



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 17 October 2013

14934/13

LIMITE

MIGR 114
FRONT 155
COSI 119
COMIX 566

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum/Mixed Committee
(UE-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)

Subject: EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response
- 3rd Biannual Update

The JHA Council approved the ‘EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response’ at its meeting on 26-27 April 2012¹.

According to the methodology agreed by SCIFA/Mixed Committee to ensure the necessary follow-up to the EU Action, as set out in doc. 6443/1/13 REV 1, Presidencies are responsible for coordinating the follow-up to the EU Action and its updating on a biannual basis. SCIFA/Mixed Committee shall provide the strategic oversight of the implementation of the key actions under the Strategic Priorities, and, based on an innovative approach, individual Member States have been encouraged to volunteer to monitor Strategic Priorities or elements within them.

The first biannual update was completed under the Cyprus Presidency in October 2012. The 2nd biannual update was completed under the Irish Presidency in June 2013 and the new activities on which there was general agreement were incorporated into the EU Action, as set out in the Annex to doc. 11662/13 ADD 1.

¹ doc. 9650/12 MIGR 45 FRONT 67 COSI 25 COMIX 288

The Presidency has undertaken the third biannual update of the EU Action, taking into account the results achieved and the progress made in the implementation of the measures and actions carried out to prevent and combat illegal immigration in all its forms.

For this purpose, following the SCIFA/Mixed Committee on 24 September 2013, the Presidency invited delegations to provide their input to the updating process of the EU Action, by providing information regarding the implementation of the relevant activities in the EU Action as described in in the Annex to doc. 11662/13 ADD 1, by indicating to which extent the proposed new activities set out in doc. 11662/13 ADD 2 were to be included in the EU Action and by indicating other activities which in their view could be added or reformulated.

Based on the contributions given by delegations, the Commission, Frontex and EASO, the Presidency has prepared a preliminary version of the update of the EU Action, as set out in the Annex. The text includes a new point v to activity A, under Challenge 1, Strategic Priority I, as well as proposals, as indicated in the text underlined and shown in "strikethrough", regarding the activities under the third column, and information on the implementation of the existing activities in the status/observations column.

Delegations are invited to reflect further on this basis and, in this respect, consult, where appropriate, with the Presidency, delegations of other Member States involved, and with the Commission, Frontex and EASO, as well as to ensure appropriate coordination with relevant activities within the framework of the COSI "EU Policy Cycle", in particular in the areas of illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings.

At the next meeting of the SCIFA/Mixed Committee on 22 - 23 October 2013, the Presidency intends to invite delegations to submit written contributions on the proposals in the Annex to the Presidency (Evelina.Gudzinskaite@eu.mfa.lt) and to the General Secretariat of the Council (giovanna.giglio@consilium.europa.eu and philomena.laurijsens@consilium.europa.eu).

by 4 November at the latest with a view to finalizing the updating process at the meeting of SCIFA/Mixed Committee on 21-22 November 2013.

ANNEX

EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response



List of contents

I. Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

1. Preventing and combating illegal migration by orderly return of illegal migrants	4
2. Implementation of EU readmission agreements	8
3. Capacity building of countries of origin and transit.....	10
4. The Southern Mediterranean.....	12
5. The Eastern partners.....	18
6. The Western Balkans	22
7. The Western Mediterranean and the Western Atlantic coast.....	30
8. To address migratory pressures via the ‘Silk Routes’, including prevention of illegal immigration and combating THB	33
9. Improving the functioning of ILO networks.....	33

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

1. Strengthening political guidance and legal framework	34
2. Strong and efficient external border controls.....	36

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

1. The Greek-Turkish border.....	44
2. Combating illegal immigration transiting Turkey to EU	48

IV. Strategic priority area: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels

1. Unfounded asylum applications upon visa liberalisation and over stayers	56
2. Illegal immigration caused by visa liberalisation.....	59

V. Strategic priority area: Safeguarding and protecting free movement by prevention of abuse by third country nationals

1. Abuse of free movement rights and organised migration related crime.....	60
2. Fraudulent acquisition and abuse of free movement rights	68

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

1. Migration management systems and fluctuating migration pressures	73
2. Common EU approach in the field of return.....	79

EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
I. Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management					
<p>1. Preventing and combating illegal immigration by ensuring smooth and orderly return of irregular migrants between States, including respect for the obligation of each State under customary international law to readmit its own nationals.</p>	<p>EU readmission agreements as tools of an effective return policy in order to tackle illegal immigration.</p> <p>Initiation and continuing of negotiations on EU readmission agreements with relevant third countries, including further appropriate steps when negotiations stall.</p>	<p>A: Operationalising Council Conclusions of June 2011 defining an EU strategy on readmission (doc. 11260/11 MIGR 118).</p> <p>i. Launching a substantive discussion based on PRES questionnaire to identify new third countries, with which concluding an EU readmission agreement would be of EU interest, in particular with countries of origin of illegal immigration.</p> <p>ii. Preparation of a comprehensive overview of EU and Member States relations and agreements with third countries eligible for negotiation of EU readmission agreements.</p>	<p>PRES, COM, WP on Migration (expulsion)/HLWG/SCIFA, EEAS</p>	<p>i) PRES synthesis in June 2012.</p> <p>ii) 2013</p>	<p>i) The result of these discussions were reported in CY PRES update of the EU Action. Possible new candidates for EU Readmission agreements included: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Tunisia and Egypt.</p> <p>ii) EU readmission policy remains an important priority with the emphasis focussed on implementing those EURAs already in force and completing outstanding mandates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership discussions with Morocco are expected to rekindle the readmission negotiations. ▪ <u>On-going Partnership</u>
			<p>PRES, COM</p>		

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>negotiation with Tunisia, which are ongoing, will also include a strand on readmission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership negotiations with Egypt are also foreseen once conditions allow. ▪ Elements on readmission are included in the EU-India Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility which is in discussion from April 2013. ▪ Efforts are also being made to rekindle readmission negotiations with China following new proposals from COM and EEAS ▪ A readmission agreement with Armenia was signed on 19 April 2013. ▪ The fourth round of negotiations with Azerbaijan, took place in March 2013 and negotiations are now close to finalisation. ▪ A readmission agreement with Cape Verde was signed on 18 April 2013.

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		<p>iii. Discussion and consideration of the use and the content of proportional, tailor-made incentives offered to those identified third countries with which EU readmission agreements are to be negotiated, in combination with the principle of conditionality applied in an appropriate manner.</p>	PRES, COM	iii) 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The text of the readmission agreement with Turkey was initialled in June 2012 and is awaiting signature. ▪ Elements of readmission were also discussed during the EU exploratory mission to Nigeria in March 2013. <p>While new negotiating directives are not at present an immediate priority the PRES and COM will continue to reflect on the shape of the readmission package with potential new candidates for EURA's including possible incentives and the appropriate principles to be enshrined in such agreements. The DK analysis and the broader strategy of cooperation with third countries, in light of GAMM priorities will inform future discussions with regards to actions ii, iii and iv.</p>
		<p>iv. Clarification of Council's criteria regarding rules on accelerated procedures, transit operations, and obligations to readmit third country nationals and stateless persons, in order to assess how these issues should be taken into account on a case by case basis in EU readmission agreements with identified</p>	PRES, COM	iv) 2013	

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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		<p>countries.</p> <p>v. Promotion and support of cooperation between countries of origin and transit to develop efficient readmission mechanisms both and within regions and on bilateral level</p>			

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
2. Ensure implementation of all EU readmission agreements to their full effect.	<p>Full implementation of EU readmission agreements by third countries and Member States alike facilitated by practical arrangements.</p> <p>Ensuring effective implementation of Article 13 of the Cotonou agreement.</p>	A: Further efforts by COM and MS in relation to relevant third countries aimed at full implementation of EU readmission agreements that are not being fully implemented.	COM, MS	Continuous.	<p>EU institutions agencies and Member States continue to apply pressure on certain third countries to fully implement EURA's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As regards Pakistan, the first readmission applications under the agreement were examined and approved following successful efforts by COM and EUDEL. Joint return flights were organised by FRONTEX <u>most recently in April 2013.</u> ▪ <u>JRC meeting took place in Islamabad in July 2013 and preparations are being made for the next one, to be held in Brussels, possibly in January 2014.</u> ▪ , most recently in April 2013 and pressure is mounting on Pakistan to hold the second JRC in Brussels. ▪ As regards Sri Lanka the first JRC was held in February 2013 and regular bilateral contacts have been increasing the impetus to implement the agreement fully.

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		B: Full and effective use of Joint Readmission Committees, including, where applicable, active participation of Member States.	COM, MS	Continuous.	<p>Regular JRC's have been promoted with cooperating third countries including, most recently, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JRC with Georgia held on 13 March 2012 in Tblisi. ▪ JRC with Ukraine held on 15 May 2012 in Kiev. ▪ JRC with Moldova held on 23 May 2012 in Chisinau. ▪ <u>JRC with Pakistan held on 12 June 2012 and on 7 July 2013 in Islamabad.</u> ▪ JRC with Pakistan held on 12 June 2012 in Islamabad. ▪ JRC with Russia held on 10 July 2012 and on 10 December 2012. ▪ JRC with Sri Lanka held on 18 February 2013 in Colombo. ▪ JRC with Georgia held on 26 February 2013 in Brussels. ▪ <u>JRC with Moldova held on 12 June 2013 in Brussels.</u>JRC with Moldova foreseen on 12 June 2013 in Brussels.
		C: Coherent implementation by Member States of EU readmission agreements. Due attention should also be given to the implementation of bilateral readmission agreements or arrangements concluded by Member States when compatible with the EU readmission	MS	Continuous.	The introduction in some third countries of automated systems, through EU-supported capacity building projects, is expected to greatly improve the consistency in implementing EURA's in the third countries concerned.

