



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 6 February 2024
(OR. en)**

5484/24

LIMITE

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MIGR 11
JAI 69
RELEX 47**

NOTE

From:	Commission services
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	11434/23
Subject:	Update on the state of play of external cooperation in the field of migration policy

Delegations will find attached an update on the state of play of external cooperation in the field of migration policy, issued by the Commission Services.

**UPDATE
ON
THE
STATE OF PLAY
OF
THE
EXTERNAL COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD
OF
MIGRATION POLICY**

Last update February 2024

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The European Commission adopted the New Pact on Migration and Asylum on 23 September 2020, which contains a strong component on partnerships with third countries.

This document provides an updated overview of the main external migration dialogues and processes since 2019. The document is compiled for the information of the Working Party on the External Aspects of Asylum and Migration by the responsible European Commission and EEAS services.

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

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

Part 1- Bilateral dialogues

A. AFRICAN COUNTRIES

CABO VERDE

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

Key past and upcoming events

10 September 2019	4th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Visa Facilitation Committee meeting – Brussels	Meeting confirmed the overall satisfactory implementation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement. The Commission requested the Council the authorization for opening negotiations to amend the EU Cabo Verde VFA (notably to adjust to Visa Code) and the Council adopted the mandate on the 24 October.
10 September 2019	4th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Readmission Committee meeting – Brussels	The meeting noted the improvement of Cabo Verde cooperation on readmission
28 November 2019	Formal opening of negotiations on amended Visa Facilitation Agreement – Brussels	
30 January 2020	Further round of talks on Agreement – Praia	
24 July 2020	Initialing of agreement text via email	
21 March 2021	Signing of amendment of the EU-Cabo Verde Visa Facilitation Agreement	

14 July 2021	Amended agreement text sent to European Parliament for vote of consent	All EP groups in favour except for one
29 June 2021	EU-Cabo Verde Ministerial in Lisbon	Migration and VFA on the agenda
15 September 2021	EU-Cabo Verde amended Visa Facilitation Agreement was voted in the Plenary session of the European Parliament.	
7 October 2021	The Council received the EP consent and adopted the amended Visa Facilitation Agreement on 7 October.	
3 May 2022	The Council received the Note Verbale on the completion of the ratification Process in Cabo Verde	
1 July 2022	Entry into force of the amended Visa Facilitation agreement	The agreement was amended to further facilitate the issuance of visas between the European Union and Cabo Verde
31 January 2023	EU – Cabo Verde Ministerial in Praia	Migration, mobility and VFA implementation on the agenda. In the final Joint Communiqué, the entry into force of the amended agreement is welcomed by both parties.
9 March 2023	5th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Readmission Committee meeting + 5th EU-Cabo Verde Joint Visa Facilitation Committee meeting – Praia	

CAMEROON

Cameroon is a country of origin with a moderate migration rate to the EU. It has bilateral readmission agreements with ES, FR, BE. The number of voluntary returns managed by IOM for Cameroonian nationals has been increasing. Despite ongoing discussions on the topic, Cameroon does not yet have a national migration policy. There is no governmental body responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of a migration policy or a national strategic plan on migration. The latest EU-Cameroon structured political dialogue (June 2023) focused i.a. on regular and irregular migration and adopted on the political level the recommendations of a migration" technical sub-committee, whose first meeting took place in early November 2022, marking the commitment of both sides to make concrete progress in this field.

