



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 19 May 2017  
(OR. en)

9082/1/17  
REV 1

LIMITE

MIGR 70  
VISA 169  
COMIX 338

**NOTE**

---

From: Presidency

To: Delegations

---

Subject: Draft Council Conclusions on enhancing return and readmission of illegally staying persons

---

Delegations will find attached a revised version of the above draft Council Conclusions, following the JHA Counsellors meeting of 17 May 2017. Changes are highlighted in **bold** and ~~striketrough~~.

The Council:

- Recalls the European Council Conclusions of June, October and December 2016, as well as the European Council Conclusions of March 2017;
- Recalls the Council Conclusions on the future of the return policy, of October 2015, and the Council Conclusions on return and readmission of illegally staying persons of June 2016;
- **Recognises the importance of linking the negotiations of readmission and visa facilitation agreements, which has been implemented as an important tool in particular in the framework of the Mobility Partnerships;**
- Considers that it remains necessary to improve the rate of return of illegally staying third country nationals as a matter of urgency;
- **Underlines the importance of introducing a legal link between readmission and visa in the Visa Code;**
- Agrees that comprehensive, **gradual, pragmatic** and tailor-made solutions are required in order to improve cooperation with **third** countries of origin in the field of return and readmission, **in line with the Partnership Framework approach;**
- Recalls the views expressed at the JHA Council of March 2017, and agrees on the need **to consider to the use of** the necessary leverage by using all EU policy instruments and tools including visa policy;
- Considers that stronger coordination ~~should~~ **could** be established between the two areas of return and visa policy to improve ~~return~~ cooperation **of third countries on return and readmission.** Concerted action by the Member States within the **applicable** existing legal framework already provides **should continue to provide** the possibility for achieving results;
- Calls on the relevant Council preparatory bodies to take forward work in this regard with a view to the practical application of this concerted action.