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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		agreements.			
		D: Exercise pressure through diplomatic channels and other regular contacts with relevant third countries.	EEAS, COM, MS	Continuous.	Readmission will be an important element of the Common Agenda under discussion with India and new proposals to restart readmission negotiations with China are under examination. In addition, <u>the issue of irregular migration including readmission is regularly addressed in each of the seven regional dialogues under GAMM umbrella, including the following: Rabat, MME, Prague, EaP, Budapest, CELAC, ACP.</u>
		E: Further efforts by COM and MS to ensure that partner countries fully implement Article 13 of the Cotonou agreement, including through targeted dialogues with priority countries and follow up to the recommendations as they are agreed	COM, MS	Continuous.	In April 2012 expert recommendations on readmission were endorsed by EU-ACP Ministers. As a concrete follow up, a regional seminar on readmission has been proposed by the EU <u>and accepted by the ACP States (to be organised possibly in the Western Africa region during the first trimester of 2014).</u> The aim of the seminar is to provide for expert exchanges on specific issues.
3. Enhancing the capacity of countries of origin and transit to manage mixed migration flows.	To equip the countries of first asylum with the necessary means to be able to guarantee refugees protection that meets international standards. To assist third countries to	A: Strengthening the use of Regional Protection Programmes and similar national initiatives aiming at long term capacity building in the field of international protection in order to provide protection to persons in need thereof as soon as possible after the initial	COM, MS	Continuous.	<u>A discussion on the humanitarian situation in Syria took place in July 2012 at the Informal JHA Council in Nicosia. Ministers agreed that the idea of a Regional Protection Programme could be part of a suitable solution for addressing the refugee situation in countries neighbouring Syria.</u>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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	<p>better manage mixed migratory flows.</p> <p>To avoid secondary movements.</p> <p>To establish Mobility Partnerships with relevant third countries.</p>	<p>displacement and as closely as possible to their home areas. Thus, enabling asylum seekers to apply for and find effective protection in the region of origin.</p>			<p><u>Following a call from Member States for establishment of Regional Protection Programmes in the Middle Eastern countries in order to respond to the Syrian crisis, the COM is working for the RPPs to be operational by the end of 2013 / beginning 2014.</u></p> <p>In February 2013 Member State experts held extensive missions a missions to Moldova, in the framework of the VLAP, organised by DG HOME. This mission concluded that Moldova's asylum, <u>border</u> and migration management frameworks are in line with EU practices and have been well implemented.</p>
		<p>B: Building capacity in third countries in order for them to better tackle the challenges of mixed migratory flows.</p>	COM, MS	Continuous.	<p>Building capacity in third countries is already a key element of the existing Mobility Partnerships with Moldova, Cape Verde, Georgia and Azerbaijan as well as the <u>Mobility Partnership under discussion</u> with Morocco <u>signed in June 2013</u>.</p> <p>The COM, <u>EASO</u> and Member States will continue to Identify new actions and initiatives aimed at strengthening third countries capacities. Planning and programming of future financial instruments will begin following</p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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					agreement on the MFF.
		C: Improving availability and access in third countries of first asylum to means for self-reliance to avert secondary movements.	COM, MS	Ongoing : <u>On-going</u> .	See point <u>I.3.B</u> above I.3.B on Moldova.
		D: Contributing to enhancing local employment opportunities in countries of origin.	COM, MS	Ongoing : <u>On-going</u> .	In the framework of the Mobility Partnership with Moldova a number of projects were implemented aimed at capacity building for the National Employment Agencies.
4. Prevention of illegal immigration from the Southern Mediterranean countries.	To extend dialogues on migration, mobility and security with the Southern Mediterranean countries with a view to establishing Mobility Partnerships.	A: Implementing the European Council Conclusions of 23-24 June 2011 and of 2-3 March 2012 emphasising the need to establish and to expand a structured dialogue on migration, mobility and security with the southern Mediterranean countries. The Cooperation should be founded on a performance_ based approach and on appropriate conditions.	COM, MS HLWG	2012 and onwards	Dialogues on Migration, Mobility and Security MMS with Tunisia and Morocco were launched in <u>October 2011</u> , with a view to establishing Mobility Partnerships with both countries were launched in October 2011 . See point <u>I.4.C</u> below I.4.C on Jordan.
		B: Conclude Mobility Partnerships with Morocco and Tunisia.	COM, MS	2012 and onwards	<i>An EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership was signed in the margins of the JHA Council in June 2013.</i> An EU Morocco Mobility Partnership is expected to be signed in the margins of the JHA Council in June 2013.

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					Discussions as regards Tunisia are continuing.
		C: To consider launching Dialogues on migration, mobility and security leading towards Mobility Partnerships with Jordan and, subsequently , once possible, with other Southern Mediterranean countries (with priority given to Egypt and Libya).	COM, MS, HLWG	2012 and onwards	<p><u>The Dialogue on MMS with Jordan was launched in December 2012 and its two implementing missions took place in February and July 2013. Discussions on the possible start of negotiations on the EU-Jordan Mobility Partnership are scheduled for the HLWG meeting of 17-18 October 2013.</u></p> <p><u>Current political instability in Libya has not allowed the opening up of a Dialogue so far. The Egyptian administration has thus far refused the EU invitation to start a dialogue and the political turmoil in the country at present makes it difficult to move forward in this direction. The Dialogue on MMS with Jordan was launched in December 2012 and its first implementing mission took place in February 2013.</u></p>
		D: FRONTEX should strengthen its operational cooperation with the competent border control authorities of the Southern Mediterranean countries.	FRONTEX	2012 and onwards <u>on-going</u>	The host member States of all FRONTEX Joint operations are facilitated to integrate third country border guards as observers into such operations or to nominate suitable contact points for dealing with urgent matters regarding the operation.

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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					<p>In addition FRONTEX supports the EU-funded EuroMed Migration III project. This project increases awareness of FRONTEX's role in the third countries concerned. <u>Frontex delivered presentation to the 4th Irregular EUROMED Migration Training in September 2013.</u></p> <p>In line with its revised mandate, FRONTEX will further develop relations with the Southern Mediterranean countries in accordance with its Programme of Work for 2014. <u>DEVCO will fund a project to support the practical cooperation of FRONTEX and EASO with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.</u></p>
		E: EASO should contribute to building asylum capacity in the Southern Mediterranean countries.	EASO	2012 and onwards.	<p>EASO has been fully operational since July 2011. All activities have <u>increased intensified</u> during the start-up phase, including significant resources <u>allocated</u> to assist Greece in establishing its asylum system. These activities are fully accounted for in the EASO Work Programme which is discussed and adopted in the context of the EASO Management Board.</p> <p>The Office remains ready to provide further assistance to any Member States under pressure and or at the</p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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					<p>request of the COM in the context of the future implementation of Article 33 of the Dublin Regulation.</p> <p>Member States are encouraged to continue to support the activities of the Office by, for example, deploying experts in the framework of asylum support teams and in other forms ways that can contribute to the fulfilment of the agency's mandate.</p> <p><u>EASO will start developing its external dimension activities in line with its external action strategy in 2014 as envisaged in its Annual Work Programme.</u></p> <p><u>DEVCO will fund a project to support the practical cooperation of FRONTEX and EASO with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.</u></p>
		<p>F: Building on existing cooperation, MS-third countries regional network of cooperation in the Mediterranean should continue also within the future framework of the Eurosur proposal.</p>	<p>MS, COM, FRONTEX</p>	<p>Ongoing. <u>On-going</u></p>	<p>The Seahorse Mediterraneo Network is an EC-funded project involving all the EU Member States. Planning is continuing on the launching of the project. <u>The Seahorse network, which is being established within the framework of EUROSUR, was launched at a kick off conference held in Madrid on 19 September 2013. So far only the Libyan Coast Guard is officially participating in the project.</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>Other North African countries could join in the future. is being established within the framework of EUROSUR, will start to be built up from mid 2013. So far only Libyan Coast Guard has declared its readiness to cooperate.</u></p> <p>FRONTEX has established the “Africa- FRONTEX Intelligence Community” (AFIC) which is an intelligence network with relevant African countries (mostly Western African countries). <u>Three meetings were held in 2012, resulting in the first joint analytical product focusing on migration from the region. The report was widely distributed to Member States. Discussions are underway to extend the network to northern African countries. As of 2013 the AFIC has been extended to include Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia, DRC Congo and Cameroon. In 2013 two AFIC workshops were held in April and September 2013 with the final conference and release of second joint analytical report planned for November 2013.</u></p> <p><u>Frontex recently invited selected 3rd countries to take part in the EPN meeting in order to become familiar with Frontex coordinated joint maritime activities.</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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					<u>Europol and Morocco are currently negotiating a cooperation agreement through which they will be able to be more active in info sharing.</u>
		G. Strengthen the capacity of the Southern Mediterranean countries for the control and surveillance of their external borders and for the return of the irregular migrants to the countries of origin in a dignified manner.	MS, COM	Ongoing - On-going.	In 2012 CEPOL organised a course “Markets related to illegal immigration, detecting, tackling and repatriation”. A further workshop was organised by CEPOL in Greece between <u>on</u> 15-16 October 2012. See further OAP on illegal immigration action 3.1.

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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<p>5. Ensuring that the fight against illegal immigration is taken into account when developing dialogues with the Eastern partners (including the Eastern Partnership countries and non-EU Prague Process partners).</p>	<p>To enhance further the level of political and operational cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries in the JHA areas.</p> <p>To ensure mobility in a secure and well managed environment.</p>	<p>A: Conclude agreements on Mobility Partnerships with relevant third countries.</p>	<p>COM, MS (Poland)</p>	<p>Ongoing-On-going</p>	<p>Mobility Partnerships with Eastern Partnership countries, such as Moldova, Georgia and Armenia have all been successfully launched. A further Mobility Partnership is currently under discussion with Azerbaijan. A meeting between the COM Member States and the Azerbaijani authorities was held in March 2013. Discussions are at an advanced stage and a draft Joint Declaration establishing a Mobility Partnership between the EU and Azerbaijan has been drawn up.</p> <p>Implementation process will constitute part of the 1st and 2nd pillars of GAMM.</p> <p>Within the context of the Armenia Mobility Partnership, activities have been carried out within the Targeted Initiative for Armenia. These initiatives have focused on returns and the prevention of illegal immigration, and have involved several member States (BE, BG, CZ, DE, NL, PL, FR, RO).</p> <p>Kick-off Workshops on the Legal Migration Pilot Project and the Migration and Development Pilot Project were first organised in the framework of the Prague Process in</p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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					<p>September 2012. Further joint workshops were held in February 2013.</p> <p><u>Workshop on the Migration and Development Project of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative was held on 9 October 2013 in Tbilisi, focusing on policies on circular migration.</u></p> <p><u>The first meeting of the Prague Process National Contact Points was held on 10-11 October 2013 in Tbilisi, focusing on fostering cooperation on labour migration among the Prague Process states.</u></p>
		<p>B: Further cooperation and coordination in the prevention of and the fight against illegal immigration, organised crime, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and terrorism.</p>	<p>COM, MS (Poland)</p>	<p>Ongoing, On-going.</p>	<p>Work has been taken forward in the framework of JAIEX WP on mapping of cooperation and projects with the Eastern countries on illegal immigration in connection to: organised crime; THB; money laundering and other types of crime. Moreover, a questionnaire concluded by PL in January 2013, the results of which were presented in doc. 16532/1/12 REV 1, confirmed that the offence most strongly linked to illegal immigration is THB.</p> <p>Other activities include:</p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum (Moldova) on the topic of circular migration which took place in October 2012. ○ Prague Process Kick-off Workshop of <u>for</u> the Illegal Immigration <u>Immigration</u> Pilot Project which took place in the Ukraine in 8-9 November 2012. ○ Workshop on the Illegal Immigration Pilot Project was held on 11-12 March 2013 in Warsaw, focusing on readmission and return. ○ Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum (Georgia) on the topic of readmission, return and reintegration took place on 20-21 March 2013. ○ Workshop on victims of THB to be held on 21-22 May 2013 in Warsaw ○ Study visit focusing on practical aspects of readmission and return to be <u>was</u> held in June 2013 within the Pilot Project on Illegal Immigration.