Key past and upcoming events

1 April 2022	Meeting of EEAS MDA Africa Bernard QUINTIN and DDG HOME Johannes LUCHNER with Ambassador Evina ABE'E of CAMEROON, on returns and readmission (article 25a VC)	Follow up art. 25a Visa Code annual report.
1 June 2022	Meeting of EEAS MDA Africa Bernard QUINTIN and DDG HOME Johannes LUCHNER with Ambassador ABE'E of CAMEROON, on arrival of migrants and asylum seekers to Cyprus (article 25a VC)	Focus on specificities of the issue of migrants and asylum seekers in a MS and ways for increased Cameroonian commitment to improvement of cooperation.
23 May 2022	Cameroon participated in the launch of a structured dialogue between the EU and the group of African permanent representatives to the UN in Geneva.	In that framework, the ambassador/ PR of Cameroon said: « <i>migration is a central theme for the EU and Africa, built on the two pillars of solidarity and support</i> ».
08 July 2022	Structured political dialogue (SPD) EU-Cameroon, with migration high on the agenda	Creation of a SPD sub-committee on migration
03 November 2022	1st meeting of the SPD sub-committee on migration	Main conclusions: set-up of a national strategy on migration and mobility; fight against documentary fraud; improvement of the civil register; increased efficiency for issuance of documents; organising a "identification mission" to Cyprus.
17 February 2023	Meeting between EEAS MDA Africa Bernard QUINTIN and DDG HOME Johannes LUCHNER with Ambassador ABE'E of CAMEROON, on returns and readmission (article 25a VC)	Follow up art. 25a Visa Code annual report.
13 June 2023	Structured political dialogue (SPD) EU-Cameroon, with migration high on the agenda.	Political assessment/validation by the political level of the work by the SPD sub-committee on migration. Cameroonian party presented recent additional efforts to increase cooperation with EU/MS re returns and readmission.
Last quarter 2023	Next technical meeting of SPD sub-committee on migration, to be followed by next session of Structured Political Dialogue	Assessment of progress towards the formulation of a national migration policy with EU financial and OIM technical support. Assessment of continuous tangible cooperation in terms of return and reintegration.

ETHIOPIA

The Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) was signed by the EU and Ethiopia in November 2015. A Joint Declaration "Towards an EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement", including a sectoral dialogue on migration, was signed on 14 June 2016. Procedures for the identification and return of Ethiopian irregular migrants from Europe were approved by the Council on 29 January 2018. The Joint Working Group under the Procedures is planned for February 2024

Key past and upcoming events

24 January 2019	Visit of PM Abiy to Brussels	Meetings with President Tusk, President Juncker and the HR/VP
9 February 2019	EU-Ethiopia Ministerial Meeting, Addis Ababa	Co-chaired by the HR/VP and the Ethiopian MFA. Both sides acknowledged the need for further actions and cooperation, in particular to continue adequately implementing the Joint Valletta Action Plan. Both sides underscored the need for continued dialogue on migration between EU and Ethiopia.
13 May 2019	Joint Working Group on the implementation of Admission Procedures, Brussels	
8 October 2019	First Technical Meeting on the implementation of Admission Procedures, Addis Ababa	
26-28 February 2020	Visit of Commissioner Johansson to Addis Ababa, as part of the College-to-College discussions with the African Union.	
9-10 February 2021	Finnish Foreign Minister Haavisto meeting with PM Abiy, at the request of HR/VP	
4-9 April 2021	Second mission of Finnish Foreign Minister Haavisto mandated by the HR/VP	
25 October 2021	Visit to Ethiopia by Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen	Meetings with PM Abiy Ahmed Ali, President Sahle-Work Zewde and Deputy PM, Minister for Foreign Affairs Demeke Hasen.
8-12 November 2021	Visit by the EUSR Annette Weber (as part of a series of her visits across the Gulf and the Horn of Africa)	Meeting with PM Abiy Ahmed Ali
8-9 February 2022	Visit by EUSR Annette Weber	Meeting with DPM Mekonnen
30-31 March 2022	Visit by EUSR Annette Weber	Meetings with PM Abiy and DPM Mekonnen
27-28 April 2022	Visit by EUSR Annette Weber	Meeting with DPM Mekonnen
2 June 2022	Technical meeting on migration and returns in Addis	

14-15 September 2022	Joint visit MD Africa Laranjinha and EUSR Weber to Ethiopia	Meeting with DPM Mekonnen
February 2023	MD Africa Laranjinha met the Ambassador in Brussels	Discuss readmission cooperation in the broader context of relaunching broader cooperation
April 2023	HOME DDG Luchner met Ethiopian Ambassador to the EU Hirut Zemene	Meeting on readmission.
October 2023	Visit to Ethiopia by Commissioner Urpilainen and signature of MIP	
December 2023	HOME DDG Luchner call with Ethiopian Ambassador to the EU Hirut Zemene	<i>Follow up article 25a Visa Code</i>
February 2024	Third Joint Working Group with Ethiopia	

