



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 8 December 2014  
(OR. en)

16600/14

LIMITE

MIGR 162  
FRONT 269  
COSI 157  
COMIX 663

## NOTE

---

From:	Presidency
To:	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum/ Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway and Switzerland)
Subject:	EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response 5th Biannual Update

---

### I. INTRODUCTION

The "EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response" was approved by the JHA Council at its meeting on 26-27 April 2012<sup>1</sup>.

According to the methodology agreed by SCIFA/Mixed Committee (doc. 6443/13), Presidencies are responsible for coordinating the follow-up to the EU Action and its updating on a biannual basis, while SCIFA/Mixed Committee is to provide the strategic oversight of the implementation of the key actions under the Strategic Priorities. Individual Member States are encouraged to volunteer to monitor Strategic Priorities or elements within them.

Since the second part of 2012, the updating process has been undertaken by each Presidency and SCIFA/Mixed Committee has reverted to this issue regularly.

---

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

## **II. FIFTH BI-ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE EU ACTION ON MIGRATORY PRESSURES**

For the purpose of the fifth biannual update of the EU Action, delegations were invited to provide their input in writing by 6 October 2014 on the implementation of relevant activities under seven Strategic Priority areas of the EU Action.

On the basis of the contributions received by delegations, the Commission, FRONTEX and EASO, the Presidency prepared a preliminary version of the updated EU Action (doc. 15284/14), which was introduced at the SCIFA/Mixed Committee meeting on 14 November 2014.

The Presidency, taking into account earlier requests by delegations, also restructured slightly the format of the document to make it more readable, concise and standardized. In order to avoid overlapping, the Strategic Priority Area 7 (Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean countries) included a cross reference to the activities related to the Task Force Mediterranean and the Council Conclusions adopted by the October 2014 JHA Council.

Delegations were invited to comment in writing on the preliminary version of the updated EU Action (doc. 15284/14) by 1 December 2014. On the basis of the preliminary version of the updated EU Action and the comments received by delegations, the Commission and FRONTEX, the Presidency has prepared a consolidated version of the updated EU Action with a view to its endorsement by SCIFA/Mixed Committee at its meeting on 12 December 2014.

Taking into account that input by delegations into the updating process of the EU Action has been declining steadily during the last several rounds, further reflection on the working methods, IT tools and document structure will be needed during the forthcoming Presidencies. A more concerted effort should be sought for this useful methodological tool to reach its optimal potential and to feed into the policy making at the EU level.

As regards the Strategic Priority Area 7 (Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean), further reflection will be required in order to find *modus operandi* with the reporting and follow-up of the activities of the Task Force Mediterranean.

Further work will also have to be undertaken on certain proposals that need further consideration and could not be included in this round of updating of the EU Action, in particular those regarding developing a common European resettlement policy.

### **III. DEVELOPMENTS AS REGARDS MIGRATORY PRESSURES SINCE THE FOURTH BI-ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE EU ACTION ON MIGRATORY PRESSURES**

The following summary aims at presenting the main new developments and actions taken in the framework of the EU Action on migratory pressures in the last 6 months and thus is not meant to be a comprehensive state of play of this policy area. Moreover, given the limited number of contributions received from delegations during this round of the updating process, the summary might present only a partial view of the real situation on the ground.

Certain general trends stand out in the analysis of the developments over the last six months. In terms of progress achieved, there is a noticeable general positive trend, but it is not reflected evenly in all priority areas. While several new actions had been initiated under priority 1, the lack of new initiatives or developments in several other priority areas is noticeable. Moreover, institutional actors at the EU level seemed to have played the most active role. Finally, the EU cooperation with Turkey has featured significant progress, as reflected in the Priority Area 3.

#### **Strategic Priority 1 - Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management**

Frontex has started a new programme in collaboration with EASO and other partners under IPA II. This programme will aim at implementing a wide range of activities related to migration management in the Western Balkans and in Turkey. The agency also launched a capacity-building project with the cooperation of international organizations to ensure border security and facilitate legitimate movements of persons and goods at the borders of the EU and within the Eastern Partnership countries.

With regards to the situation in Syria, the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the Middle East has been launched, and activities are currently being rolled out.

In the framework of the Mobility Partnership with Moldova, a project on bilateral cooperation of health institutions between Moldova and other countries has been launched, in order to promote circular migration of health workers.

With regards to Serbia, Hungary is currently finishing its capacity-building project and launched this summer joint border patrols with Serbia. The Common Contact Point between those two countries has been operational since July 2014.

The setting up of a network of EU MS Liaison Officers in Libya, dedicated to gain intelligence on trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants has been launched under the EU Policy Cycle -Empact OAP for 2014, but is currently on hold due to the worsening of the situation in Libya. Included in the Empact OAP for 2015, it will resume as soon as the conditions allow.

Regarding cooperation with Belarus, progress is ongoing and the third round of negotiations for the conclusion of a readmission agreement will take place next year. The process to draft a Mobility Partnership with Belarus will be started as well.

The latest Joint Readmission Committee with Pakistan was positive, and the state of implementation of the EU Readmission Agreement (EURA) with this country will continue to be monitored.

Cooperation on returns is also expected to be improved with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nigeria with the elaboration of a pilot project with these countries.

Finally, the Seahorse Mediterranean Network is being prepared according to the plan by Member States, and efforts are made to encourage North African countries to join.

Cooperation between agencies and third countries has been further developed, with the signature of a cooperation agreement between Moldova and Eurojust as well as the signature of an operational agreement between Serbia and Europol. Negotiations for a strategic partnership agreement between Europol and Georgia are ongoing.

## **Strategic Priority 2 - Enhanced border management at the external borders**

The Annual Programme of the Schengen Committee was adopted in October.

With regards to the Smart Borders package, the Commission initiated a proof of concept in February, and presented its outcomes in October. A pilot project will be carried out in 2015 by eu-LISA.

### **Strategic Priority 3- Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey**

Frontex and Turkey launched a set of analytical activities, which in 2014 focused on information exchange, data quality and joint reporting.

Sweden also launched a capacity-building initiative to improve migration management in Turkey.

A Swedish-led Prague Process Pilot Project has been initiated and is being implemented. It focuses on providing trainings in asylum and international protection.

A cooperation plan between Frontex and Turkey has been established. Several activities will be implemented until 2016, notably in the areas of risk analysis and training.

Contacts with Turkey are ongoing regarding the secondment of a Liaison Officer to Europol to be stationed at the Embassy of Turkey in the Netherlands, in the framework of the existing cooperation agreement between Europol and Turkey.

Regarding the implementation of the EU Readmission Agreement (EURA) with Turkey, a protocol between Turkey and Bulgaria is under preparation.

With regards to cooperation with Turkey, the JHA Council of June 2014 concluded that major recommendations of the Schengen evaluation reports were followed up. Significant improvements were noted, in particular at land borders.

### **Strategic Priority 4- Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels**

Visa dialogue with Turkey and visa liberalisation Action Plans with Kosovo, Georgia and Ukraine are on-going.

### **Strategic Priority 5- Safeguarding and protecting free movement by prevention of abuse by third country nationals**

The Commission adopted in September 2014 a handbook addressing marriages of convenience between EU citizens and non-EU nationals, prepared in cooperation with Member States in the framework of the FREEMO expert group.

The Commission also presented in October an anti-trafficking package, including a mid-term Report on the Implementation of the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016, a second Eurostat working paper on THB, and a report on the Implementation of Directive 2004/81/EC.

### **Strategic Priority 6- Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices**

With regards to the Employer's Sanction Directive, the Commission adopted its first report on its implementation in May 2014. If necessary, the Commission will launch an EU pilot project.

The Commission is also preparing a "Return Handbook", compiling common guidelines, best practices and recommendations to be used by Member States when carrying out return-related activities.

### **Strategic Priority 7- Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean**

Developments under this Strategic Priority are covered in the Task Force Mediterranean-(TFM) related documents, in particular the Communication by the Commission on the Task Force Mediterranean of June 2014 (doc. 10067/14), as well as the JHA Council Conclusions of October 2014 that build on the work done by the TFM (doc. 14141/14 + 16222/14).

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

At its meeting on 12 December 2014, the SCIFA/Mixed Committee will be invited to endorse the updated document "EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response", as set out in the Annex, and take note of the reflections and observations in this note, which could serve as the basis for further proceedings under the incoming Presidencies.

**EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response**



## List of contents

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

1.1. Preventing and combating illegal migration by orderly return of illegal migrants .....	9
1.2. Implementation of EU readmission agreements .....	12
1.3. Capacity building in countries of origin and transit .....	14
1.4. The Southern Mediterranean .....	15
1.5. The Eastern partners.....	16
1.6. The Western Balkans .....	20
1.7. The Western Mediterranean and the Western Atlantic coast .....	24
1.8. To address migratory pressures via the ‘Silk Routes’, including prevention of illegal immigration and combating THB .....	25
1.9. Improving the functioning of ILO networks.....	26

### **2. Strategic priority area: Enhanced border management at the external borders**

2.1. Strengthening political guidance and legal framework .....	27
2.2. Strong and efficient external border controls .....	28

### **3. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey**

3.1. The Greek-Turkish border.....	31
3.2. Combating illegal immigration transiting Turkey to EU .....	32

### **4. Strategic priority area: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels**

4.1. Unfounded asylum applications after visa liberalisation and over stayers.....	35
4.2. Illegal immigration caused by visa liberalisation.....	35

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

5.1. Abuse of free movement rights and organised migration-related crime .....	37
5.2. Fraudulent acquisition and abuse of free movement rights .....	39

### **6. Strategic priority area: Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices**

6.1. Migration management systems and fluctuating migration pressures .....	41
6.2. Common EU approach in the field of return .....	43



**7. Strategic priority : Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean countries**  
7.1. Strengthening capacity of Southern Mediterranean countries as regards migration management.....45  
**Acronyms**.....46

## EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>1</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Area 1:</b> Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management			
<b>1.1</b>	<p><b>Challenge 1:</b> Preventing and combatting illegal immigration by ensuring smooth and orderly return of illegal migrants between States, including respect for the obligation of each State under customary international law to readmit its own nationals</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> EU readmission agreements as tools of an effective return policy in order to tackle illegal immigration. Initiation and continuation of negotiations on EU readmission agreements with relevant third countries, including further appropriate steps when negotiations stall</p>			
<b>1.1.A</b>	<p>Operationalising Council Conclusions of June 2011 defining an EU strategy on readmission (doc. 11260/11 MIGR 118).</p> <p>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> <p>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 countries.</p> <p>Promotion and support of cooperation between countries of origin and transit to</p>	<p>PRES COM WP on Migration (expulsion) / HLWG / SCIFA EEAS</p>		<p>EU readmission policy remains an important priority, with the emphasis on implementing those EURA's already in force and completing outstanding mandates.</p> <p><b>EU READMISSION AGREEMENTS (EURAs)</b></p> <p><b>EURA Azerbaijan</b> <b>Developments:</b> signed 28 February 2014, entered into force 1 September 2014</p> <p><b>EURA Turkey</b> <b>Developments:</b> signed 16 December 2013, entered into force 1 October 2014</p> <p><b>EURA Cape Verde</b> <b>Developments:</b> signed 18 April 2013, will enter into force on 1 December 2014.</p> <p><b>EURA Belarus</b> <b>Developments:</b> first round of negotiations in June 2014, second round in November 2014. Third one planned for first quarter 2015.</p> <p><b>MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS (MPs)</b></p> <p><b>MP Morocco</b> <b>Developments:</b> expected to re-launch negotiations on a readmission agreement in end of 2014</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	develop efficient readmission mechanisms, both within regions and on a bilateral level.			<p><b>MP Tunisia</b>  <b>Developments:</b> signed 3 March 2014, opens the way to engage in readmission negotiations with that country. COM presented the relevant recommendation to the Council in July, the Council is expected to adopt negotiating directives by the end of 2014.</p> <p><b>MP Jordan</b>  <b>Developments:</b> signed 9 October 2014</p> <p><b>DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND SECURITY (DMMS)</b></p> <p><b>DMMS Egypt</b>  <b>Developments:</b> possibility to start are being explored, positive signs observed.</p> <p><b>DMMS Algeria</b>  <b>Developments:</b> developments on migratory trends could lead to consider the possibility of launching a dialogue which could also include the commitment to the negotiation and conclusion of EURA. It has to be noted that Algeria always refused to start negotiations on a readmission agreement with COM, which received negotiating directives from the Council in 2002.</p> <p><b>HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY (HLDMM)</b></p> <p><b>HLDMM China</b>  <b>Developments:</b> efforts to rekindle readmission negotiations, and to establish relevant practical cooperation on return and readmission, in the framework of the dialogue launched in October 2013.</p> <p><b>HLDMM India</b>  <b>Developments:</b> no progress on negotiations on a draft joint declaration on a CAMM.</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
		MS COM (SE)		<p><b>COMMON AGENDA ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY (CAMM)</b></p> <p><b>CAMM Nigeria</b>  <b>Developments:</b> negotiations already concluded, text endorsed by Council (with elements of readmission), Joint Declaration expected to be signed on 27 November 2014.</p> <p><b>OTHER INITIATIVES</b></p> <p><b>Pilot Project MONITOR</b>  <b>Start:</b> 2014  <b>Description:</b> introducing a post-return monitoring system in Ukraine and Pakistan for three years under coordination of IOM, UNHCR and local partner organisations.</p> <p><b>Multi-Country Action Programme, “Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey” to cover the period 2015-2018 under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2014 funding (IPA II).</b>  <b>Start:</b> 2015  <b>Description:</b> A list of cooperation activities have been drawn up by DG Enlargement which could be funded via IPA II. These activities fall within the following three core components:  1. Identification of migrants  2. Information exchange  3. Establishing regional return mechanisms</p> <p>PRES/ COM will continue to reflect on the shape of the readmission package with potential new candidates, including possible incentives and appropriate principles</p>
		Frontex with EASO and other project partners		

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				Develop cooperation on returns on a pilot basis with a number of target countries (Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nigeria in a first phase based on prioritisation) while analysing the potential leverages available both at the EU and MS level in order to improve the return rate.
<b>1.2</b>	<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> Ensure implementation of all EU readmission agreements to their full effect  <b>Goal:</b> Full implementation of EU readmission agreements by third countries and MS alike, facilitated by practical arrangements. Ensuring effective implementation of Art. 13 of the Cotonou agreement.</p>			
<b>1.2.A</b>	Further efforts by COM and MS in relation to relevant third countries aimed at the full implementation of EU readmission agreements that are not being fully implemented.	COM MS	On-going	<p>EU institutions agencies and MS continue to apply pressure on certain third countries to fully implement EURA's.</p> <p><b>EURA Pakistan</b>  <b>Developments:</b> further readmission applications were examined and approved following efforts by COM and EU DEL. Situation still calls for improvement, in particular for some MS which have a large number of pending cases, the issue has been discussed with Pakistan during strategic dialogue meeting on 25 March 2014. Serious problems are still being encountered regards the smooth and effective implementation of the agreement. Frontex coordinated 5 joint return flights to Pakistan and has one more planned for 2014. Positive meeting of the 3rd JRC on 20 October with a necessary follow up to translate some commitments into practice.  <b>Follow-up:</b> see JRC. Need for a call for a meeting of EU DEL Committee and take certain decision on the acceptance of the EU Travel Document by the Pakistani authorities.</p> <p><b>EURA Sri Lanka</b>  <b>Developments:</b> efforts focus on ensuring full implementation of the agreements following the first JRC held in Colombo in February 2013.</p>
<b>1.2.B</b>	Full and effective use of Joint Readmission Committees, including, where applicable, active participation of MS.	COM MS	On-going	<p><b>Joint Readmission Committees</b>  <b>Developments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with Georgia on 4 June 2014</li> <li>- with Armenia on 10 September 2014</li> <li>- with Russia on 2 July 2014</li> </ul>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<b>Follow-up:</b> next one with Pakistan possibly before end 2014 (pending Pakistani side reply), next one with Moldova in 2015.
<b>1.2.C</b>	Coherent implementation of EU readmission agreements by MS. Due attention should also be given to the implementation of bilateral readmission agreements or arrangements concluded by MS when compatible with the EU readmission agreements.	MS	On-going	The introduction in some third countries of automated systems, through EU-supported capacity building projects, is expected to greatly improve consistency in implementing EURA's in the third countries concerned. Examples are Georgia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan (under development).
<b>1.2.D</b>	Exercise pressure through diplomatic channels and other regular contacts to improve the cooperation of relevant third countries on readmission.	EEAS COM MS	On-going	Readmission is an element to which the EU attaches importance in the framework of its cooperation on migration with India and China.. In addition, the issue of illegal migration including return and readmission, is regularly addressed in each of the seven regional dialogues under the GAMM umbrella, (Rabat, MME, Prague, EaP, Budapest, CELAC, ACP). It is also evoked in the dialogue with the African Countries of the Horn of Africa (Khartoum process) that is expected to be launched by the end of 2014.
<b>1.2.E</b>	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 on the recommendations as they are agreed	COM MS	On-going	<b>EU ACP Developments:</b> experts recommendations on readmission endorsed in April 2012 by Ministers EU-ACP. A regional seminar on readmission was held on 29-30 April 2014, to provide for expert exchanges on specific issues.