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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					<p>Cooperation has also been reinforced through the ongoing <u>on-going</u> visa liberalisation dialogue with Ukraine, <u>and</u> Moldova and, recently re-started, with Georgia.</p> <p><u>Moldova is finalising the cooperation agreement with Europol and Georgia is in the process of being included in the list of third countries with which Europol can conclude agreements, although there have been some issues raised by the European Parliament’s legal service on this issue.</u></p> <p>As regards trafficking in human beings, <u>in December 2012</u> the Council adopted in December 2012 the second report on the implementation of the Action-Oriented Paper (AOP) on strengthening the EU external dimension on action against THB. The second report includes a list of priority countries and regions with which the EU will further strengthen cooperation and partnership.</p> <p>In addition, the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings, 2012-2016, foresees increased cooperation with third countries of origin, transit and destination. Furthermore, THB is</p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

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					systematically included in all migration and mobility dialogues conducted between the EU and its partners - both at regional and bilateral level- as well as in all Mobility Partnerships concluded by the EU with third countries. <u>Council conclusions were adopted which endorsed the Strategy.</u>
		C: Convening meetings at ministerial level to ensure appropriate political guidance and coordination.	MS (Poland)	Ongoing <u>On-going.</u>	During a discussion in JAIEX WP in March 2013, LT presented doc. 7360/13 related to the upcoming EaP JHA Ministerial Meeting which is due to be held during the LT PRES. <u>The meeting was held on 7-8 of October 2013 in the margins of the JHA Council in Luxembourg.</u> Currently consultation with the relevant Council working groups is underway.
6. Prevention of illegal immigration via the Western Balkans.	Intensify cooperation primarily with Serbia, to prevent and to fight increased illegal immigration pressure on the Hungarian-Serbian border. Enhance the EU's policy response to illegal immigration in the region.	A: FRONTEX should make full use of its recently expanded mandate to step up assistance for border control activities at the Hungarian-Serbian border.	FRONTEX (Hungary, Austria)	Ongoing <u>On-going</u>	In response to requests from Hungary and Austria for support with their national activities at the Hungarian-Serbian Border, Frontex will is provide <u>providing</u> analytical and operational support for the establishment of Coordination Points at this border section. <u>For the time being Coordination Points are established in Albania (Murriqan) and in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Tabanovce), the further</u>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
	<p>Continue assisting the relevant authorities of the Western-Balkan countries and, in particular, especially Serbia in strengthening their capacity to combat illegal immigration.</p>				<p><u>development of the network to other WB is foreseen.</u></p> <p>In addition, Frontex published its Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis in April 2013. The report will provides analytical inputs to operational activities in the region.</p> <p>In June/July 2013 Frontex will<u>has</u> implemented Joint Operation Neptune 2013 at the Hungarian-Serbian and Croatian-Serbian land border sections, <u>where the observers from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM and Albania have participated in the abovementioned operation.</u> There is expected to be active participation by Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM and Albania in the operation.</p> <p><u>The RABIT Exercise was carried out on the Hungarian –Serbian border in July in order to test RABIT mechanism and to contribute to overall border control measures at the border. The exercise filled in the gap between the phases of Neptune JO.</u></p> <p><u>The annual activity Joint Operation Focal Points 2013 Land is on-going in the Western Balkan area (at designated Hungarian, Romanian, Bulgarian and</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>Greek Border crossing points with Western Balkan countries). The operation was extended to Croatian Border Crossing points after 1 July 2013. In addition observers from Western Balkan countries (Albania and FYROM) were deployed at different Focal Points in order to gain some experience.</u></p> <p><u>The annual activity Joint Operation Focal Points 2013 is already under implementation in the Western Balkan area (at designated Slovenian, Hungarian, Romanian, Bulgarian and Greek Border crossing points with Western Balkan countries). The operation may be extended to Croatian Border Crossing points after 1 July 2013, based on operational needs and possible reinforcement. In addition observers from Western Balkan countries to Focal Points land operations are also foreseen in 2013.</u></p> <p><u>The Project Coordination Points 2013 is presently being implemented at the Albanian-Montenegrin and Serbian-FYROM borders. Experts from EU Member States are deployed as observers.</u></p> <p><u>Western Balkans Conference is going to be organised on 13-14 November</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>2013 in Vienna which aims to provide a forum for relevant actors involved in the activities implemented in the WBs and identify possible need/support in order to contribute to effective border management. It is foreseen to organize such conference 1-2 times per year.</u>The Project Coordination Points is presently being implemented at the Croatian-Serbian border (BCP Bajakovo). Experts from EU Member States have been deployed as observers. The project will be extended to the Serbian-FYROM border area in the second half of 2013. Activities will be synchronized by HU and AT authorities. Kick-off meeting with representatives from HU, AT, RS FYROM took place in April 2013.</p>
		<p>B: Implementation of the Action Plan with Serbia to implement joint operations, law-enforcement training, legislative alignment, develop migration and asylum capacities and establish a Common Contact Point – making full use of IPA Projects.</p>	<p>MS, COM (Hungary)</p>	<p>Ongoing On-going</p>	<p>A number of relevant activities are under way, notably in the context of the multi-annual policy cycle and the COSPOL projects led by Member States.</p> <p>See further doc. 1507/12 ADD 1.</p> <p><u>On 9 October 2013 the Management Board of Europol agreed to transmit the draft agreement with Serbia to the Council for approval, authorising the Director to sign it.</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		C: Provide IPA assistance and continue monitoring of the further development of border, migration, asylum and visa systems in Western-Balkan countries.	COM, MS (Hungary, Austria)	Ongoing , <u>On-going</u>	Such projects have been programmed for the Western Balkans, and the Commission is in the process of designing, for the next multi-annual financial perspective, new IPA projects focusing on the rule of law with a regional focus. See further doc. 1507/12 ADD 1.
		D: Develop cooperation at all levels with Western-Balkan countries in combating criminal organisations dealing with migrants' smuggling and trafficking in human beings.	MS, COM (Slovenia, Austria)	Ongoing , <u>On-going</u>	A number of relevant activities are under way, notably in the context of the multi-annual policy cycle and the COSPOL projects led by Member States. In May 2013, the current JIT THB project will <u>concluded</u> with a final ministerial conference in Slovenia. The aim of the project was <u>is</u> to enhance the cooperation within the Southeast European law enforcement community and facilitate the use of JITs as an effective tool to fight trafficking in human beings. <u>A new project on JITs was recently funded under ISEC. SI and BG are implementing a project entitled "Use of joint investigation teams for the needs of the fight against trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans at the local level" (JIT THB WB). It entails thorough and comprehensive training programmes on the concept of JIT in the Western</u>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<u>Balkan countries for representatives of prosecutors´ offices and police forces at the local level. SI and BG will continue to pursue the objectives of the project, aimed at local and regional-level officers and prosecutors from the Western Balkans, involved in actual THB cases in their daily business.</u>
		E: Enhance inter-agency cooperation, notably between FRONTEX, EUROPOL and EASO in accordance with their mandates, to address cross border crimes related to illegal immigration and contribute to assist asylum capacity in Western-Balkan countries.	FRONTEX, EUROPOL, EASO, COM (Hungary)	<u>Ongoing-On-going.</u>	EASO and FRONTEX signed a Working Arrangement on 26 September 2012 in Warsaw formalising existing cooperation between the two Agencies and providing a framework for developing closer ties and mutual support in the future. The two agencies now enjoy ongoing cooperation at the strategic and operational level. Both agencies have built on their existing working arrangement to develop the potential for a closer relationship delivered through <u>an</u> amendment to the Frontex Regulation, particularly relating to the transfer of personal data on cross border criminality. EASO participates in the Risk Analysis Network (FRAN) and FRONTEX participates, in the recently created,

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>EASO network Group for the <u>provision of Statistics (GPS)</u>. The focus of the GPS is exclusively on asylum issues.</p> <p><u>A joint training activity between FRONTEX – EASO took place in Greece in May 2013 and another one will take place in November 2013.</u></p> <p><u>EASO-FRONTEX conducted a joint exercise in Hungary and Romania in June/August 2013.</u></p> <p><u>Practical and operational cooperation with EASO was established within implementation of RABIT exercise in July. The both Agencies coordinated activities launched under RABIT mechanism (Frontex) and MS Emergency Support mechanism (EASO)</u></p> <p><u>A joint training activity between FRONTEX – EASO was carried out in Greece from 28 – 20 April 2013.</u></p> <p><u>A joint training activity between FRONTEX – EASO is expected to be carried out in Greece in May 2013.</u></p> <p><u>Frontex takes part in EASO MB meetings, contributing to discussions on the subject.</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>A joint training activity between FRONTEX – EASO took place in Greece in May 2013 and another one will take place in November 2013.</u></p> <p><u>EASO-FRONTEX conducted a joint exercise in Hungary and Romania June/August 2013.</u></p> <p>Europol Focal Point Checkpoint has launched Project FIMATHU which is aimed at the facilitation of illegal immigration into Austria and Hungary). Twelve Member States (AT, BG, HR, CZ, DE, HU, PL, RO, SK, SI, CH,Serbia) and FYROM were taking part in the project as of April <u>October</u> 2013. Since 2011, Checkpoint has organised fourteen operational meetings to promote cooperation. The last common action resulted in over 100 arrests.</p> <p>The <u>R</u>report of the Annual Heads of JHA Agencies Meeting <u>which</u> took place in December 2012 and the Multilateral Cooperation Scorecard <u>hasve</u> been reviewed accordingly. <u>Interagency cooperation is a part of each Operational Plan. Thus general and detailed roles and/or contribution of the relevant Agencies (EUROPOL,</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>EFCA, EMSA, etc) are foreseen in each particular JO before implementation of the activities. Also Agencies are regularly invited to take part in the EPN meetings organized by Frontex in order to present an update on their activities.</u></p> <p><u>At the Europol Management Board meeting on 9 October 2013 the strategic review of Europol's cooperation with Frontex was discussed. Europol's operational and strategic interest to better cooperate was outlined; with a particular focus on the development of the EUROSUR system (Europol wishes to be more involved in this).</u></p>
		<p>F: Support voluntary return and reintegration programmes of Western Balkan countries, as appropriate and in a manner which avoids the risk of creating pull factors.</p>	<p>MS, COM, IOM (Hungary)</p>	<p>Ongoing-On-going.</p>	
<p>7. Prevention of illegal immigration via the Western Mediterranean and the African Atlantic coast.</p>	<p>Ensure that the illegal immigration pressure in this area stays under control and does not develop negatively.</p>	<p>A: Efforts to maintain and develop the current effective handling of the situation should continue to ensure that the illegal immigration in this area stays under control and does not develop negatively.</p>	<p>FRONTEX, MS (Spain)</p>	<p>Ongoing. On-going</p>	<p><u>FRONTEX continues to support several Joint Operations in the Mediterranean and North Africa. This support includes continuous analysis and monitoring. Joint Operations EPN-Indalo and EPN-Minerva are located in the Western Mediterranean. Whereas Joint Operation EPN-Hera is located</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>off the North African coast and maintains a preventive effect on migration flows towards the Canary Islands.</u></p> <p><u>In addition Frontex facilitates MS coordination in the EPN areas.</u></p> <p><u>Also Frontex supports national efforts of Southern Mediterranean countries by facilitating such initiatives as EPN Common Patrols as a part of the EUROSUR.</u></p> <p><u>FRONTEX continues to support several Joint Operations in the Mediterranean and North Africa. This support includes continuous analysis and monitoring. Joint Operations EPN-Indalo and EPN Minerva are located in the Western Mediterranean. Whereas Joint Operation EPN Hera is located off the North African coast and maintains a deterrent effect on migration flows towards the Canary Islands.</u></p> <p>In addition, FRONTEX also set up an intelligence network with relevant African countries (mostly Western African countries), the African FRONTEX Intelligence Community. The intelligence exchange through this</p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					network enriches FRONTEX analysis and contributes to the monitoring of the situation in participating African countries. <u>This network has produced an annual report in 2012, and the 2013 annual report is expected in November.</u>
		<p>B: To start a "lessons learned" exercise on how the reduction of migration flows was achieved in the <u>Western</u> Mediterranean and the African Atlantic Coast. In particular, to study whether similar efforts to prevent illegal immigration in origin and transit Countries would also be helpful to deal with migration flows coming from other Regions. Further implications.</p> <p>C: To make the most of the Rabat Process (Euro African Dialogue on Migration and Development) notably through the participation of EU Member States in the thematic workshops, especially the one on <u>border management to be organised at the end of September 2013.</u> <u>on border management in Western Africa to be organised at the beginning of November 2013 in Madrid.</u></p>	(Spain)		Information was provided at SCIFA on 8-9 October 2012.