MAURITANIA

With the resumption of the irregular flows on the Atlantic route in 2019, followed by a sharp increase in 2020, the EU stepped up its engagement with Mauritania, particularly in relation to border management. Mauritania has been identified as a priority country for a closer cooperation with Frontex, in the form of a working arrangement and/or a status agreement, depending on Mauritania's needs and interests. The country previously showed some interest in both the status agreement and the working arrangement, but, negotiations on the status agreement stalled after a few rounds in late 2022-early 2023. Negotiations are ongoing with Frontex on the working arrangement. A comprehensive approach addressing irregular migration through a multi-dimensional response, including enhanced support to the creation of job and training opportunities is pursued.

Key past and upcoming events

July 2020	High level conference on anti-smuggling	Mauritania was invited along with North African countries
September 2020	Commissioner Johansson's visit to Mauritania	Joint visit with ES Minister of Interior Grande-Marlaska
November 2020	Senior technical VTC with Mauritania authorities	Follow-up technical meeting to identify needs, particularly on border management and anti-smuggling
November 2021	Frontex mission	Frontex presented its activities in relation to cooperation with third countries
March 2022	Mauritanian authorities visited Frontex Headquarters in Warsaw	Familiarisation tour with the participation of relevant Mauritanian border management authorities
12 May 2022	Meeting EEAS/HOME with Mauritanian ambassador in Brussels	Exploratory talks on possible options to deepen cooperation on border management
17-18 May 2022	Frontex follow-up mission	Discussion on the establishment of an Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) Risk Analysis Cell and on a structured form of cooperation with Frontex (in particular a Working Arrangement)
19-21 September 2022	Senior-level technical mission to Mauritania. Joint mission led by DG HOME, with the participation of Frontex and INTPA	The mission explained the content and the added value of a Status Agreement and explored Mauritania's needs and interests
December 2022	A new action (EUR 20 million) on Technical Vocational Education and Training, as well as facilitate access to employment and support entrepreneurship, for migrants and host communities was approved under the migration flexible mechanisms	The action includes the outcomes from the senior level technical mission last September and the recommendation and conclusion at MOCADDEM level

7 and 9 December 2022 December, 8 January, 8 March 2023	Discussions/negotiations sessions with Mauritania on the status agreement via VTC	Negotiations on a status agreement have stalled
11 October 2023	Visit by VP Schinas and the Spanish Minister of Interior to Nouakchott, Mauritania.	The Spanish Minister of Interior and VP Schinas met with the president of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.
24 October 2023	European Commission President Von der Leyen and the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani met in Brussels, on the eve of the Global Gateway Forum.	EU launched a Team Europe Initiative to develop green hydrogen in Mauritania and accelerate its energy transition.
11 December 2023	High level meeting on Migration in Brussels with Mauritania	Discussion on the migration dialogue.
08 February 2023	Joint visit of European Commission President Von der Leyen and Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez to Mauritania	Announcement of additional support on migration

NIGER

High-Level Dialogue on migration launched on 18 September 2015. The EUCAP Sahel Niger mission was enlarged in July 2015 including a new objective on migration. The EUCAP field office in Agadez opened April 2016. Since November 2017, refugees have been evacuated in a humanitarian evacuation scheme from Libya to Niger via the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger. An Action Plan on Niger has been elaborated in EMWP, in December 2021. An action file on Niger was discussed in MOCADDEM in February 2022. On 15 July 2022, an Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership was launched. Following the coup on 26 July 2023, the cooperation with Niger authorities was put on hold. The projects implemented by international organisations in the benefit of the migrants, asylum seekers and refugees continue.

