EU on common efforts to tackle transnational organised crime, including trafficking and financing of drugs, trafficking in human beings, migrants smuggling, and design, manufacture and illicit trafficking of firearms. Adoption of a joint ministerial declaration to build on a comprehensive dialogue on security between the two regions.
30 May 2024	COSI-CLASI joint meeting	High-level exchange to operationalize the September 2023 EU-CLASI ministerial declaration, including through EMPACT and AMERIPOL.
6 March 2025	EU-CLASI Ministerial Meeting, Brussels	
19 November 2202	COSI-CLASI joint meeting	Senior Officials’ exchange on

		operational cooperation (incl. EMPACT), information exchange and ports' security
9-10 November 2025	4th EU-CELAC Summit Colombia	Participation of Commissioner Magnus Brunner
(9 November 2025)	The Joint Declaration on an EU-LAC Alliance for Citizen Security was endorsed by the EU and 18 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the IV EU-CELAC Summit in Santa Marta.	It includes migration-related issues

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 May 2022.

Key past and upcoming events

13-15 December 2023	Second Global Refugee Forum under the Global Compact on Refugees	Take stock of the implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees, exchange lessons learnt and best practices and formulate pledges for the future.
2 February 2024	Tenth EU-IOM Senior Official Meeting	
11 March 2024	Second Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the UNECE Region	Intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation of the international cooperative framework on safe, orderly and regular migration in the UNECE region, while respecting the voluntary nature of participation, the sovereignty and the different positions of the UNECE Member States.
4 April Spring 2025 Brussels	Eleventh EU-IOM Senior Officials Meeting	Initially planned in October 2024, postponed until the new Commission is in place; date to be confirmed.
14 October 2025 Brussels	EU-UNHCR Strategic Dialogue	Following the postponement of the Strategic Dialogue in 2024 because of the institutional transition, the dialogue took place on 14 October 2025, focusing on, inter alia, EU-UNHCR policies of common interest.
16-17 December 2025 Geneva (Preparatory meetings in March, June, September in Geneva)	Second High-Level Officials Meeting under the Global Compact for Refugees	Assesses progress against the implementation of the pledges made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and outline next steps in the lead up to the GRF in 2027

Q2 2025/Q1 2026	Fourth biennial report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the GCM	Focusing on key achievements and advancements in GCM implementation and implementation of the recommendations of the IMRF Progress Declaration
5-8 May 2026 New York	Second International Migration Review Forum under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	To take stock of GCM implementation since the first IMRF in 2022 and outline recommendations for future actions