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
8. To address migratory pressures via the 'Silk Routes', including prevention of illegal immigration and combating THB		A: Efforts to develop the 'Silk Routes Partnership' should continue, including development of concrete projects to address illegal immigration, improve border management, enhance international protection, and combat THB, to and mitigate the negative impacts of migratory flows on EU MS and partner countries.	MS, COM	Ongoing , <u>On-going</u>	<p>During 2013 the Commission intends to finance 2 million euro in projects to support the implementation of the Silk Route Partnership</p> <p><u>An expert meeting within the framework of the Silk Route Partnership for Migration is scheduled to take place on 28-29 October 2013.</u></p> <p><u>Since June of this year, three scoping missions to Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan have taken place.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>On 17-18 July, a two day workshop took place in Brussels as part of this project. The UK, HR, HU, NL, NO, SE, CH and the COM attended. Clear progress was achieved in terms of multilateral agreement in respect of Afghanistan and a range of country specific activities.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Work is now underway with Pakistan senior officials to undertake a training needs assessment on migration. Basic training on migration issues covering a broad range of actors working in the area of migration in Afghanistan is provisionally scheduled for December 2014.</u></p>

I.Strategic priority area: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
9. Improving the functioning of ILO networks.		A: Following on from the amendment to the ILO Regulation <u>on</u> improved coordination and cooperation, particularly in terms of data sharing, between ILO's posted in third countries.	MS, FRONTEX	Ongoing , <u>On-going</u>	

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders					
1. Strengthening political guidance and the legal framework regarding border control.	Strengthening of the political Schengen Governance. Conclude negotiations on proposals put forward by the Commission.	A: Mixed Committee to have regular political discussions on Schengen Governance at ministerial level.	COM, Council, EP	Ongoing. <u>On-going</u>	The first discussion was held at the JHA Council in June 2012 and the second in December 2012 on the basis of COM report and PRES paper. The next discussion is expected to be <u>was</u> organised by the PRES in June 2013.
		B: Conclude negotiations on the proposals concerning the Schengen Borders Code, the Schengen Governance-package, EUROSUR, the Smart Borders Package and the Rules for sea operations coordinated by Frontex.	EP, MIXED COM, PRES	Schengen: possibly 2013 EUROSUR: Possibly political agreement by 2013 Smart Borders Package: possibly 2015. Frontex sea operations: 2014	The Schengen Governance package was adopted on 7th October 2013. Discussions are ongoing on the Schengen Governance package however there are still particular hurdles to overcome with the European Parliament on (i.e. the legal base) before any conclusion can be reached. Political agreement on EUROSUR is expected to be reached in May 2013. <u>Entering into operations will begin from December 2013.</u> Proposals covering both systems were presented on 28 February 2013. Discussions in Council and European Parliament are under way. <u>Discussions in Council and European Parliament on the proposal to establish rules for sea operations coordinated by FRONTEX are at the initial stage</u>

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					Discussions in Council and European Parliament on the proposal to establish rules for sea operations coordinated by FRONTEX will begin soon.

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
2. Preventing and combating illegal immigration by ensuring strong and efficient external border control.	Strengthening the security and control at the Schengen external borders.	A: COM to present regular reports to the European Parliament and to the Council on the functioning of the Schengen area.	COM	May 2012.	The COM submitted its first biannual report covering the period 1 November–30 April that was the subject of the JHA Council in June 2012. The second bi-annual report was adopted at the end of November 2012 and the third is expected at the end of May 2013. The third bi-annual report was presented at the JHA Council in June 2013. Next bi-annual report is due by the end of November 2013.
	Implementation of the FRONTEX regulation. Enhance inter-agency cooperation and cooperation between agencies and Member States. Member States making full use of passenger data in accordance with directive 2004/82/EC. Strengthening identification of illegal immigration routes inside the Schengen area.	B: FRONTEX to offer the coordination and organisation of joint operations and improve cooperation with other agencies and competent border control authorities of Member States and implement the new FRONTEX regulation.	FRONTEX	Ongoing.	<u>FRONTEX continues to roll out its Programme of Work for 2014 and is preparing its Programme of Work 2015. Joint maritime operations have been implemented covering the main migration routes at the EU’s external borders.</u> <u>Interagency cooperation initially established in the context of joint maritime operation EPN-Indalo has been extended to all maritime operations in line with the proposed EUROSUR Regulation.</u> Interagency cooperation initially established in the context of joint maritime operation EPN-Indalo has been extended to more maritime operations in line with the proposed EUROSUR Regulation. The European Patrols Network (EPN)

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>meetings provided a forum for practitioners to openly discuss questions related to the maritime domain and to look for possible common solutions. The EPN involves partner authorities from Member States, EU institutions and agencies (Europol, EMSA, EFCA, JRC, ESA and FRA), international associations (UNDOC, Interpol), other entities (CeCLAD and third country partner organizations, such as US Coast Guard, Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship and Canadian Services Border <u>Services</u> Agency.</p> <p><u>Cooperation with EUBAM in the framework of the activities organised by both EU bodies in Moldova and Ukraine (JBCP Ovidius and Project Coordination Points 2013).</u></p> <p><u>Frontex has invited EASO for the participation in REX exercise, organised in June-July 2013 at Hungarian-Serbian and Romanian-Serbian borders, where emergency response mechanism might be tested.</u></p>
		<p>C: Member States should where relevant make use of passenger data for improving border controls and combating illegal immigration in accordance with requirements in</p>	<p>MS (<i>The Netherlands</i>)</p>	<p>Ongoing. <u>Ongoing.</u></p>	<p><u>FRONTEX has actively supported MSs in rolling out their API systems, and developed a first version of best practice guidelines for the harmonization and use of API in border control.</u></p>

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		Directive 2004/82/EC.			<p><u>The Agency is leading an initiative to develop a passenger intelligence model that MSs may use to screen persons of interest who deserve special attention while complying with applicable regulation, in order to achieve more effective and efficient border control while improving passenger experience.</u></p> <p><u>The Passenger Intelligence Model will be available in early 2014 and properly disseminated and explained to MSs.</u></p> <p>FRONTEX has developed, in close consultation with Member States, best practice guidelines for the harmonization and use of API in border control.</p> <p>In addition, the Agency is also leading a task group with the aim of developing the capability to harmonize risk assessment using advance passenger data. This group, which involves three member States, is examining harmonized risk profiles for automated processing using API in a way that can be shared by Member States and easily uploaded into API processing systems.</p>
		D: An external evaluation of Directive 2004/82 (Advanced Passenger Information) was carried	COM	2012 and onwards	The external evaluation has been completed and results were shared with Members States in September 2012

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		out in 2012. Results were shared with Member States.			<p>as well as being published on COM website. The COM also presented the results of the study in the Frontiers Working Party in April.2013.</p> <p>FRONTEX has been taking forward an agreed programme of work, including identifying best practice amongst Member States on the use of passenger information, including API</p> <p>This project, conducted, in close consultation with Member States already operating or piloting an API system, focused on the existing challenges and areas for improving regulatory coverage. This research was extensively used in the evaluation of the API Directive by the COM. While the COM findings in their evaluation were aligned with those of FRONTEX, they did omitted a number of aspects that Member States identified as relevant.</p>
		E: Develop cooperation at appropriate levels with countries of origin and transit in combating illegal immigration, criminal organisations dealing with smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.	MS, FRONTEX, EUROPOL	End 2013 and onwards	<p>Cooperation with key third countries was ongoing <u>on-going</u> throughout the period, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A meeting of Focal Point Checkpoint was organised in November 2012 to discuss new trends and best practices. ▪ A training mission in Libya was

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>organised in June 2012. The aim of the mission was to strengthen capacity in the investigation and prosecution of migrant smuggling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FRONTEX also reported that implementation of relevant working arrangements with third countries (e.g. Nigeria) did receive attention during the period but, limited human and financial resources, hindered attention to this on a larger scale. ▪ Expert meetings on intra Schengen flows were held in October 2012 and April 2013. Follow up meetings are scheduled <u>foreseen still</u> for 2013. First results of the pilot project are expected for <u>by the</u> end of 2013. ▪ <u>A list of initiatives for implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between FRONTEX and Turkey in May 2012 is being discussed and the FRONTEX Executive Director visited Turkey in May 2013.</u>

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A Memorandum of Understanding between FRONTEX and Turkey is being developed and the FRONTEX Executive Director will visit Turkey in May 2013.
		F: Improve co-operation through exchange of information and best practices in order to identify and curb illegal immigration routes inside the Schengen Area, including air routes.	MS, COM	End 2013 and onwards	<p>The first expert meeting on intra Schengen flows was held in October 2012 and a second meeting took place in April 2013. Follow up meetings are scheduled <u>foreseen</u> still for 2013. First results of the pilot project are expected for <u>by the</u> end of 2013.</p> <p><u>As of end 2012, Frontex provided technical support to the COM regarding setting up of an exchange of information on secondary movements. In 2013 MS input was required and subsequently discussed in three Risk Analysis tactical meetings with focus on availability of data, proposal for new/extended indicators, and request for information on a tailored risk analysis on secondary movements.</u></p> <p>In December 2012, Europol and FRONTEX signed a Memorandum of Understanding and a bilateral agreement which will provide the basis for a secure line between the agencies, including</p>