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Challenge 3:</b> Enhancing the capacity of countries of origin and transit to manage mixed migration flows <b>Goal:</b> 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 better manage mixed migratory flows. To avoid secondary movements. To establish MPs with relevant third countries.			
<b>1.3.A</b>	Strengthening the use of Regional Protection Programmes and similar national initiatives aimed 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 displacement, and as close as possible to their home areas. Thus, enabling asylum seekers to apply for and find effective protection in their region of origin.	COM MS Frontex	On-going	<b>Regional Development and Protection Programme Syria</b> <b>Developments:</b> RDPP (Middle East covering Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq) was launched in July 2014 with the Danish International Development Agency as leading partner <b>Follow-up:</b> the first activities along each of the four main thematic components are starting to be rolled out.  <b>VEGA Concept</b> <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex <b>Description:</b> goal is to enhance effective protection measures for vulnerable persons (children and victims of THB) at external air, sea and land borders, within a law enforcement oriented approach to fight against THB. Cooperation with EU and non-EU agencies and IO will be extended (Europol, FRA, Interpol, UNHCR, IOM) <b>Outcomes/results:</b> - VEGA Children Handbook (countermeasures to identify children at risk) - JO VEGA Children (validation of handbook)
<b>1.3.B</b>	Building capacity in third countries in order for them to better tackle the challenges of mixed migratory flows.	COM MS	On-going	Capacity-building in third countries is already a key element of the existing MPs with Moldova, Cape Verde, Georgia, Armenia, Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia.  COM, EASO and MS will continue to identify new actions and initiatives aimed at strengthening third countries' capacities, especially in view of the implementation of the new financial instrument agreed in the context of MFF.
<b>1.3.C</b>	Improving availability and access to means for self-reliance in third countries of first asylum, in order to avert secondary movements.	COM MS	On-going	See point 1.3.B above on Moldova.
<b>1.3.D</b>	Contributing to enhancing local	COM	On-going	<b>MP Moldova</b>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	employment opportunities in countries of origin.	MS		<b>Developments:</b> within project "Better managing the mobility of health professionals in the Republic of Moldova", government of Moldova launched negotiations with ES, PT, FR, DE and Israel to sign bilateral agreements between health institutions, to promote legal migration, circular migration and return.
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Challenge 4:</b> Prevention of illegal immigration from the Southern Mediterranean countries <b>Goal:</b> To extend dialogues DMMSs with the Southern Mediterranean countries with a view to establishing MPs.			
<b>1.4.A</b>	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. Cooperation should be founded on a performance - based approach and on appropriate conditions.	COM MS HLWG	2012 and onwards	See 1.1
<b>1.4.B</b>	To consider launching Dialogues on migration, mobility and security leading towards Mobility Partnerships with Jordan and, once possible, with other Southern Mediterranean countries (with priority given to Egypt and Libya).	COM MS HLWG	2012 and onwards	See 1.1 for Egypt and Jordan  <b>Libya:</b> due to recent developments regarding migration pressure from Libya on Southern Mediterranean borders, the need to urgently launch a dialogue with Libya has been repeatedly underlined by several MS. The current security situation however is not conducive to the start of such a dialogue.
<b>1.4.C</b>	Building on existing cooperation, MS-third countries regional networks of cooperation in the Mediterranean should continue also within the framework of Eurosur.	MS COM Frontex	On-going	<b>Seahorse Mediterranean Network</b> <b>Responsible party:</b> MS (ES, PT, IT, FR, MT, EL, CY), (LY), COM, EEAS <b>Budget/funding:</b> EC <b>Developments:</b> launched at kick off conference on 19 September 2013 in Madrid. Other countries could join (Tunisia, Egypt) in the near future. Preparations on MS side going ahead as planned. Cooperation with Libya currently on hold due to the political and security situation in Libya. <b>Follow-up:</b> Steering committee on the 2nd of December, to continue engagement with other North-African countries with a view to their joining to the Seahorse Mediterranean Network.