Key past and upcoming events

January 2019	Sherpa visit to Niger	Visit to the border with Algeria and meetings with the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Plan as well as implementing partners and local authorities.
July 2019	HR/VP visit to Niger	Meeting with Nigerien authorities in the context of the Sahel tour on occasion of the G5 Sahel Ministerial in Ouagadougou.
16 June 2021	EUSR visit to Niger	Meeting with Nigerien authorities in the context of his end of man-Date
13 July 2021	Meeting Minister of Interior with Executive Director of EUAA	
06 August 2021	6th meeting of Migration Cooperation Forum with the government of Niger (Cadre de Concertation sur la Migration (CCM))	First meeting since 2019.
6-9 September 2021	CIVOPS Commander and MPCC Director, Francisco Perez ESTEBAN (CivOpsCdr) and an FPI delegation visited Niger.	The visit allowed to have a dialogue with national authorities including the Minister of Internal Affairs on the activities of the EUCAP Sahel mission, whose mandate also covers support to migration and border control.
19-24 September 2021	An EUAA mission visited Niamey	The main objective was to present the regional pilot project for North Africa and Niger, and to consult on the development of the pilot project with Niger, within the framework of the UNHCR Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG).
28 September 2021	First meeting of the Steering Committee of Niger's National Migration Policy in Niamey.	The EU participates as observer.
11-14 October 2021	(New) EUSR visit to Niger	Meeting with Nigerien authorities in the context of her mandate as new EUSR
13 October 2021	EU-Niger Political Dialogue	The first post-Cotonou EU-Niger Partnership Dialogue addressed migration issues around the theme: Migration: Overview of migration trends — political and strategic perspectives on migration management.

14-15 February 2022	Commissioner Johansson's visit to Niger	Discuss the outline of an anti-smuggling operational partnership with Niger, including reinforced cooperation with Frontex and related border management and security issues
29 March 2022	Commissioner Urpilainen's visit to Niger	
11-12 April 2022	Follow-up visit to Niger	The purpose of this visit by senior officials from DG HOME and Frontex was to take forth further discussions on an anti-smuggling operational partnership and explain the substance of a working arrangement with Frontex.
18 May 2022	Commissioner Johansson meeting Hamadou Adamou Souley, Minister of Interior	Meeting in the margins of the IMRF in New York
15 July 2022	Launch of the ASOP Signature of a Frontex-EUCAP Sahel Niger working arrangement	
05 August 2022	"Cadre Concertation Migration"	The political meeting of the 7th Migration dialogue Framework (Cadre de Concertation sur la Migration). This forum brought together the Nigerien government with international partners, including the EU and its Member States, and discussed recommendations which will be submitted to the National Migration Policy Steering Committee for implementation in the frame of the Migration Action Plan for 2020-203. The EU delegation presented ASOP
28 September 2022	"Table Ronde pour le financement de la Politique Nationale de la Migration du Niger"	EU DEL discussed about the continuation of JIT Niger and the funds for the Emergency Transit Mechanism (committed EUR43M to migration). At the conclusion of the Round Table, the Minister of the Interior recalled that Niger is a champion in the fight against illegal and irregular migration and has assumed its responsibilities by formulating a serious National Migration Programme.
November 2022	EUCAP SAHEL IN EMPACT 2023	EUCAP SAHEL NIGER participation in EMPACT OAP Migrant Smuggling 2023
December 2022	Europol – EUCAP SAHEL WORKING ARRANGEMENT	Management Board of Europol approved to include EUCAP Sahel Niger on the list of priority for external cooperation of Europol (in agreement with DG HOME, this is on hold for the time being due to political situation).