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					access to Europol's Secure Information System (SIENA).
		G: Improving <u>the</u> situational picture of migration pressures by taking into account modi operandi used for secondary movements within the EU.	MS, FRONTEX	Ongoing- Ongoing.	<u>Within the EDF risk analysis network the scope of information exchange has been extended to cover document fraud at secondary movements through the air border.</u>
		H: Enhance inter-agency cooperation, notably between FRONTEX, EASO and EUROPOL. Cooperation between EUROPOL and FRONTEX should also concern serious crimes at the external borders.	FRONTEX, EUROPOL, EASO	Ongoing- Ongoing.	FRONTEX continues to develop its risk analysis on cross-border crime, <u>including that includes</u> inputs from Europol. With EASO, mutual exchange of information is developing, <u>partly</u> through analytical networks <u>and</u> exchange of information . FRONTEX contributed to the SOCTA 2013, while Europol provided input to <u>the</u> FRONTEX Annual Risk Analysis 2013. Europol and EASO are expected to participate in joint maritime operations in 2013 as foreseen in their respective Operational Plans. <u>EUROPOL is invited to take part in all joint maritime operations and the EPN meetings.</u> <u>Frontex and EASO jointly organized a common training activity for Hellenic screening officers.</u>

II. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<u>EUROPOL participates in the development of FRONTEX training tool for combating vehicle crime.</u>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey					
1. Ensuring effective border controls are in place at the Greek-Turkish border.	<p>To fight illegal border crossings by ensuring that efficient measures are in place for the detection, prevention and interception of irregular migrants at the Greek-Turkish border.</p> <p>Increase capacity in Greece by introducing sustainable measures to reduce illegal immigration.</p>	A: Swift conclusion of negotiations of a working arrangement between the competent border control authorities of Turkey and FRONTEX.	FRONTEX (Denmark, France, Greece)	2013	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between FRONTEX and Turkey establishing practical cooperation between FRONTEX and Turkish border authorities (risk analysis, training, research, exchange of experience and best practices) in May 2012.</p> <p><u>As regards exchange of information, Turkish border authorities attended a workshop on information exchange and agreed with its principles. The first instance of planned regular exchange of information took place in August 2013.</u></p> <p>The possibility of deployment of Turkish officers to selected border crossing points at the EU external borders is also foreseen, with a view to facilitating contact between the relevant Turkish and EU MS authorities.</p> <p>Since June 2011, regular <u>monthly</u> meetings take place on a monthly basis at an operational level between Greek and Turkish competent authorities in the Evros region, and contact points at operational level have been established. The operational cooperation and the proper implementation of the existing bilateral Readmission Protocol is</p>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>evaluated at regular meetings of a high level Committee consisting of high ranking officials from Greece and Turkey.</p> <p>In April 2013, a workshop involving Greek and Turkish officials on nationality screening of irregular migrants took place at the Hellenic Police Academy.</p> <p><u>Migration from Turkey and changes of migratory routes are continuously monitored by Frontex, therefore JO Poseidon Land 2013 is amended accordingly.</u></p>
		B: Fully implement the findings of the 2005 and 2010 Schengen evaluation reports.	Greece (Denmark, France)	2005 findings to be implemented before end of 2012. 2010 findings ongoing on-going	The Greek NAP was first presented in November 2010 and Greece has reported regularly on the progress since. The first peer-to-peer review mission to assess progress was carried out in March 2011 and the second in May/June 2012. Improvements have been shown in many fields and were presented to the SCH-EVAL Working Party in October.
		C: Intensify monitoring of the National Action Plan “Greece – Schengen”.	Council (Denmark, France)	Ongoing on-going	A revised action plan was presented to the JHA Council in January 2013. A state-of-play on the implementation of the plan was presented at a technical meeting in April 2013.

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		D: Intensify support for Operations Poseidon and Attica through increased contributions from Member States.	FRONTEX, MS (Denmark, France)	2012 and onward	<p><u>Due to a shift of migratory flows, from the Greek-Turkish land border to the maritime borders and impact of Syrian crisis, Joint Operation Poseidon Sea 2012 operational area have been reinforced and activities continued from January till end of November 2013 (possible extension to be considered). Due to the large number of migrants approached Greek Aegean islands a new First Reception Centre was opened on Lesvos Island.</u></p> <p><u>Member States involvement at the Greek-Turkish land border has been scaled down as a result of the national measures. At the same time, the Bulgarian – Turkish land border has been affected and operational activities in Bulgaria are reinforced as of July 2013, focused on deployment of second line experts, such as debriefing experts and interpreters. Joint Operation Poseidon Land 2013 will be extended until March 2014.</u></p> <p><u>As of March 2013 the project Attica started permanent deployments of screening experts and interpreters and continued the deployments at Samos and Lesvos. The project Attica 2013 will last until 27.03.2014.</u></p>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>FRONTEX continues to support with the deployment of interpreters and debriefers from Member States under the Poseidon Regional Programme. The capacity of the host MS in debriefing activities was increased by Agency organizing workshops and trainings involving Greek and Bulgarian officers. The total budget of Joint Operation Poseidon Land 2012 and Project Attica was €1.5m. The total budget, according to the Programme of Work 2013, is expected to be €13.2 m. This includes an allocation of €6m for JO Poseidon Land, €5m for JO Poseidon Sea and €2.2m for Attica.</u></p> <p>FRONTEX continues to support the flexible deployment of interpreters and debriefers from Member States under the Poseidon Programme. The Agency has also organized workshops and training to increase Greek and Bulgarian debriefing capacity.</p> <p>Due to a shift of migratory flows, from the Greek Turkish land border to the maritime borders, Joint Operation Poseidon Sea 2012 activities have been reinforced and continued from January 2013.</p> <p>In addition, Member States involvement</p>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					at the Greek-Turkish land border was sealed back after September 2012 when the Greek national operations started delivering results.
		E: Swift implementation of the Greek National Action Plan on Managed Migration and Asylum Reform, focusing on increased operational capacity at the border, notably by optimising synergies between the different actors involved, including the Task Force on Greece.	Greece, COM, MS, EASO (Denmark, France)	Ongoing on-going	The work on the implementation of the Asylum and Migration Action Plan is on-going. The work on the implementation of the Action Plan 2013 is on-going. The exercise will be <u>has been</u> taken forward in the framework of regular meetings with Greek authorities and in cooperation with interested Member States and other stakeholders. <u>The last meeting of interested MS took place on 27 September 2013.</u> The last meeting of interested Member States was in April 2013.
2. Combating illegal immigration transiting Turkey to EU.	To obtain an effective engagement of Turkish authorities to prevent illegal immigration transiting through their territory towards the EU external borders. To sign and conclude the EU-Turkey readmission agreement. Intensify trilateral cooperation between Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey for joint border management and police cooperation.	A: Enhancing the capacity to generate situational awareness on irregular migration via Turkey.	FRONTEX	Ongoing on-going	<u>As regards exchange of information, Turkish border authorities attended a workshop on information exchange with Frontex and agreed with its principles. The first instance of planned regular exchange of information took place in August 2013.</u>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		B: Continue assisting Turkish authorities through IPA and bilateral MSs' funds in strengthening their capacity to combat illegal immigration.	COM, MS (Denmark, France)	Ongoing on-going	COM has been continuing to co-finance new IPA projects, contributing directly and indirectly to combating irregular migration in Turkey, and more generally to improving the management of migration. These include (with the amounts allocated) the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IPA 2011 Protecting Victims of Human Trafficking €1.7m ▪ IPA 2011 Socioeconomic development through demining and increasing the Border Surveillance Capacity at the Eastern Borders of Turkey €3.6m ▪ IPA 2011 Strengthening the National Asylum Decision-Making Procedures €1m ▪ IPA 2011 Development of Protection Strategies for Persons in Need of International Protection in the Urban Context €2.4m ▪ IPA 2011 Assisted voluntary return and reintegration of irregular migrants in Turkey through strengthening and developing a coherent national AVRR mechanism €1.7m ▪ IPA 2012 Socioeconomic development through demining and increasing the Border Surveillance Capacity at the

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>Eastern Borders of Turkey - Phase II €4m</p> <p>Additional projects are also under preparation.</p>
		<p>C: Continue promoting the reform of border, migration, asylum and visa systems in Turkey</p>	<p>COM (Denmark, France)</p>	<p>Ongoing on-going</p>	<p>In April 2013, the Turkish Parliament adopted a new Law on International Protection and Foreigners which completely modifies and reforms the management of asylum and migration in Turkey, through approximating it to the EU's. IPA assistance and dialogue with the COM contributed to preparation of this law and new IPA projects in the pipeline will help with implementation.</p> <p>In November 2012 the Roadmap towards visa-free regime with Turkey was finalized by COM. It contains many benchmarks whose fulfilment will be possible for Turkey only through implementing reforms of its border, migration, asylum and visa systems and enhancing its administrative capacities in these areas. The Dialogue on visa liberalization with Turkey, based on that Roadmap, will be initiated in parallel with the signature of the EU-Turkey readmission agreement.</p> <p>FI has undertaken a twinning project on the development of risk analysis</p>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					systems by Turkish border control authorities
		D: Develop cooperation at appropriate levels in order to combat organised crime facilitating <u>the</u> smuggling of migrants and <u>the</u> trafficking of human beings.	MS, FRONTEX, EUROPOL (Denmark, France)	During 2012.	<p>COSI is in the process of monitoring the implementation of the operational action plans of the EU policy cycle for organised crime and serious international crime. At the last COSI meeting in April 2013 it was agreed that there should be eight priorities for the policy cycle 2013-2017 (illegal immigration, THB, cybercrime, MTIC and excise fraud, firearms, property crime, counterfeit goods and drugs).</p> <p>In addition, Member States are continuing to develop and support contacts with non-EU countries. For example Turkey participated in two international operations supported by Checkpoint in 2013. All information exchanges from Turkey were carried out through DE because Turkey is not a member of Checkpoint.</p> <p>FRONTEX continues to develop and implement activities which contribute to the prevention and combating of cross border crime by supporting national authorities in cases of smuggling and trafficking in human beings. This includes the identification of facilitators and potential victims. In this regard FRONTEX has been invited to take part</p>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					in the regional ILOs meetings in Turkey from since 2012. These meetings contribute to the update of the situation of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings in Turkey, and FRONTEX remains willing to participate in future meetings.
		E: Continue and step up the dialogue with Turkey, launched on 15 March 2012, in cooperation within the JHA area.	COM (Denmark, France)	Ongoing on-going	In November 2012 the Roadmap towards visa-free regime with Turkey and the non-paper regarding dialogue and cooperation on JHA matters with Turkey were agreed. They were communicated to Turkish authorities in December 2012 and will be officially handed over in parallel with the signature of the readmission agreement. Several meetings, at various levels, have already taken place since December 2012, between COM and Turkish authorities to explain the contents of the Roadmap and describe how the dialogue on visa liberalization should function.
		F: Develop cooperation between EUROPOL and Turkish Police.	EUROPOL (Denmark, France)	Ongoing on-going	A follow-up meeting took place in April 2012 with DG HOME to discuss the enhancement of cooperation between the parties and in particular, the issue of hosting a Turkish Liaison Officer at Europol. During 2012, Europol and the Turkish Police established a secure line and a