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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p><b>Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Mandate:</b> develop mutually beneficial risk analysis and intelligence partnerships with African countries in the field of border security.  <b>Developments:</b> two workshops were held, as well as one meeting with ILOS based in the region.  <b>Follow-up:</b> a third joint annual AFIC report will be launched in October 2014.</p> <p><b>European Patrols Network (EPN):</b>  Frontex regularly invites selected third countries to take part in the EPN meetings, in order to become familiar with Frontex - coordinated joint maritime activities.</p>
1.4.D	Enhance operational cooperation between EU MSs and relevant EU institutions/agencies and international organizations to tackle smuggling of migrants and THB from North Africa and notably from Libya	IT Europol		<p><b>LO Network - Libya</b>  <b>Developments:</b> launched under EU Policy Cycle – Empact OAP for 2014 in order to set up a network of EU MS Liaison Officers in Libya, solely dedicated to gain intelligence on smuggling of migrants and THB, and make better use of this network to foster more efficient information exchange, involving the Libyan authorities whenever possible. This initiative - in which IT, FR, DE, ES, UK, Europol, Frontex, COM, EUDEL Tripoli, EUBAM Libya, IOM e UNSMIL have been taking part - has been frozen in July 2014 due to the worsening of the internal situation in Libya. It is included in the Empact OAP for 2015 and will be resumed as soon the internal security conditions allow.</p>
1.5	<p><b>Challenge 5:</b> Ensuring that the fight against illegal immigration is taken into account when developing dialogues with Eastern partners (including the EaP countries and non-EU Prague Process partners)  <b>Goal:</b> To enhance further the level of political and operational cooperation with the EaP countries in the JHA areas. To ensure mobility in a secure and well managed environment</p>			
1.5.A	Conclude agreements on Mobility Partnerships with relevant third countries.	COM MS (PL)	On-going	<p><b>MPs with Eastern Partnership countries (Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan)</b>  <b>Developments:</b> successfully launched</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p><b>MP Azerbaijan</b>  <b>Developments:</b> signed in December 2013, first exchanges between the EU and Azerbaijan on future project took place at the beginning of 2014.</p> <p><b>Name of the framework:</b> GAMM (Belarus)  <b>Responsible party:</b> COM  <b>Developments:</b> in COM implementation report 2014, Belarus is listed as a potential country with which MP could be envisaged. Video-conference between DG HOME and Belarus in July 2014, during which Belarus confirmed its interest to start negotiations in September 2014. Belarus provided a draft annex listing projects they are interested in. In November 2014, the Council gave its green light to the European Commission to start drafting the text of the Mobility Partnership to be negotiated with Belarus.</p>
1.5.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.	COM MS (PL)	On-going	<p><b>JAIEX WP</b>  <b>Developments:</b> work on mapping cooperation and projects with Eastern countries on illegal immigration in connection to organised crime, THB, money laundering and others.</p> <p><b>MP Armenia</b>  <b>Developments:</b> activities have been carried out within the Targeted Initiative for Armenia, focused on returns and the prevention of illegal immigration, involving a number of MS (BE, BG, CZ, DE, NL, PL, FR, RO).  THB: systematically included in all migration and mobility dialogues conducted, both at regional and bilateral levels, as well as in all MPs.</p> <p>Cooperation has also been reinforced through the on-going visa liberalisation dialogue with Ukraine, and Moldova and, Georgia.</p> <p><b>Moldova- Eurojust Cooperation agreement</b>  <b>Developments:</b> signed 10 July 2014.</p> <p><b>Georgia-Europol Strategic Partnership agreement</b></p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p><b>Developments:</b> Europol has formally initiated the process of entering into an SP agreement, and is currently reviewing the answers to a questionnaire on data protection and other pertinent legislation</p> <p><b>Eastern partnership cooperation in the fight against illegal immigration - Supporting the implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan (EaP-SIPPAP)</b>  <b>Responsible party:</b> HU  <b>Framework:</b> EaP/Prague Process  <b>Description:</b> strategic and operational cooperation in the EaP region in the area of prevention of cross-border crimes.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> several study visits have been organised in 2014 in Romania, Latvia, Hungary and Slovakia.</p> <p><b>Panel on Migration and Asylum</b>  <b>Framework:</b> EaP  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> workshops were organised in 2014 in Moldova (Detention), in Lithuania (Smuggling of Human Beings), in Poland (Labour Migration).  <b>Follow-up:</b> the next expert meeting will be held in the Netherlands (Credibility of Assessment in Asylum Procedure) in December 2014.</p> <p><b>Legal Migration PP and Development PP</b>  <b>Framework:</b> Prague Process  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> the concluding joint workshop was held in Prague on 25/26 September 2014. For the Legal Migration PP, a study visit in Finland was organized on 3/5 June 2014 and an expert mission (Belarus). Result of the projects include a joint Handbook focusing on legal and circular migration</p> <p><b>Illegal Migration PP</b>  <b>Framework:</b> Prague Process  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> the concluding workshop was held in Warsaw on 8/9 July 2014. dissemination of Prague Process Handbook and Guidelines on</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p>Concluding Readmission Agreements and Organising Returns – a useful tool for the Prague Process Participating countries.</p> <p><b>MP Moldova (EaP)</b>  <b>Developments:</b> workshop on fighting illegal migration and migration management for the representatives of the Republic of Moldova was organised in Warsaw in September 2014.</p> <p><b>MP Georgia (EaP)</b>  <b>Developments:</b> workshop on ensuring fundamental rights of migrants, including rights of migrants in detention, on ensuring respect for the CJEU and ECHR and on cooperation with NGOs with regards to monitoring of Human Rights was organised in Warsaw in September/October 2014.</p> <p><b>Asylum PP4</b>  <b>Framework:</b> Prague Process  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> March 2014 – Discussion and evaluation of the final results of the pilot project, including the guidelines and country specific road maps for training in refugee status determination procedure.</p> <p><b>National Contact Points</b>  <b>Framework:</b> Prague Process  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> the second meeting was held in Warsaw on 25 June 2014, focusing on cooperation in asylum.</p>
1.5.C	Convening meetings at ministerial level to ensure appropriate political guidance and coordination.	MS (PL)	On-going	Ministerial Meeting on Eastern Partnership in Justice and Home Affairs was held on 7-8 <sup>th</sup> of October 2013 in the margins of JHA Council in Luxembourg.
1.5.D	Implementing Technical Assistance in Eastern Partnership countries	Frontex (project partners: WCO, IOM, ICMPD)		<p><b>Frontex-EaP IMB Capacity Building</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Duration:</b> from July 2014 to July 2017  <b>Description:</b> goal is to ensure border security and to facilitate legitimate movements of persons and goods at borders with the EU and within the region, while giving the necessary attention to fight against corruption and respect for</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				human rights.
<b>1.6</b>	<p><b>Challenge 6:</b> Prevention of illegal immigration via the Western Balkans  <b>Goal:</b> Intensify cooperation primarily with Serbia, to prevent and fight increased illegal immigration pressure on the Hungarian-Serbian border. Enhance the EU's policy response to illegal migration in the region. Continue assisting the relevant authorities of the Western Balkan countries, in particular Serbia, to strengthen their capacity to combat illegal immigration. Ensure appropriate coordination of activities carried out at EU level and MS' bilateral activities in third countries of origin and transit in the region</p>			
<b>1.6.A</b>	Frontex should make full use of its recently expanded mandate to step up assistance for border control activities at the Hungarian-Serbian border.	Frontex (HU, AT)	On-going	<p>Frontex Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis provides analytical inputs to operational activities in the region.</p> <p><b>JO Focal Points Land</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Duration:</b> from 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> the operation is being implemented at designated HU, RO, BG, HR and EL border crossing-points with WB countries. Observers from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania are being deployed.</p> <p><b>Flexible Operational Activities</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> 4 months (May-June, September-October) of activities are being implemented at the border between Serbia and HU, RO and CO. Observers from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania are being deployed.</p> <p><b>Project Coordination Point 2014</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> the operation is being implemented at Albanian-Montenegrin and Serbian-FYROM borders. Experts from MS are being deployed as observers to Murriqan, Albania and Tabanovce, FYROM.</p>
<b>1.6.B</b>	Implementation of the Action Plan with Serbia, to implement joint operations, law-enforcement training, legislative alignment, develop migration and asylum capacities	MS COM (HU)	On-going	<p>In the context of the multi-annual policy cycle and OAPs led by MS, relevant activities are being implemented.</p> <p><b>Serbia-Europol Operational agreement</b></p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	and establish a Common Contact Point – making full use of IPA Projects.			<p><b>Developments:</b> signed in January 2014.</p> <p><b>Responsible party:</b> Hungarian Office of Immigration and Nationality  <b>Start:</b> 2013  <b>End:</b> 2014  <b>Description:</b> capacity building of the Serbia country of origin unit and Serbian migration and asylum system.</p> <p>Hungarian-Serbian joint border patrol has started from end of August 2014. The Hungarian-Serbian Common Contact Point has been operating since July 2014 (Röszke BCP, Hungary)</p>
1.6.C	Provide IPA assistance and continue monitoring of the further development of border, migration, asylum and visa systems in Western-Balkan countries.	COM MS (HU, AT)	On-going	Commission in the process of designing, for the current multi-annual financial perspective new IPA projects on the rule of law with a regional focus.
1.6.D	Develop cooperation at all levels with Western Balkan countries in combating criminal organisations dealing with smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.	MS COM (SI, AT)	On-going	<p><b>"Use of Joint Investigation Teams (JIT) to fight Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans at the local level" (JIT THB WB)</b>  <b>Responsible party:</b> MS (SI, BG)  <b>Framework:</b> JIT  <b>Start:</b> 01.08.2013  <b>End:</b> 31.07.2015  <b>Budget/funding:</b> ISEC  <b>Description:</b> The general objective of the project is to promote and develop coordination, cooperation and mutual understanding among Law Enforcement Agencies, other national authorities and related Union bodies.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> Expected results of the project are enhanced cooperation amongst practitioners, dissemination and use of vital information on JITs and THB raised awareness about the use of JITs and mutual understanding amongst practitioners and competent institutions.  <b>Follow-up:</b> Deliverables planned include special guidelines for practitioners (to be distributed to all participants in local languages), different THB scenarios for workshops as well as narrative reports published available on-line.</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
1.6.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 assisting asylum capacity in Western Balkan countries.	Frontex Europol EASO COM (HU)	On-going	<p>EASO and Frontex signed a Working Arrangement in 2012; the two Agencies continue to develop closer ties and strengthen their strategic and operational cooperation.</p> <p>Inter alia they cooperate at the level of the management Board, within the JHA Agencies Network, in their respective analysis networks, in matters related to training and they implement joint operational RABIT and emergency support exercises.</p> <p><b>FIMATHU</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Europol (AT, HU)  <b>Framework:</b> Europol Focal Check Points  <b>Start:</b> 2011  <b>Description:</b> the project aims at countering the facilitation of illegal immigration into AT and HU and disrupt and dismantle the illegal immigration networks operating via the Western Balkans as well as in other European countries.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> Several raids were organised, notably in January 2013 during which 103 facilitators were arrested in 10 European countries. The project is still ongoing, a number of smaller partial arrest operations in some individual investigations are being carried out. participants meet regularly and ongoing criminal investigations into FII via the WB are being discussed.</p> <p>Interagency cooperation is a part of each joint operation coordinated by Frontex. Thus general and detailed roles and/or the contribution of the relevant agencies (Europol, EFCA, EMSA, etc.) are described in each particular Operational plan before implementation of the activities. Furthermore, agencies are regularly invited to take part in the EPN meetings organized by Frontex in order to present an update on their activities.  Frontex is stepping up its activities in view to concluding an operational Working Arrangement with Europol by the end of 2014.</p>
1.6.F	Support voluntary return to and reintegration programmes in Western Balkan countries, as appropriate and in a	MS, COM Frontex	On-going	<p><b>DCAF (Democratic Control of Armed Forces)</b>  <b>Developments:</b> 10th Annual DCAF Ministerial Review Conference on Cooperation in the Field of Border Security in Southeast Europe on 9 April</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	manner which avoids the risk of creating pull factors.	IOM (HU)		<p>2014 has examined the possibility to arrange common joint return flights by WB countries.</p> <p><b>European Migration Network Regional Experts' Group</b>  <b>Developments:</b> first meeting in February 2014, discussion on reintegration programmes and sustainable return to WB.</p> <p><b>BORDAIRPOL - Support of cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe</b>  <b>Framework:</b> Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI)  <b>Start:</b> 2013  <b>End:</b> 2016  <b>Description:</b> to assist Southeast European Countries' border police on international airports in their efforts to counteract irregular migration and to fight against terrorism and crime ensuring high level of security on sustainable and permanent basis.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> a practical Work Programme is being implemented and could be completed in connection with this project.</p> <p>Frontex: developing cooperation with WB airports, including them in EU joint operational activities.</p> <p><b>Coordination Points</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> will continue to activate Coordination Points at WB airports and at EU Focal Point airports having direct flight connections for exchanging border guards in coordinated operational activities.</p> <p><b>Flight Tracking Operational PP</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Description:</b> new alerting system in major WB airports is being tested to potentially start the development of a system that will complement available technology (APIS) with human factor provided by EU Officers working at</p>