January 2023	Visit of acting DG ECHO Michael Koehler to Niger	Representing the EU at the 3 rd high-level conference on the Lake Chad, acting DG ECHO met Foreign Minister Hassoumi Massoudou and Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Magagi Laouan to discuss, among others, the Emergency Transit Mechanism
7-9 February 2023	Launch of EUAA-Niger Roadmap	Ministry of Interior officials (Abdou Salam HAROU, Director for refugees ; Rawi Malam Habou, Head of Administrative Division for finance and procurement; Attahirou Mahamadou Maidouka, Head of communication and sustainable solutions division) visit Malta to launch the EUAA-Niger action plan
15 February 2023	President Bazoum visits Brussels	Lunch with PEC Michel to discuss migration, among others, meetings with HRVP and Commissioner Urpilainen, Commissioner Johansson (tbc)
March 2023	Signature of the third phase of the Joint Investigation Team with Niger for the fight against criminal networks linked to irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants	implemented by agencies from FR and ES. Funded under the Flexible Mechanism (Regional MIP 2021-2027), €13 million.
15-16 May 2023	Technical visit DG HOME to Niger	Discussions with NE authorities, OIM and UNHCR on migration related issues, including options for further cooperation
6 June 2023	First migration cluster meeting in 'Team Europe' format at EUD Niamey	EUD and MSs committed to have regular meetings in a 'migration cluster' format
5-6 July 2023	HRVP + EUSR visit to Niger	Visit to Agadez, commitment to fund €15M under AAP 2023 on governance and socio-economic development in Agadez
26 July 2023	Coup d'état	The bilateral cooperation with Niger authorities was put on hold.
26 November 2023	Repeal of the anti-trafficking law by <i>de facto</i> authorities	Cooperation with Niger still on hold

NIGERIA

Under the umbrella of the EU-Nigeria Ministerial meetings, several political dialogues on migration have taken place in the last few years. A Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMP) was signed on 12 March 2015. 13 rounds of the EU Readmission Agreement negotiations took place with one outstanding issue waiting to be clarified by the Nigerian Ministry of Justice before initialing the document. On 19 October 2023 a Strategic dialogue took place between the EU (Commissioner Urpilainen in the lead, associating Commissioner Simson) and Nigeria (Minister for Budget and Economic Planning + 5 Ministers) that also addressed migration management.

These negotiations are embedded in wider EU-Nigeria relations on migration and mobility.

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

As outlined in the Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU published on 27 April 2022, the Commission has started assessing the feasibility of launching a Talent Partnership with Nigeria as one of the key components of a reinforced migration management cooperation with this country. A readmission agreement is the first step towards a comprehensive partnership, of which the Talent Partnership would be a component.

Key past and upcoming events

16 November 2020	Bilateral VTC between Csr Johansson and Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs	To discuss migration and security prior to the Ministerial meeting, including testing the political will to <i>relaunch the readmission negotiations.</i>
18 November 2020	EU-Nigeria Ministerial Summit	Relaunch a comprehensive dialogue for cooperation and launch of a strategic partnership. Ministerial also allowed for relaunching of stalled readmission negotiations.
28 January 2021	Resumption of the negotiations on the readmission agreement (6 th round)	
18 February 2021	7 th round of the negotiations on the readmission agreement	<i>Discussion on the provisions of the text</i>
25 February 2021	8 th round of the negotiations on the readmission agreement	<i>Discussion on the provisions of the text</i>
2 March 2021	9 th round of the negotiations on the readmission agreement	<i>Discussion on the provisions of the text</i>
18 March 2021	10 th round of the negotiations on the readmission agreement	<i>Negotiations referred to political level; a number of outstanding issues remain unresolved</i>

17- 22 June 2021	Commissioner Urpilainen's discussion with the Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Onyeama.	The Ministerial roadmap and the readmission negotiations were addressed.
30 June 2021	Letter from MFA Onyeama to HRVP on Ministerial Roadmap	MFA indicated Nigeria's commitment to resume readmission negotiations.
September 2021	Meeting MFA Onyeama and incoming EU Ambassador	
26 October 2021	Chief negotiators' phone call on way forward on readmission.	
3 March 2022	Meeting between MD Laranjinha, DDG Luchner and Nigerian Ambassador Onowu	Discussion on comprehensive relations with Nigeria, and on a way forward in cooperation on return, including on the readmission agreement.
21 March 2022	Meeting between the EU DEL and 18 EU HoMs with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Onyeama	Discussion on cooperation on return and readmission and the need to quickly conclude the negotiations of the readmission agreement
11 April 2022	Meeting EU Ambassador + Heads of Missions of MS with Nigeria's Permanent Secretary, MFA	As part of outreach on the Team Europe Initiative on the Atlantic & Western Med route.
5-8 July 2022	11 th round of negotiations of the EU-Nigeria Readmission agreement, Abuja	
13-16 September 2022	12 th round of negotiations of the EU-Nigeria Readmission agreement, Abuja	
14 September 2022	First Frontex-led charter flight	40 Nigerian forced returnees were readmitted from 4 MS (DE, AT, IT, NL).
10 February 2023	Article 8 Nigeria-EU Human Rights Dialogue	Including a point on migration at the request of Nigeria.
05 January, 24 February, 17 March, 22 May 2023	Meetings DDG HOME and Nigerian Ambassador/authorities	<i>Meetings to discuss the negotiations</i>
20 March 2023	Meeting Commissioner Johansson and Nigeria MFA	EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement