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>SIENA connection. However, operational information cannot yet be exchanged in the absence of an operational agreement.</p> <p>A joint workshop between Europol and Turkish law enforcement authorities was held in January 2013 to discuss possible ways of reaching such an operational agreement. The workshop covered issues such as data protection and confidentiality.</p>
		<p>G: FRONTEX should make full use of its recently expanded mandate and strengthen its operational cooperation with the competent border control authorities of Turkey.</p>	<p>FRONTEX (Denmark, France)</p>	<p>Ongoing/on-going</p>	<p>FRONTEX has engaged in a number of relevant activities including a 3-day training workshop for Turkish border control authorities. (incl. practical issues regarding information exchange, statistical data exchange).</p> <p>A review of the initial data exchange had to be postponed due to EU-Turkey policy developments. Once a definition of joint cooperative activities can be agreed between Turkey and FRONTEX the activity will be re-launched possibly in May 2013.</p> <p>FRONTEX also undertook a number of actions to strengthen risk analysis cooperation with Turkey. In particular, FRONTEX managed and implemented a risk analysis workshop with all relevant border control authorities in</p>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					Turkey (armed forces, national police, gendarmerie, coast guards and customs). A Turkish delegation also participated in a follow-up workshop on practical information exchange held in Warsaw. Discussions are well advanced for the establishment of a risk analysis network with Turkey, including an information exchange platform with a number of strategic indicators, to facilitate joint analytical work. <u>The first instance of planned regular exchange of information took place in August 2013.</u>
		H. Establishment of a trilateral common contact centre for police, border and customs cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria, The Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey in coordination with FRONTEX and EUROPOL within their respective mandates.	Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey <i>(Denmark, France, Bulgaria)</i>	Ongoing on-going	A proposal, has been put forward by BG with <u>the support of EL for a roadmap project for on active information exchange.</u> A trilateral meeting took place between EL, BG and Turkey in Sofia in February 2013. The meeting focused on cooperation in the framework of joint contact point centres. During the meeting the legal framework of actions of the future trilateral common contact centre was presented and a Draft Agreement on the Implementation of its establishment was proposed by the EL-BG side_ to be further discussed. <u>IPA is ready to co-finance a project aimed at supporting the participation of</u>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>Turkey to a cross-border cooperation project involving Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria. EBF funds should be mobilised to facilitate the participation of the two Member States to the same project.</u></p> <p><u>On 12 September 2013 consultations between representatives of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey on the draft agreement for establishment of common contact centre for police and customs cooperation at border checkpoint “Kapitan Andreevo” were held in Sofia. The text was negotiated at expert level. Signing of the agreement is forthcoming after the conclusions of the national coordination procedure.</u></p> <p><u>On 20 September 2013 a meeting between Bulgarian and Turkish Ministers of Interior was held in Ankara. The ministers agreed to accelerate the national consultation procedures for signing the agreement.</u></p>
		<p>I: Enhance cooperation with the relevant Turkish authorities in order to ensure the implementation of escorted transit and assisted voluntary return projects via Turkey.</p>	<p>MS, COM (Denmark, France)</p>	<p>Ongoing-on-going</p>	<p>Council Conclusions on cooperation with Turkey were adopted in June 2012. Following up on these Conclusions in December 2012, the COM handed over to Turkey the document proposing the Broader Dialogue and Cooperation Framework on JHA with Turkey, in which it is also proposed to to developing</p>

III. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					cooperation on joint return flights.

IV. Strategic priority area: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
IV. Strategic priority area: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels					
1. Prevent an increase of unfounded asylum applications as a direct consequence of introducing a visa free regime for a third country and decrease the number of over-stayers in the Schengen-area.	Decrease the number of unfounded asylum applications from visa free third countries.	A: Assess expected impact on migration and risks to EU's internal security before launching a visa liberalisation dialogue with third countries.	COM, FRONTEX, EASO, EUROPOL	Continuous.	<p>In response to a request by the Commission, FRONTEX prepared a tailored risk analysis on the potential impact of visa liberalisation for the citizens of Ukraine and Moldova in January 2012. <u>An update was prepared in July 2013.</u></p> <p>As part of its comparative analysis of asylum flows from Western Balkans candidate countries, EASO will conduct a questionnaire and analysis in order to ascertain <u>current and future</u> push factors in the region currently and into future.</p> <p>Europol has limited information on Organised Crime Groups involved in unfounded asylum applications. Checkpoint does not currently support any operations on this issue.</p>
		B: Assess the functioning of existing readmission agreements with potential visa liberated third countries before launching a visa liberalisation dialogue.	COM, MS, Switzerland	Continuous.	No specific EU action has been taken so far concerning the assessment of the functioning of readmission agreements with potential visa liberated third countries. CH has consulted Member States by means of a questionnaire, sent out in September 2012 and reported on the responses of Member States in May 2013 (doc. 9462/13).

IV. Strategic priority area: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>Most Member States were satisfied that JRCs are an adequate tool for the evaluation of existing readmission agreements. As for tools for information exchange and sharing of experiences on the current functioning of readmission and returns Member States favour the idea of an expert conference. In this regard CH intends to hold an annual GDISC conference on returns in autumn 2013 <u>on 23-25 October 2013</u>. <u>CH has consulted Member States by means of a questionnaire, sent out in September 2012 and reported on the responses of Member States in May 2013 (doc. 9462/13). In this regard CH intends to holds an annual GDISC conference on returns in autumn on the 23 to 25 October 2013.</u></p>
		<p>C: Continued monitoring of the effects of current visa free regimes with assistance of FRONTEX and EASO in accordance with their mandates and in close cooperation with the third countries in question.</p>	<p>COM, MS, FRONTEX, EASO (Belgium)</p>	<p>Continuous.</p>	<p>A Post-Visa Liberalisation Monitoring Mechanism (PVLMM) for the Western Balkan Countries, in accordance with the Commission Statement of 8 November 2010, is already in place.</p> <p>FRONTEX continues to support the PVLMM and provides monthly updates to the Commission. This report is an essential instrument for discussions with Member States on monitoring the implementation of the visa free regime.</p>

IV. Strategic priority area: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>BE consulted Member States by means of a questionnaire in November 2012 on identifying best practices for decreasing the number of unfounded asylum applications from visa-free Western Balkan countries and reported on the responses of Member States in March 2013 (doc 7812/13). The preliminary findings were presented during the informal January 2013 SCIFA, which comprised a thematic discussion on priority IV</p> <p>The questionnaire showed in particular the positive effects of information campaigns, not only in urban areas but also in rural regions with high likelihood of movement to the EU.</p> <p>EASO is carrying out a comparative analysis of the flow of Western Balkans asylum seekers, who represent the largest flow of unfounded applications in the EU. This analysis is expected to be completed by the third quarter of in October 2013. In addition a Practical Cooperation meeting on this subject was held at EASO in March 2013.</p>
		D: Improved information campaigns in the third countries on the rights and obligations that follow a decision on visa free travel.	MS, COM	Ongoing on-going	

IV. Strategic priority area: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
2. Combating and preventing illegal immigration caused by visa liberalisation.	Decrease the level of illegally staying work-force.	A: Adoption of the Commission proposal to amend Visa Regulation 539/2001 and establishing a suspension mechanism allowing for the rapid, temporary suspension of the visa waiver for a third country in the event of a sudden and considerable abuse of asylum procedures or increase in the number of irregular migrants.	Council and EP	Third quarter 2013	Negotiations on the proposal are progressing and they are expected to be finalised within coming months <u>The proposal has been adopted by the European Parliament on 9 September 2013.</u>
		B: Make use of accelerated procedures and swift returns in full respect of EU and international standards as regards manifestly unfounded claims in case of abuse of visa liberalisation.	MS (Slovenia)	Ongoing <u>on-going</u>	SI conducted a questionnaire in order to analyse the state of play. The results were presented during the informal January 2013 SCIFA and a final report was presented in doc. 9596/13.
		C: Gradual steps towards visa liberalisation with selected third countries while fully involving the Council on a case by case basis.	COM and Council	Continuous.	Visa dialogues are ongoing <u>on-going</u> with Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia <u>Visa Liberalisation Action Plans ongoing with Moldova and Ukraine. One of the benchmarks of the VLAPs is the signing of an agreement with Europol. MD is finalising the cooperation agreement and UA is currently negotiating the agreement, however data protection is still under evaluation</u>

IV. Strategic priority area: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		D. Ensuring that visa liberalisation processes are based on progress in the third countries concerned and involves the Council in the process and is not automatic.	COM and Council	Continuous.	

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
V. Strategic priority area: Safeguarding and protecting free movement by prevention of abuse by third country nationals					
1. To improve the understanding of abuse of free movement rights by third country nationals and organised crime aiming at facilitating illegal immigration-	<p>To gather, analyse and share data on the fraud and abuse at the EU level.</p> <p>To agree on a common methodology of gathering of data upon consultation of the EMN study on “Misuse of the Right to Family Reunification: Marriages of Convenience and False Declarations of Parenthood”.</p> <p>To improve the dissemination of information, intelligence and best practice between Member States to deter and investigate abuse of free movement rights.</p> <p>To improve information sharing within Member States (between authorities involved in registering marriages, social and legal protection of children, deciding on applications for residence, awarding social benefits and job centres).</p>	<p>A: Improve understanding of possible abuse of family reunification rights experienced by Member States in light of the EMN study on “<i>Misuse of the Right to Family Reunification: marriages of convenience and false declarations of parenthood</i>”.</p>	<p>PRES, COM, MS (Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)</p>		<p>Following up on findings of EMN study and EUROPOL actions under Activity B, Member States are expected to begin further work towards agreeing on a common methodology for gathering data on the phenomenon.</p> <p>Twenty six Member States have now uploaded their national EMN study reports on misuse of family reunification rights onto the EMN website.</p> <p>The Commission has agreed to consider holding a joint Family Reunification / Free Movement Expert Group meeting to better link the work being carried out in DG Justice and DG Home on this issue.</p> <p><u>A large number of Member States have provided evidence on fraud and abuse of free movement.</u></p>
			<p>B: Consider whether and to what extent EUROPOL, in line with its mandate, could gather and analyse data on the facilitation of <u>sham marriages and EU documentation fraud</u> by organised criminal groups of <u>sham marriages and EU documentation fraud</u> within the</p>	<p>PRES, COM, EUROPOL FRONTEx (Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)</p>	2013