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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				third countries airports. <b>Outcomes/results:</b> Preliminary meetings with Albanian, FYROM and Serbian authorities were positive. <b>Follow-up:</b> after development the system will contribute to EUROSUR.
<b>1.7</b>	<b>Challenge 7:</b> prevention of illegal immigration via the Western Mediterranean and the African Atlantic coast <b>Goal:</b> Ensure that illegal immigration pressure in the area stays under control and does not develop negatively			
<b>1.7.A</b>	Efforts to maintain and develop the current effective handling of the situation should continue, in order to ensure that illegal immigration in this area stays under control and does not develop negatively.	Frontex, MS (ES)	On-going	<b>Joint Operations (Indalo, Minerva, Hera)</b> <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex <b>Outcomes/results:</b> continued support from Frontex. JO EPN-Indalo and EPN-Minerva (West Mediterranean), JO EPN-Hera (North Africa coast, maintains deterrent effect on migration flows towards Canary Islands)In addition, Frontex facilitates MS coordination in the EPN areas.  Frontex supports national efforts of Southern Mediterranean countries, by facilitating initiatives such as EPN Common Patrols as a part of the EUROSUR.  IOM: implementing a Program of Support of voluntary return and reintegration of irregular migrants (from Morocco to their countries of origin). The program is receiving support from MS (Belgium, Netherlands and Spain), and other countries. This project is included in the Annex of the MP with Morocco.
<b>1.7.B</b>	To make the most of the Rabat Process (Euro African Dialogue on Migration and Development) notably through the participation of EU MS in the thematic workshops			Last Thematic Meeting: took place in Paris on 24/25 April 2014, under the presidency of France and the ECOWAS, focused on “Migrants in a crisis context”.  In June 2014, a Comité de Pilotage (COFIL) meeting and a Senior Official Meeting (SOM) took place in Rabat, followed by a COFIL meeting in September in Rome in order to prepare the Rome Declaration and Programme, to be adopted at the IV Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development on 27 November 2014.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>1.8</b>	<b>Challenge 8:</b> To address migratory pressures via the 'Silk Routes', including prevention of illegal immigration and combatting THB			
<b>1.8.A</b>	Efforts to develop the 'Silk Routes Partnership' should continue, including development of concrete projects to address illegal immigration, improve border management, enhance international protection, combat THB, and mitigate the negative impacts of migratory flows on EU MS and partner countries.	MS, COM	On-going.	<p><b>Bridging Measures for Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region</b>  <b>Framework:</b> Silk Routes Partnership/Budapest Process  <b>Description:</b> prepare the ground for operational actions to strengthen migration management in the Silk Routes region.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> Scoping missions to Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan have taken place, and migration training has been delivered to officials from all three countries.</p> <p><b>Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process</b>  <b>Framework:</b> Silk Routes Partnership/Budapest Process  <b>Start:</b> 01 February 2014  <b>End:</b> 31 January 2017  <b>Budget/funding:</b> current budget is €3.76 million with €2.6 million of EU funding  <b>Description:</b> to deliver concrete actions to strengthen the migration management capacities of the Silk Routes countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, and contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration on A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> kick-off conference took place in Budapest on 2-3 June 2014, project is being implemented, regional and national capacity building trainings, workshops, technical assistance are being organised.  <b>Follow-up:</b> meeting of the WG of Silk Routes countries on 11-12 November 2014 in Dushanbe. In 2015, country specified pilot projects will be launched.</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>1.9</b>	<b>Challenge 9: Improving the functioning of ILO networks</b>			
<b>1.9.A</b>	Follow-up on the amendment to the ILO Regulation on improved coordination and cooperation, particularly in terms of data sharing between ILO's posted in third countries.	MS, Frontex	On-going	<p><b>ILO Network</b></p> <p><b>Developments:</b> a more strategic and enhanced use of the deployed MS ILO's has been discussed with MS to make use of the full potential of the network, in particular in view of fighting against smuggling, trafficking and organised crime.</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> Close cooperation in gathering and exchanging information between the ILOs, MS authorities, EU agencies and EU Delegation to support situational awareness and complement the situational picture should be ensured.</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>2</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Area 2:</b> Enhanced border management at the external borders			
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Challenge 1:</b> Strengthening political guidance and the legal framework regarding border control <b>Goal:</b> Strengthening of the political Schengen governance			
<b>2.1.A</b>	Implementation of reg. 1053/2013 on Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism (SEM) by the COM	COM	On-going The transition period between the new and old SEM expires on 26 November 2014.	<b>Schengen Committee</b> <b>Developments:</b> established in December 2013. MAP 2014-2019 has been adopted in June 2014, standard questionnaire has been adopted in July 2014. The 2015 Annual Programme (AP) was adopted on 30 October 2014. The Schengen Committee has been summoned five times since its establishment to control the exercise of the COM's implementing powers.
<b>2.1.B</b>	Consolidation of the European Border Surveillance System(EUROSUR),  the Smart Borders Package	EP, MIXED COM, PRES	Smart Borders Package: Ongoing	<b>EUROSUR</b> <b>Developments:</b> operational from 2 December 2013 for 19 Schengen MS (south/east external borders). All MS defined their border sections. Frontex and Member States are regularly and joint attributing impact levels to them to better identify hot-spots and routes used for irregular migration and cross-border crime. Frontex and EMSA intensified their cooperation providing information (from ship reporting systems, satellite imagery) to MS, in order to detect vessels with migrants in distress. MS continue to upgrade their national coordination centres, increasing interagency cooperation. <b>Follow-up:</b> will become operational for remaining 11 Schengen MS by December 2014.  <b>Smart Borders Package</b> <b>Developments:</b> In February 2014 COM initiated proof of concept for the Smart Borders (study and pilot), notably in order to address issues raised by legislators during first examination of proposals for Entry-Exit System and

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
			Frontex sea operations: 2014	Registered Traveller Program. Upon the completion of the technical study, COM presented its outcome in October 2014. The study will be followed in 2015 by the pilot to be carried out by EU-LISA based on the terms of reference prepared by COM.  Frontex sea operations regulation was adopted on 13 May 2014 and it entered into force on 17 July 2014.
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Challenge 2:</b> Preventing and combatting illegal immigration by ensuring strong and efficient external border control <b>Goal:</b> Strengthening the security and control at the Schengen external borders. Implementation of the Frontex regulation. Enhance inter-agency cooperation and cooperation between agencies and MS. Strengthening identification of illegal immigration routes inside the Schengen area.			
<b>2.2.A</b>	COM to present regular reports to the European Parliament and to the Council on the functioning of the Schengen area.	COM	Bi-annual	<b>Schengen area</b> <b>Developments:</b> 5th bi-annual report was presented at JHA Council in June 2014. <b>Follow-up:</b> 6th bi-annual report was adopted by COM on 27 November 2014.
<b>2.2.B</b>	Frontex to offer the coordination and organisation of joint operations, improve cooperation with other agencies and competent border control authorities of MS and implement the new Frontex regulation.	Frontex	On-going	<b>Joint Operations (Pegasus, Alexis)</b> <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex <b>Description:</b> Pegasus to tackle threats affecting the external air borders of EU, Alexis to respond to the perceived vulnerabilities/needs of EU airports. <b>Outcomes/results:</b> carried out at third-country airports  Interagency cooperation with Europol and Interpol is planned.  <b>EPN</b> <b>Mandate:</b> meetings provide a forum for practitioners to discuss common solutions related to the maritime domain. It involves partner authorities from MS, EU institutions and agencies, international associations and others, and third country partner organizations. <b>Developments:</b> Inter-agency cooperation initially established in the context of JO EPN-Indalo has been extended to all maritime operations in line with the EUROSUR Regulation
<b>2.2.C</b>	MS should, where relevant, make use of passenger data for improving border	MS	On-	<b>API systems</b> <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex, MS

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	controls and combating illegal immigration		going	<p><b>Outcomes/results:</b> support from Frontex for MS to roll out their API systems, best practice guidelines for the harmonization and use of API in border control have been developed.</p> <p><b>Passenger Intelligence Model</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Description:</b> system to screen persons of interests while complying with applicable regulations to achieve a more efficient border control while improving passenger experience.  <b>Follow-up:</b> will be finalised in 2014, disseminated and presented to MS in a workshop in December 2014.</p>
2.2.D	Develop cooperation at the appropriate levels with countries of origin and transit, on combating illegal immigration and criminal organisations dealing with smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.	MS, Frontex, Europol	On-going	<p>Frontex reported that the implementation of relevant working arrangements with third countries (e.g. Nigeria) did receive attention during the period, but that limited human and financial resources, hindered attention to this on a larger scale.</p> <p>A project regarding capacity building, trainings etc. on issues related to illegal migration, border management and returns will be launched within 2014, by Greece-Bulgaria-Turkey.</p>
2.2.E	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	(MOVED TO 2.2.F FRONTEX)
2.2.F	Improving the situational picture of migration pressures, by taking into account modi operandi used for secondary movements within the EU.	MS Frontex	On-going.	<p>The EDF risk analysis network now covers secondary movements across air and sea borders</p> <p><b>Agency assigned to provide technical support for improving the situation awareness on secondary movements:</b> Frontex  <b>Description:</b> trends and analysis of secondary intra-Schengen movements.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b>  - developed a set of indicators for regular monitoring of secondary intra-Schengen flows</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provided technical support to COM (first report and analysis of available data at the end of 2013, update in September 2014)</li> <li>- data on secondary movements provided on monthly basis (not all MS able to collect all indicators)</li> <li>- contributes to the bi-annual report on the functioning of the Schengen area.</li> <li>- provides analysis of the main trends (routes, nationalities) to PRES operations such as Aphrodite, Perkunas and Mos Maiorum (data collection on people detected for illegal border crossing and/or further movement within Schengen after crossing).</li> </ul> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> plans to regularly include analysis on secondary movements in the FRAN Quarterly reports, as of quarter 02/2104. Joint TRA on Intra-Schengen secondary movements in the autumn of 2014 with Europol.</p>
2.2.G	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	On-going	<p>Frontex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RA on cross-border crime, inputs from Europol.</li> <li>- ARA, inputs from Europol and EASO</li> <li>- mutual exchange of information in analytical networks with EASO.</li> <li>- contributes to the SOCTA</li> <li>- develops operational cooperation in respective operations (including trainings) with EASO</li> </ul> <p>EASO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- meetings of the EASO-Frontex group on referral procedures in 2014, 2 field visits</li> <li>- PP with Frontex, Europol, Eurojust and COM, hosted by Italy and Malta (to learn more about the phenomenon of facilitation of persons seeking international protection)</li> <li>- joint project with Frontex (to promote participation of Morocco and Tunisia in their activities, Frontex aims at liaising with border guard authorities of those countries)</li> </ul> <p>Europol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-invited to take part in all maritime JO and EPN meetings</li> </ul>

3. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>3</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Area 3:</b> Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey			
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Challenge 1:</b> Ensuring effective border controls are in place at the Greek-Turkish border <b>Goal:</b> To fight illegal border crossings by ensuring that efficient measures are in place for the detection, prevention and interception of illegal migrants at the Greek-Turkish border. Increase capacity in Greece by introducing sustainable measures to reduce illegal immigration			
<b>3.1.A</b>	Swift conclusion of negotiations of a working arrangement between Frontex and the competent Turkish border control authorities.	Frontex (DK, FR, EL)	2013	<b>Memorandum of Understanding Frontex-Turkey</b> <b>Mandate:</b> to establish practical cooperation between Frontex and Turkish border authorities (risk analysis, training, research, exchanges of experience and best practices) <b>Developments:</b> signed in May 2012. In March 2014, the two parties agreed on a cooperation agenda to implement a series of activities within this framework.
<b>3.1.B</b>	Fully implement the findings of the 2010 Schengen evaluation reports.	EL (DK, FR)		JHA Council of June 2014 concluded that all major recommendations were followed up and shortcomings solved. Significant improvements were registered in the cooperation with Turkey, in particular at land border. Some improvements are still necessary for enhancing the cooperation at sea.
<b>3.1.C</b>	Intensify monitoring of the National Action Plan “Greece – Schengen”.	Council 1 (DK, FR)	On-going	<b>Greek National Action Plan</b> <b>Developments:</b> on 9/10 October 2014 on the basis of COM Staff Working document (14027/14), the JHA Council took note of the state of play of the implementation of the action plan on migration and asylum which will be finalised end 2014. Continued efforts will be needed after 2014 in order to enable Greece to operate sustainable border management, migration and asylum systems
<b>3.1.D</b>	Continue support for Operations Poseidon Sea and Attica through increased contributions from MS.	Frontex, MS (DK, FR)	2012 and onward	<b>Joint Operations (Poseidon Sea, Poseidon Land, Attica, search and rescue)</b> <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex <b>Outcomes/results:</b> - JO Poseidon Sea 2014 launched on 1 May 2014, due to large number of migrants approaching Greek Aegean Islands, a new First Reception Centre was opened on Lesbos Island. - International Coordination Centre under JO Poseidon Land has operated in Sofia since 6 November 2013 due to displacement of the migratory pressures. JO Poseidon Land 2014 launched on 27 March 2014. - JO Attica launched on 31 March 2014 (permanent deployments of screening experts and interpreters in Samos and Lesbos). - under Poseidon Land 2014, Frontex continues to support the deployment of



### 3. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				interpreters and debriefers from MS through capacity-building activities (workshop, trainings) with Greek and Bulgarian officers. - with regards to search and rescue operations at Greek/Turkish sea borders, cooperation between JRCC Piraeus and MRCC Ankara is effective. <b>(FRONTEX)</b>
3.1.E	Swift implementation of the Greek Asylum and Migration Management, focusing on increased operational capacity at the border, notably by optimising synergies between the different actors involved, including the Task Force on Greece.	EL COM MS EASO (DK, FR)	On-going	<b>Asylum and Migration Action Plan (Greece)</b> <b>Developments:</b> exercise has been taken forward (regular meetings with Greek authorities) in cooperation with interested MS and other stakeholders. Last meeting with interested MS and EU agencies on the revised Greek Action Plan took place on 2 October 2014. EASO provides support in: training of 1st and 2nd instance asylum, training on nationality establishment, in the field of the European Asylum and Migration Funds, on the collection and analysis of statistical data and in the field of country of origin information.
3.2	<b>Challenge 2:</b> Combatting illegal immigration transiting Turkey to enter the EU <b>Goal:</b> To obtain the effective engagement of the 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			
3.2.A	Enhancing capacity to generate situational awareness on illegal migration via Turkey.	Frontex	On-going	<b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex <b>Framework:</b> TU-RAN Initiative <b>Outcomes/results:</b> Frontex and Turkey launched analytical activities for the purpose of joint risk analysis in 2013. Several workshops were organised and regular quarterly reports were initiated. Regular monthly information exchange is in place as of 2014, based on model used in other risk analysis networks. In 2014, TU-RAN activities focus on consolidation and quality of data and further development of joint reports.
3.2.B	Continue assisting the Turkish authorities in strengthening their capacity to combat illegal immigration, through IPA and bilateral MSs' funding.	CO MS (DK, FR)	On-going	COM has been continuing to co-finance new IPA projects, contributing directly and indirectly to combating illegal migration in Turkey, and more generally to improving the management of migration.  New projects are also under preparation under IPA 2014 and 2015.
3.2.C	Continue promoting the reform of border, migration, asylum and visa systems in Turkey	COM (DK, FR)	On-going	<b>Dialogue on visa liberalisation - Turkey</b> <b>Developments:</b> initiated in parallel with signature of EURA Turkey with the presentation of the "Roadmap towards visa-free regime". Field visits and

3. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p>technical discussions took place in March-June 2014 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- analyse how Turkey fulfils benchmarks set in the roadmap</li> <li>- identify weaknesses of Turkish legislation and administration in border management, migration and asylum and reforms/measures to address them</li> </ul> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> COM will report on Turkey's fulfilment of the Roadmap's benchmarks matter on 20 October 2014.</p> <p><b>Responsible party:</b> Swedish Migration Board/ Directorate General of Migration Management</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> from October 2014 to December 2015</p> <p><b>Brief description:</b> to strengthen capacity of DGMM to manage migration in line with EU standards</p> <p><b>PP "Strengthening capacities in the areas of asylum and international protection: quality and training in the asylum processes"</b></p> <p><b>Framework:</b> Prague Process Targeted Initiative</p> <p><b>Outcomes/results:</b> to be implemented during autumn 2014.</p>
3.2.D	Develop cooperation at the appropriate levels in order to combat organised crime facilitating the smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of human beings.	MS Frontex, Europol (DK, FR)	On-going	<p>At JHA Council on 6-7 June 2013, it was agreed that one of the nine priorities for the policy cycle 2014-2017 will be illegal immigration.</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 actively contributes to the regional ILOs meetings in Turkey since 2012. These meetings contribute to the updating of the situational picture of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings in Turkey, and Frontex continues to participate in these meetings.</p>
3.2.E	Continue and step up the dialogue with Turkey launched on 15 March 2012, on cooperation within the JHA area.	COM (DK, FR)	On-going	See 3.2.C

3. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
3.2.F	Develop cooperation between Europol and Turkish Police.	Europol (DK, FR)	On-going	An Europol representative participated to the experts' meetings of the visa liberalization dialogue in May 2014. <b>Turkey-Europol cooperation</b> <b>Developments:</b> Contacts are ongoing to formalise the secondment to Europol of a LO stationed at the Embassy of Turkey to The Netherlands. FP Checkpoint tries to enhance the cooperation with Turkish authorities through the EMPACT Illegal Immigration OAP 2014 (and will pertain in OAP 2015) by participation and strong support of the action point 5.2 – Enhancing the MS LO Network in Turkey.
3.2.G	Frontex should make full use of its recently expanded mandate and strengthen its operational cooperation with the competent Turkish border control authorities.	Frontex (DK, FR)	On-going	<b>Cooperation Plan Frontex-Turkey</b> <b>Developments:</b> agreed in February 2014, foresees activities that will be implemented from 2014 to 2016 (risks analysis, training, research and developments, others). Several activities already took place in 2014.
3.2.H	Establishment of a trilateral common contact centre for cooperation between police, border and customs officials from BG, EL and Turkey, in coordination with Frontex and Europol within their respective mandates.	BG EL Turkey (DK, FR, BG)	On-going	<b>Common Contact Centre for Police and Customs cooperation at border checkpoint "Kapitan Andreevo"</b> <b>Developments:</b> consultations between representatives of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey on the draft agreement for the establishment of the centre were held in Sofia on 12 September 2013. Consensus on the draft, signature awaited.
3.2.I	Enhance cooperation with the relevant Turkish authorities, in order to ensure the implementation of escorted transit and assisted voluntary return projects via Turkey.	MS COM (DK, FR)	On-going	<b>Broader Dialogue and Cooperation Framework on JHA with Turkey</b> <b>Developments:</b> have been proposed to Turkey in December 2012 following Council conclusions of June 2012. Includes proposition to develop cooperation on joint return flights.  <b>Protocol Bulgaria-Turkey for implementation of EURA Turkey</b> <b>Developments:</b> under preparation

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target Date	Status/Observations
<b>4</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Area 4:</b> Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels			
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Challenge 1:</b> Prevent an increase in unfounded asylum application 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 <b>Goal:</b> Decrease the number of unfounded asylum applications from visa free third countries.			
<b>4.1.A</b>	Assess the expected impact on migration and risks to the EU's internal security before launching a visa liberalisation dialogue with third countries.	COM Frontex EASO Europol MS	On-going	Frontex provides inputs to the COM on potential impact of visa liberalisation.  <b>Visa liberalisation (Peru, Colombia, Georgia)</b> <b>Developments:</b> EASO has made assessments on the possible risk of unfounded use of the asylum system of certain MS by citizens of Peru, Colombia and Georgia in the context of visa liberalisation.  EASO has published in 2013 a report containing a comparative analysis of asylum flows from Western Balkans candidate countries. The report discusses current and future push/pull factors in the region. The report can be retrieved at <a href="http://easo.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/BZ0213708ENC.pdf">http://easo.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/BZ0213708ENC.pdf</a>
<b>4.1.B</b>	Continued monitoring of the effects of current visa free regimes with the assistance of Frontex and EASO, in accordance with their mandates and in close cooperation with the third countries in question.	COM MS Frontex EASO (BE)	On-going	<b>Post-Visa Liberalisation Monitoring Mechanism (PVLMM) for WB</b> <b>Developments:</b> in place in accordance with COM statement of 8 November 2010. Frontex supports the mechanism and provides four-weekly updates to the COM. This report is an essential instrument for discussions with MS on monitoring the implementation of the visa free regime. EASO also inputs to this mechanism in regard to asylum.
<b>4.1.C</b>	Improved information campaigns on the rights and obligations that follow a decision on visa free travel in the third countries.	MS COM	On-going	
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Challenge 2:</b> Combatting and preventing illegal immigration caused by visa liberalisation <b>Goal:</b> Decrease the level of illegally staying work force			
<b>4.2.A</b>	Make use of accelerated procedures and swift returns in full respect of EU and	MS (SI)	On-going	

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target Date	Status/Observations
	international standards as regards manifestly unfounded claims in case of abuse of visa liberalisation.			
<b>4.2.B</b>	Gradual steps towards visa liberalisation with selected third countries while fully involving the Council on a case by case basis.	COM and Council	On-going	<p>Visa dialogue is on-going with Turkey. The relevant dialogue with Russia is currently suspended.</p> <p>Visa liberalisation Action Plans on-going with Kosovo, Georgia and Ukraine.</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>5</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Area 5:</b> Safeguarding and protection free movement by prevention of abuse by third country nationals			
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Challenge 1:</b> To improve understanding of abuse of free movement rights by third country nationals ad organised crime aiming at facilitating illegal immigration</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> To gather, analyse and share data on fraud and abuse at the EU level. To agree on a common methodology for gathering data, based on consultation of the EMN study on "Misuse of the Right to Family Reunification: Marriages of Convenience and False Declarations of Parenthood". To improve dissemination of information, intelligence and best practices between MS to deter and investigate abuse of free movement rights. To improve information sharing within MS (between the different authorities involved in registering marriages, social and legal protection of children, deciding on applications for residence, awarding social benefits and job centres). To identify and direct action required to tackle abuse</p>			
<b>5.1.A</b>	Improve understanding of the possible abuse of family reunification rights experienced by MS	PRES COM MS (DE, NL, UK, AT)		<p><b>Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification</b></p> <p><b>Developments:</b> COM adopted on 3 April 2014 guidelines (COM(2014) 210 final) for the application of the directive. Given the parallels with the operational aspects of combatting potential abuses and fraud of the right to family reunification, the handbook addressing marriages of convenience between EU citizens and non EU-nationals prepared by the COM in cooperation with the MS (see 5.1.F) may, mutatis mutandis, be referred to for guidance on addressing marriages of convenience between two non-EU nationals in the context of Directive 2003/86/EC, in particular on investigation tools and techniques and on cross-border cooperation. (AT)</p> <p>New action in the operational Action Plan 2015 of the EMPACT project on organized illegal immigration.</p>
<b>5.1.B</b>	Consider whether and to what extent Europol, in line with its mandate and within the scope of EU crime priorities, could gather and analyse data on the facilitation of sham marriages and EU documentation fraud by organised criminal groups.	PRES COM Europol (DE, NL, UK, AT)	2013	<p><b>Europol initiatives regarding documentation fraud on sham marriages</b></p> <p><b>Developments:</b> Initial discussions with Europol on data gathering and analysis on sham marriages and documentation fraud to identify the type of data and its level of usefulness. AT and UK have been liaising with Senior Specialists of Europol Organised Crime Network division on further work. Europol gave a presentation on this topic at SCIFA in April 2013, and completed a report on marriages of convenience (submitted to COM), providing examples and recommendations for assessing the threat more acutely.</p> <p>Europol Checkpoint Target Group SNOW (dedicated to exchange/analyse information on organised crime groups facilitating sham marriages) provided analytical and operational support to several JI by NL-UK</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				(FRY/GELDERMALSEN) and by FR-PT-UK (JUSTES NOCES).
5.1.C	Improve the gathering and analysis of data on EU documentation fraud and detected facilitators, for the purposes of strategic priority V.	MS COM Frontex (DE, NL, UK, AT)	On-going	<p><b>EU Document Fraud Risk Analysis network EDF RAN</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Frontex  <b>Developments:</b> established and managed by Frontex, Europol also takes part in it. Analytical products from this network are distributed to MS and Europol (EDF ARA in particular). 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 ARA. Frontex Annual Risk Analysis 2014 on Document Fraud was released in May 2014. The options on the way forward resulting from the feasibility study on extending the scope of the EDF data exchange were presented to the EDF network in October 2013, and have been put on hold for future consideration.</p> <p><b>Checkpoint Target Group RAIN</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> Europol  <b>Developments:</b> dedicated to exchange and analysis of information related to large-scale travel document production. RAIN supports several on-going investigations focusing on print shops in EU MS.</p>
5.1.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 (DE, NL, UK, AT)	On-going	<p>Commission presented on 17 October an anti-trafficking package, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Mid-term Report on the Implementation of the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016;</li> <li>b) Second Eurostat working paper on Trafficking in Human Beings, with statistical data on THB across the EU;</li> <li>c) Report on the Implementation of Directive 2004/81/EC that regulates the granting of a residence permit to non-EU victims of trafficking who cooperate with the authorities for the investigation and prosecution of the alleged traffickers.</li> </ul> <p>The package is available on the EU Anti-Trafficking Website: a horizontal information hub on anti-trafficking action of the EU:  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/">http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/</a></p>
5.1.E	Make effective use of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) to investigate sham marriages and	PRES COM (DE, NL,	On-going	<p><b>Operation Fry</b>  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> UK and NL have jointly presented periodic updates on this operation to FREEMO.</p>



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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	EU document fraud.	UK, AT)		<b>Follow-up:</b> Suggestions include: highlight relevant JIT operating on territory by MS, consider conferences/seminars to share information/best practices, investigate the possibility to fund JITs.
5.1.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 (DE, NL, UK, AT)	On-going	The Handbook adopted by the COM on 26 September 2014 (see 5.1.A) aims at providing practical support to the operational authorities and clarity on the EU legal framework within which national authorities can operate in the fight against abuse related to free movement of EU citizens and their families. This handbook was prepared by the COM in cooperation with MS in the framework of the FREEMO expert group (COM(2014) 604 final and SWD(2014) 284 final). COM has called on MS' experts to provide in the context of this group information on the follow up and statistical data on marriages of convenience in the area of free movement.
5.1.G	Make full use of the national contact points established in the context of the FREEMO expert group for queries in individual cases.	MS (DE, NL, UK, AT)		The list of national (both operational and policy) contact points within FREEMO is being continuously updated and is readily accessible on CIRCA.
5.2	<b>Challenge 2:</b> To prevent the fraudulent acquisition and use of free movement rights by third country nationals <b>Goal:</b> To ensure that travel documents used within the EU, including their issuance and validation, meet minimum security standards, with a particular focus on ID an residence cards			
5.2.A	Implement enhanced security standards for EU documentation for 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 (DE, NL, UK, AT)	On-going	<b>Article 6 Committee on technical specifications for documents</b> <b>Developments:</b> following discussions, suggestions include: consider the link between abuse of free movements rights by TCNS and the abuse of source documents issues in/outside the EU, continue work in the think tank on false documents to produce report containing recommendations for possible minimum security standards for source documents. In consequence, establishment of Single Points of Contact (enable the exchange of certificates between MS, access fingerprints on chips in documents) by COM decision C(2011)5478. MS are progressing with its implementation. Agreement reached to allow MS to use the Biometric Residence Permit card format as a residence card with wordings suggested. Work is on-going on improvements to the security design of the Uniform Format Visa and Residence permit.



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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
5.2.B	Improve the security of the application and issuance processes for identity/EU documentation.			
5.2.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.			