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
	<p>To identify and direct the action required to tackle the abuse.</p>	<p>scope of EU crime priorities.</p>			<p>In particular, AT and UK have been liaising with Senior Specialists of the EUROPOL Organised Crime Network Division to discuss further work which may be necessary.</p> <p>On document fraud, FRONTEX set up and manages the European Union Document Fraud Risk Analysis network (EDF RAN), in which Europol also takes part. Analytical products from this network are distributed to Member States and Europol, with the EDF Annual Risk Analysis as the flagship analytical product of this intelligence community.</p> <p>Europol also gave a presentation on this topic at SCIFA in April 2013. The presentation included examples of recent cases of forged documentation and sham marriages, both of which substantiated the links to organised crime.</p> <p>EUROPOL has completed a report on marriages of convenience which has been submitted to the COM. The report provided examples and recommendations for more accurate assessment of this increasing threat. In addition, EUROPOL agreed to share the</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>publicly available elements with Member States.</p> <p>On sham marriages, FRONTEX participates in the activity of the OAP illegal immigration in cases where there is suspicion of a marriage of convenience with Organised Crime involvement.</p> <p>Europol Checkpoint Target Group SNOW is dedicated to exchanging and analysing information on Organised Crime Groups facilitating sham marriages. In 2012, Checkpoint provided analytical and operational support to several Joint Investigation Teams by NL-UK (FRY/GELDERMALSEN) and by FR-PT-UK (JUSTES NOCES).</p> <p>During the annual Checkpoint conference in November 2012, a special workshop was dedicated to sham marriages with a view to identifying best practices and providing an overview of the situation in the EU.</p> <p>See activity 1.C below</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		<p>C: Improve the gathering and analysis of data on EU documentation fraud and facilitators detected for the purposes of strategic priority V.</p>	<p>MS, COM, FRONTEX <i>(Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)</i></p>	<p>Continuous.</p>	<p>Following the setting up of the European Document Fraud Risk Analysis Network (EDF-RAN), more data has been gathered on document fraud resulting in improved analysis. Analytical findings from this network are incorporated into more general FRONTEX analyses like the FRAN Quarterlies and the Annual Risk Analysis.</p> <p>Europol Checkpoint Target Group RAIN is specifically dedicated to exchange and analysis of information related to large-scale travel document production. RAIN supports several ongoing on-going investigations focusing on print shops in EU Member States.</p> <p>The process of identification of any possible gaps or areas where further work might be needed is continuing. In this regard the following recent activities occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A thematic discussion on document fraud was held in SCIFA in April 2013 with the participation of FRONTEX, EUROPOL and Member States. See further doc. 7994/13.

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A paper setting out current work on documentation fraud, and identifying gaps in knowledge, was recently presented by AT. Contributions to the paper were also made by NL, AT, DE and UK; these which were used to inform the thematic discussion at SCIFA. FRONTEX <u>Annual Risk Analysis 2013 on Document Fraud</u> was released in May 2013. has confirmed that they have seen a 50% rise in detections of fraudulent documents, and are expected to publish a full report on the issue shortly. FRONTEX has invited the MS to contribute to a feasibility study in 2013 on extending the scope of the EDF data exchange. <u>The results will be presented in the EDF network meeting in October.</u>
		D: Identify desired EU actions to tackle abuse and continue to support existing work to tackle trafficking of human beings and organised crime aiming at facilitating illegal immigration.	COM, MS <i>(Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)</i>	Ongoing on-going	<u>Links between human trafficking and sham marriages are expected to be included in the sham marriage handbook in the context of EU law on free movement.</u>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>Good practice will also feed into the project on forced marriages currently being carried out by the anti trafficking coordinator.</p> <p>Links between human trafficking and sham marriages are expected to be included in the sham marriage handbook.</p> <p>During the thematic discussion at SCIFA in April 2013 it was also agreed by Member States that there should be greater co-operation and collaboration between Frontex and Europol on this issue.</p>
		<p>E: Make effective use of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) to investigate sham marriages and EU document fraud.</p>	<p>PRES, COM (Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)</p>	<p>Ongoing/on-going</p>	<p>UK and NL have jointly presented to FREEMO periodic updates relating to Operation Fry. These updates have explained the benefits of collaborative working, and sharing results of the operation.</p> <p>Proposed methods for consideration by all responsible parties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MS to highlight relevant Joint Investigation Teams operating on their territory. 2) Consider conferences/seminars to share information and best practices.

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					3) Conducting an investigation on into the possibility to of funding Joint Investigation Teams.
		F: Further develop the existing work of national contact points established in the context of the FREEMO expert group and prepare a handbook on marriages of convenience, including indicative criteria to assist in the identification of sham marriages.	MS, COM (Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)	Ongoing On-going	<p>Criteria and best practices related to detection of marriages of convenience (following Council Resolution 97/C 382/01 of 4 December 1997) are being explored.</p> <p><u>Work is on-going on a draft handbook on addressing marriages of convenience, which should provide clarity on the EU legal framework in which national authorities can operate in the fight against abuse related to free movement of EU citizens and their families.</u></p> <p>Proposed methods for consideration by all responsible parties:</p> <p>1) At the meeting of the FREEMO expert group on 25 March 2013, the Commission presented a draft, with the active involvement of Member States, of the first part of an operational handbook on marriages of convenience which would specifically address the needs and set the correct legal framework for the action of national authorities on the ground. All Member States should be invited to comment on</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>the draft by end of May 2013.</p> <p>2) the Handbook will also focus on the fundamental rights and safeguards under EU law to be respected in the fight against abuse related to free movement of EU citizens and their families.</p> <p>3) Member States are also invited to provide statistical evidence and qualitative data to allow for establishing the magnitude of the problem and for assessing the relevance and cost effectiveness of national measures, so as to identify best practices.</p> <p>4) The COM is expected to convene a drafting committee to allow Member States to make detailed comments and amendments. The COM is going to convene a drafting committee on 22 October 2013 to allow Member States to make detailed comments and amendments.</p>
		<p>G: Consider making use of EUROPOL Platform for Experts as a forum to share best practice and experience.</p>	<p>MS (Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)</p>	<p>Ongoing on-going.</p>	<p>Initial discussions have been held with Europol on the establishment of an EPE.</p>
		<p>H: Make full use of the national contact points established in the context of the FREEMO expert</p>	<p>MS (Germany, the Netherlands,</p>	<p>Continuous.</p>	<p><u>The list of national (both operational and policy) contact points within FREEMO is being continuously</u></p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
		group of contacts in Member States for queries in individual cases.	UK, Austria)		<p>updated and is readily accessible on <u>CIRCA</u>.</p> <p>The list of national contact points within FREEMO is being continuously updated and is readily accessible. Following discussions at the FREEMO meeting of in September 2012 it was expanded to include both operational and policy contact points. The same discussion showed that as regards the form and use of this network no further steps or improvements are deemed necessary at present. The COM has agreed to keep list of contact points on CIRCA database up to date as far as possible.</p> <p>Discussions with operational personnel about the desirability and feasibility of establishing an additional EU-wide network of operational contacts for queries in individual cases more broadly of abuses by third-country nationals and for sharing intelligence have been initiated. These discussions should take into account the need to avoid duplication.</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
2. To prevent the fraudulent acquisition and use of free movement rights by third country nationals.	To ensure that travel documents used within the EU, including their issuance and validation, meet minimum security standards, with a particular focus on ID and residence cards.	A: Implement enhanced security standards for EU documentation on legal stay (residence cards etc.) together with secure issuing processes on the basis of improved source documents (residence cards etc.) including the ability to take biometrics for third country nationals and work towards common validation standards at borders and domestic controls.	MS, COM, Article 6 Committee (Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)	Ongoing on-going	<p><u>Discussions within Article 6 Committee on technical specifications for documents and the False Documents Working Group regarding some initiatives relating to actions A & B in their work programmes have been initiated.</u></p> <p>Discussions with the Article 6 Committee and the False Documents Working Group about the inclusion of actions A & B in their work programmes have been initiated.</p> <p>The EMN has been recommended to launch a study on issuance processes for residence cards issued under the Free Movement Directive.</p> <p>Proposed methods for consideration by all responsible parties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Considering the link between abuse of free movement rights by TCNs and the abuse of source (breeder) documents issued within and outside the EU. 2) Continuing work in think-tank on source documents (established by WP on False Documents) to produce a report to the COM containing recommendations for possible minimum security standards for source documents.

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p><u>Following on from the methods set out above the following developments were reported during the period:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>The Single Points of Contact (SPOC) to enable the exchange of certificates between Member States, to access fingerprints on chips in documents from the issuing country has been established with Commission decision C(2011)5478. MS are progressing with its implementation.</u> ▪ <u>Agreement has also been reached allowing Member States to use the Biometric Residence Permit card format as a residence card and wordings suggested. Work is on-going on improvements to security design of the Uniform Format Visa and Residence permit.</u> <p><u>The Frontiers / False Documents Working Party is regularly exchanging information and best practices, as well as following up recommendations. See further doc. 7994/13.</u></p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>The Presidency launched a <u>questionnaire on "exchange of information on EU family members residence permits"</u> 23 MS replied and a <u>summary and analysis of the replies will be established with a view to reaching an agreement on 16 December 2013.</u></p> <p>Following on from the methods set out above the following developments were reported during the period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪— Progress has been made on the testing of Single Points of Contact (SPOC) to enable information sharing between Member States, specifically by giving cryptographic authority to the requester to access fingerprints on chips in documents from the issuing country. ▪— Agreement has also been reached allowing Member States to use the Biometric Residence Permit card as a residence card and wordings suggested which hopefully will increase Member State use of the card. Tasking agreed on improvements to design of the Uniform Format Visa and sub

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
					<p>group meeting arranged.</p> <p>The Frontiers / False Documents Working Party is regularly exchanging information and best practices, as well as following up recommendations. See further doc. 7994/13.</p>
		<p>B: Improve the security of the application and issuance processes for identity/EU documentation.</p>	<p>PRES, COM, MS (Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Austria)</p>	<p>Ongoing on-going</p>	
		<p>C: Improving the targeting of irregular movement of third-country nationals within the Schengen area, notably through enhancing knowledge on secondary movements given the widespread distribution of persons detected staying illegally in the EU.</p>	<p>MS, FRONTEX</p>	<p>Ongoing on-going</p>	<p><u>In addition to technical support to COM on improving information exchange on secondary movements, Frontex is to deliver a TRA on secondary movements in the EU at the end of 2013.</u></p>