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
<b>6</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Area 6:</b> Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices			
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Challenge 1:</b> Ensuring that all MS have efficient migration management systems in place, in order to be prepared for fluctuating migration pressures <b>Goal:</b> Putting in place a sustainable and credible EU policy to approach the management of migration and ensuring contingency measures are in place for unexpected flows of migration. Developing an early warning system based on data received by MS.			
<b>6.1.A</b>	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 returning illegal migrants.	MS (DK)	On-going	<p><b>Return Directive</b> <b>Developments:</b> has been implemented by all MS. COM submitted a communication on EU Return Policy (8415/14) on 28 March 2014, setting out a program of work for next years. Council supported the approach (Conclusions on EU Return Policy of June 2014, 9936/14) and pointed out the need of a more effective implementation of existing rules.</p> <p><b>Employers' Sanction Directive</b> <b>Developments:</b> COM adopted its first report on the implementation of the directive on 22 May 2014. COM is carrying out an organised programme of work on the transposition of the Employers' Sanction Directive and will open EU pilot when necessary.</p> <p><b>Preparation of Return Handbook</b> <b>Developments:</b> The Commission is preparing a "Return Handbook", compiling common guidelines, best practices and recommendations to be used by MS competent authorities when carrying out return-related activities. It will also serve as a point of reference for return-related Schengen evaluations. MS are currently providing comments to this handbook.</p>
<b>6.1.B</b>	Ensuring statistical data and analysis is in place.	COM MS EASO Frontex (DK)	On-going	<p><b>EASO/Eurostat asylum statistics (EPS)</b> <b>Developments:</b> dialogue between Eurostat and EASO on availability of asylum statistics remains ongoing, led to the revision of the Eurostat guidelines on migration statistics in regards to asylum. EASO began on 1 April 2014 direct data collection from MS under 4 indicators (asylum applications, withdrawals, pending cases and decision) on a monthly basis. Quality data will be integrated into its regular analytical products (a restricted monthly report to EASO Management Board members, a public quarterly report and its annual report on the Situation of Asylum in the EU).</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p><b>EMN Bulletin</b>  <b>Description:</b> provides an overview of the latest published statistics, and analysis of and statistics on topics of relevance to policy-makers.  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> e.g. study on illegal migration: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/irregular-migration/0a_emn_synthesis_report_irregular_migration_publication_april_2013_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/irregular-migration/0a_emn_synthesis_report_irregular_migration_publication_april_2013_en.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Frontex statistics</b>  <b>Developments:</b> under the lead of COM, established a list of regular indicators for monitoring of intra-Schengen secondary movements, provides support for the exchange of information on this topic. Update on analysis/reports on this topic available under 2.2.F. Frontex also introduced regular reporting on passenger flow along the external borders.</p> <p><b>REG - Expert group on return:</b>  <b>Developments:</b> REG in cooperation with MS also provides some relevant statistical data and information in the field of return (“EMN inform”).</p>
6.1.C	EASO will develop an early warning system based on data received by MS, which will include tailor-made assistance for MS asylum systems.	MS, Eurostat, COM (DK)		<p><b>EPS/GPS (Group for the Provision of Statistics)</b>  <b>Responsible agency:</b> EASO  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> EASO designed in cooperation with Eurostat, DG Home and Frontex a table of proposed 22 asylum indicators to provide a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the CEAS. GPS has been established, and at a meeting in June 2014 the GPS analysed the implementation of stage II of EPS (i.e. the collection and analysis of the 4 first instance indicators noted above). The GPS comprises experts nominated by MS responsible in regard to asylum data-collection and statistics. It will operate in a similar way to Frontex FRAN. EASO and Frontex have begun weekly video conferences aimed at sharing information to better understand the link between irregular migration and seeking asylum.</p>
6.1.D	Closely monitor developments in respect of migration movements	EASO (DK)		<p><b>Syrian crisis/RDPP</b>  - on-going monitoring of the situation by COM, EASO, IOM and UNHCR</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
	from Syria.			<p>(including monthly Bordernet conferences set up by COM with Frontex, Europol and EASO).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RDPP in the Middle East was launched in July 2014 (see I.3.A). Increased support from EASO and Frontex to monitor migratory flows to the EU has been asked.</li> <li>- MS provided solidarity measures by stepping up financial support to Syria and gaining experience from the implementation of EUREMA PP.</li> <li>- Practical Cooperation meeting on Syria in March 2013 organised by EASO.</li> <li>- statistical analysis of the flow by EASO (wide differences in MS' treatment of the influx, characteristics of the applicants).</li> </ul> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> EASO held a conference on Syria and Iraq in November 2014.</p> <p><b>Refugees</b>            Since 2013 Sweden has chaired the UNHCR Core Group on Syrian Resettlement. Several MS have joined this work and confirmed their commitment in finding solutions for Syrian refugees, including resettlement and other forms of admission.</p>
<b>6.2</b>	<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> Maximising the potentials of a common EU approach in the field of return, both voluntary and forced, in compliance with existing EU acquis</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> To increase numbers of returns of illegal migrants and to develop swift, sustainable and effective return using a common EU approach, including more effective joint return operations</p>			
<b>6.2.A</b>	Ensuring that MS share best practices on return (both voluntary and forced) and encouraging cooperation between the stakeholders in the field.	MS Frontex IOM COM WP on Migration (expulsion)	2014	<p><b>EMN REG (Return Experts' Group)</b>  <b>Developments:</b> met four times in 2014 already. An overview of the in-kind and in-cash assistance to support return of irregular migrants is in preparation. Exchange of best practices towards specific regions/countries was initiated (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Western Africa).  <b>Follow-up:</b> will produce a directory of all the AVR programmes and reintegration programmes</p> <p><b>EURINT</b>  <b>Outcomes/results:</b> development of phase 2 with selected EU partners to improve structural co-operation between MS and third countries to increase commitment in terms of re-documentation and return.</p>

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

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
6.2.B	Exploring the opportunities to make joint return operations more effective and to make more effective use of detention capacities. This should include capacity building, coordination and organisation of joint return operations.	MS, Frontex	On-going	Frontex organized: - JO Attica: capacity-building in the field of return for Greek police forces, training and information sharing - Standardised trainings for MS/SAC Return Officers-Escort Leaders
6.2.C	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 the necessary operational support.	MS, Frontex	On-going	<b>Rolling Operational Plan (RoP)</b> <b>Description:</b> platform for identifying needs of MS for operational assistance and coordination and the planning of such operational support <b>Outcomes/results:</b> adopted by Frontex management board in 2012.
6.2.D	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.	Frontex	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.
6.2.E	Support voluntary return programmes, improve operational co-operation on assisted voluntary return programmes.	MS COM	On-going	See above (in A)

7. Strategic priority area: Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean countries

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
7	<b>Strategic Priority Area 7:</b> Preventing illegal immigration from and via the Southern Mediterranean countries			
7.1	<b>Challenge 1:</b> Strengthening capacities of Southern Mediterranean countries as regards migration management <b>Goal:</b> Enhance operational cooperation between the responsible authorities of South Mediterranean countries, MS and EU agencies			
	Regarding activities under this strategic priority, reference is made to the Task Force Mediterranean-(TFM) related documents, in particular the Communications by the Commission on the Task Force Mediterranean of December 2013 (doc. 17398/13) and June 2014 (doc. 10067/14), as well as the JHA Council Conclusions of October 2014 that build on the work done by the TFM (doc. 14141/14).			

## ACRONYMS

**ACP:** Africa Caribbean Pacific  
**AFIC:** Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community  
**API:** Advance Passenger Information  
**ARA:** Annual Risk Analysis  
**CAMM:** Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility  
**CEAS:** Common European Asylum System  
**CELAC:** Community of Latin American and Caribbean States  
**CIRCA:** Communication and Information Resource Centre Administrator  
**CJEU:** Court of Justice of the European Union  
**COM:** Commission  
**COFIL:** Comité de Pilotage  
**DCAF:** Democratic Control of Armed Forces  
**DGMM:** Directorate General of Migration Management  
**DMMS:** Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security  
**EaP:** Eastern Partnership  
**EDF:** European Union Document-Fraud  
**EDF RAN:** European Union Document-Fraud Risk Analysis Network  
**EEAS:** European External Action Service  
**EFCA:** European Fisheries Control Agencies  
**EMN:** European Migration Network  
**EMPACT:** European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats  
**EMSA:** European Maritime Safety Agency  
**EPN:** European Patrols Network  
**EPS:** Early warning and Preparedness System  
**EURA:** EU Readmission Agreement  
**EURINT:** European Return Fund  
**FP:** Focal Point  
**FRAN:** Frontex Risk Analysis Network  
**FREEMO:** Expert Group on the right to free movement of persons  
**GAMM:** Global Approach on Migration and Mobility  
**GPS:** Group for the Provision of Statistics  
**HLDMMMS:** High Level Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security  
**HLWG:** High Level Working Group  
**ICMPD:** International Centre for Migration Policy Development  
**ILO:** Immigration Liaison Officer  
**IOM:** International Organisation for Migration  
**IPA:** Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance  
**ISEC:** Prevention of and Fight against Crime  
**JIT:** Joint Investigation Team  
**JO:** Joint Operation  
**JRC:** Joint Readmission Committee  
**JRCC:** Joint Rescue Coordination Center

**MARRI:** Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative  
**MME:** Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment Partnership  
**MP:** Mobility Partnership  
**MRCC:** Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center  
**MS/SAC:** Member States/Schengen Associated Countries  
**OAP:** Operational Action Plan  
**PP:** Pilot Project  
**PRES:** Presidency  
**RA:** Risk Analysis  
**RDPP:** Regional Development and Protection Programme  
**RPP:** Regional Protection Programme  
**SCIFA :** Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum  
**SOCTA:** Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment  
**TCNs:** Third Country Nationals  
**THB:** Trafficking of Human Beings  
**TU-RAN:** Turkey-Frontex Risk Analysis Network  
**UNHCR:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
**WB:** Western Balkans  
**WCO:** World Customs Organisations  
**WG:** Working Group  
**WP:** Working Party

---