Challenge	Goal	Activity	Responsible party	Target Date	Status/Observations
VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices					
1. Ensuring that all Member States have efficient migration management systems in place in order to be prepared for fluctuating migration pressures.	<p>Putting in place a sustainable and credible EU policy approach to the management of migration and ensuring contingency measures are in place for unexpected flows of migration.</p> <p>Developing an early warning system based on data received by Member States.</p>	A: Ensure that EU legislation in the field of asylum and migration is fully implemented including the Return Directive and the Directive on Employers' Sanctions. This will also facilitate the efficient and effective operation of immigration systems, including processing and removing irregular migrants.	MS (Denmark)	Ongoing on-going	<p><u>According to information provided by the COM all MS and associated countries (except for one) have implemented Return Directive. COM carried out an organised programme of work on the transposition of the Return Directive (2012-2013). In those cases in which it was not possible to find agreement and to obtain commitment from MS to change their legislation in accordance with requests from the Commission, EU-Pilot procedures are being launched.</u></p> <p><u>A study analysing the transposition of the Employer Sanctions Directive has been carried out which will serve to inform the Commission's report on the implementation of the Directive and any further infringement proceedings. The Commission's report is expected to be completed by the first half of 2014. According to information provided by the COM all MS and associated countries (except for one) have implemented Return Directive.</u></p> <p><u>A study analysing the transposition of the Employer Sanctions Directive is underway which will serve to inform</u></p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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					<p>the Commission's report on the implementation of the Directive and any further infringement proceedings. The study is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2014.</p>
		<p>B: Ensuring statistical data and analysis is in place.</p>	<p>COM, MS, EASO, FRONTEX (Denmark)</p>	<p>Ongoing/on-going</p>	<p>The dialogue between EASO and Eurostat on availability of asylum statistics collected by Eurostat under Art. 4 of the Migration Statistics Regulation have<u>has</u> been launched.</p> <p>FRONTEX has initiated discussions with Member States on the gathering of data related to passenger flow. In particular, data on passenger flow gathered for the purpose of regional analysis (on Western Balkans and at the Eastern land border) have already been used to improve the analysis.</p> <p>In addition, the EMN Bulletin provides an overview of latest published (Eurostat) statistics. The EMN also serves to provide analysis of and statistics on topics of relevance to policymakers (e.g. its study on irregular migration available from http://www.emn.europa.eu under "EMN Studies".)</p> <p>FRONTEX, under the lead of the</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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					European Commission, began preparations in October 2012 for a system that includes the structured exchange of information and statistics on intra-Schengen detections of Secondary Movements of irregular migrants, following the cancellation of the CIREFI WG which was previously responsible for reporting on this data. This project is being managed within the framework of Risk Analysis Tactical meetings and is expected to deliver a first report by the end of 2013.
		C: EASO will develop an early warning system based on data received by Member States which includes tailor-made assistance to Member States asylum systems, for capacity building.	MS, EUROSTAT, COM (Denmark)	End 2012.	<p><u>For the purposes of the Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS), EASO is still using Eurostat as data-source. However, upon request of the Management Board significant steps forward have been undertaken in the collection of non-validated data for operational purposes which have been included in monthly data analysis delivered to the EASO Management Board. The system will be further developed in the coming months in order to support the implementation of Art.33 of the Dublin Regulation.</u></p> <p>For the purposes of the Early Warning and Preparedness System, EASO is still using Eurostat as data source. However, upon request of the Management Board significant steps forward have been</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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					<p>undertaken in the collection of non-validated data for operational purposes that will soon be integrated into a coherent system of Early Warning that will be instrumental to the implementation of Art.33 of the Dublin Regulation. Important pilots, like the weekly data collection on Syria, have already shown the potential of the agency in this regards, but continue to rely on the willingness of Member States to provide up to date statistics.</p> <p><u>EASO has designed in cooperation with DG HOME, EUROSTAT and FRONTEX a table of proposed asylum indicators which would provide a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the CEAS. A Group for Provision of Statistics (GPS) has been established with a first meeting held in April and a second one scheduled for November. The GPS comprises experts nominated by Member States to be the responsible persons in regard to asylum data-collection and statistics. The network will operate in a similar way to the Risk Analysis Network (FRAN) built by FRONTEX.</u></p> <p>EASO has designed in cooperation with DG HOME, EUROSTAT and FRONTEX a table of proposed asylum</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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					indicators which would provide a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the CEAS. In April 2013, EASO organised the first meeting of the Group for the Provision of Statistics (GPS). The GPS comprises experts nominated by Member States to be the responsible persons in regard to asylum data collection and statistics. The network will operate in a similar way to the Risk Analysis Network (FRAN) built by FRONTEX.
		D: Closely monitor developments in respect of migration movements from Syria.	EASO (Denmark)	First semester 2012.	<p>Ongoing monitoring of the situation by COM, EASO, IOM and UNHCR, <u>including through the monthly Bordernet conferences set up by the COM with the participation of Frontex, Europol and EASO.</u></p> <p><u>Member States called for establishment of the RPP in the Middle East by the end of 2013 / beginning 2014 in order to respond to the Syrian crisis, as well as for increased support from EASO and FRONTEX to monitor migratory flows to the EU. Since then Member States have provided solidarity measures by stepping up financial support to Syria and gaining experience from the implementation of the EUREMA Pilot Project.</u></p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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					<p>A discussion on the humanitarian situation in Syria took place in July 2012 at the Informal JHA Council in Nicosia. Ministers agreed that the idea of a Regional Protection Programme could be part of a suitable solution for addressing the refugee situation in neighbouring countries to Syria, as well as increased support from EASO and FRONTEX to monitor migratory flows to the EU. Since then Member States have provided solidarity measures by stepping up financial support to Syria and gaining experience from the implementation of the EUREMA Pilot Project.</p> <p>EASO initiated a weekly data collection exercise during summer of 2012 in which concerned MS provided numbers of Syrian applicants.</p> <p>EASO organised a workshop on Syria, on 28 and 29 June 2012 in Malta.</p> <p>In August 2012, upon request of the European Commission in the context of the SY NET a follow-up workshop on Syria focused on scenario-based policy issues. On 18-19 March 2013, EASO organised a Practical Cooperation meeting on Syria and made a statistical analysis of the flow which showed the wide differences in MS' treatment of the influx and revealed important</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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					information about the characteristics of the applicants. This analysis will be included in the EASO Annual Report of 2013.
					DE is scheduled to admit 5.000 particularly vulnerable Syrian refugees. Germany has advocated a solution on a European level and has called on the European Commission to invite the Member States to a pledging-conference.
2. Maximising the potentials of a common EU approach in the field of return, both voluntary and forced in compliance with existing EU acquis.	To increase numbers of returns of irregular migrants and to develop swift, sustainable and effective return using a common EU approach, including more effective joint return operations.	A: Ensuring that EU legislation in the field of migration and asylum is fully implemented and facilitates efficient and effective returns.	COM, MS	2012-2013	<p><u>COM carried out an organised programme of work on the transposition of the Return Directive (2012-2013). In those cases in which it was not possible to find agreement and to obtain commitment from MS to change their legislation in accordance with requests from the Commission, EU Pilot procedures are being launched. The Commission will present to the European Parliament and the Council a Communication on Return by the end of 2013.</u></p> <p>The results of a study analysing the transposition of the Return Directive is currently under discussion/was discussed with each MS. Another study on the implementation of the directive is on going. The Commission will present to the European Parliament and the Council a Communication on Return by the end of</p>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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					2013 and it will launch infringement procedures if necessary.
		B: Ensuring that MS share best practises on return (both voluntary and forced) and encouraging cooperation between the stakeholders in the field.	MS, FRONTEX, IOM WP on Migration (expulsion)	PRES synthesis in June 2012.	<p>The PRES questionnaire has been issued. Results are being examined.</p> <p>MS are invited to also use Voluntary Return European Network (VREN project) which is a web-based platform designed to facilitate the exchange of information among stakeholders in EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway on issues related to (assisted) voluntary return of third country nationals in their countries or origin.</p> <p>Development of EURINT Phase 2 with selected EU partners to increase structural co-operation between EU Member States and 3rd countries to increase commitment in terms of re-documentation and return. Implementation is scheduled for August 2013.</p> <p><u>The kick off meeting took place in Den Haag on 17 September 2013. During this meeting the country lists have been established and the working groups are expected to hold their first meetings until the end of the year.</u></p>
		C: Improve operational co-operation on joint return operations. Exploring the opportunities to make	MS, FRONTEX	Ongoing on-going	In accordance with the FRONTEX Programme of Work, 30-40 joint return operations are planned for 2013.

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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		joint return operations more effective and to make a more effective use of detention capacities. This should include capacity building, coordination and organisation of joint return operations.			<p>The Project Attica on supporting the Hellenic Police in Return Capacity Building and sharing knowledge, experience <u>Sharing experiences</u> of MS experts with EL officers will continue in 2013/2014.</p> <p>Moreover FRONTEX provided standardised trainings for MS/SAC Return Officers - Escort Leaders and direct training in Athens for Hellenic Return Officers – Escort Officers (under Project Attica).</p>
		D: PRES questionnaire and synthesis on possible common EU approach and best practices.	PRES	<u>Ongoing</u>	The PRES questionnaire has been issued. Results are being examined. See item: I.1.A.
		F: MS to regularly inform FRONTEX of their needs for assistance or coordination by the agency. FRONTEX should draw up a rolling operational plan to provide MS with necessary operational support.	MS, FRONTEX	<u>Ongoing</u>	The content of and procedure for the Rolling Operational Plan (RoP) was adopted by the FRONTEX Management Board in 2012. The RoP will serve as a platform for identifying needs in Member States for operational assistance and coordination and the planning of the operational support.
		G: FRONTEX should establish the Code of Conduct on return.	FRONTEX	2013	<u>After presentation for discussion to the MS and to the Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights, The management board of FRONTEX adopted the Code</u>

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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					<p>of Conduct on Return in early October.</p> <p>The development of the Code of Conduct on return is ongoing: the advanced draft has been presented for discussion to the MS and the Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights, and will soon be presented to FRONTEX Management Board for adoption</p> <p>The first draft was prepared in December 2012 by Frontex. After consultations with the MS the Frontex Management Board is proposing to endorse the Code of Conduct in 2013</p> <p>The Code of Conduct on return has been discussed by the Management Board in April 2013 and will be revised accordingly ahead of final discussion at an expert level meeting.</p>
		<p>H: FRONTEX should enhance cooperation with third country authorities on best practices on acquisition of travel documents and return – and regularly report back to the Council and the FRONTEX Management Board on results achieved.</p>	FRONTEX	Ongoing on-going	FRONTEX intends to identify Best Practice in cooperation with relevant authorities in Nigeria. This best practice will later serve as a skeleton for further best practices with other relevant third countries.
		<p>I: Support voluntary return programmes, improve operational co-operation on assisted voluntary</p>	MS, COM	Ongoing on-going	Voluntary Return European Network (VREN project) web-based platform designed to facilitate the

VI. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices

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		return programmes.			exchange of information among stakeholders in EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway on issues related to (assisted) voluntary return of third country nationals in <u>to</u> their countries of origin.