6-8 October 2023	Senior Officials Meeting and technical meeting on the EURA	
18-19 October 2023	Visit to Nigeria of Commissioner for International Partnership Jutta Urpilainen and Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson	<i>EU-Nigeria Strategic Dialogue: including migration.</i>
25 October 2023	Meeting between Commissioner Johansson and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yusuf Tuggar in Brussels	

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

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

Key past and upcoming events

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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

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

Key past and upcoming events

03 June 2022	Meeting of EEAS MDA Africa Bernard QUINTIN and HOME Director Henrik NIELSEN with Ambassador Christian NDONGALA, on the issue of the increased arrivals of migrants crossing the Green Line in Cyprus.	As part of a global outreach on this issue
03 March 2023	Meeting of EEAS MDA Africa Bernard QUINTIN and DDG HOME Johannes LUCHNER with Ambassador Christian NDONGALA, on returns and readmissions (article 25a VC)	Follow up art. 25a Visa Code annual report.

SENEGAL

Partnership compact launched by visit of Commissioner Avramopoulos in Dakar on 26 July 2016.

Political dialogue with the EU on migration started in 2016, but political commitments have not been fully turned into action so far; progress on returns and readmissions from Europe remains limited. Due to insufficient cooperation on readmission, Senegal was proposed for Visa Restrictive measures under article 25a of the Visa Code in November 2022. In September 2022, Senegalese authorities accepted the principle of a regular dialogue on migration, (one or two times a year), and agreed to a readmission related indicator in the budget support for 2023, which however was not fulfilled – the reference period has been extended for another year.

In 2020, Senegal has pleaded for more legal pathways towards the EU. Following the significant increase of irregular flows towards the Canary Islands, as well as several shipwrecks and incidents which affected Senegalese nationals, Senegal has asked the EU and relevant EUMS to enhance joint efforts in reducing irregular flows, fighting migrant smugglers and saving lives at sea.

Following the Joint High-level visit of the President of the Commission and several Commissioners, in February 2022, technical discussions are ongoing on ways to strengthen cooperation with Frontex on border management .

On 9 November 2022, Commission tabled a proposal on visa restrictive measures for discussion at the Council. This proposal triggered an enhanced cooperation from Senegalese side with commitments to improve cooperation on return and readmission at the occasion of DG HOME mission to Dakar in December 2022. Leaving time to Senegal to deliver on its commitment, the COM proposal is put on hold at Council level and discussions continued in 2023 with some progress and also room for more substantial efforts. The discussion have continued under SE, ES and now BE presidencies.

Following VP Schinas visit in October 2023, Senegalese authorities organized an internal coordination meeting to reply to FRONTEX proposal on the working arrangements, no response has yet reached the Commission.

As outlined in the Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU published on 27 April 2022, Senegal is indicated as one of partner the countries for which a Talent Partnership could be considered, as one of the key components of a reinforced migration management cooperation with this country and part of a comprehensive approach, pursuing on all relevant migration areas. . It is considered that the timing to launch a talent partnership is not ripe, considering the overall level of cooperation, including on readmission.

The political developments of the first week of February 2024 with the announced postponement of the presidential elections are to be monitored as this could have an impact on the different strands of migration with Senegal including delivering on budget support indicators, cooperation on returns, collaboration with FRONTEX, root causes of migration and protection.

Key past and upcoming events

15 May 2019	Meeting in Brussels between Commissioner Avramopoulos and M. Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye, President of the National Olympic and Sport Committee of Senegal	Senegal is looking for financial support for the Youth Summer Olympic Games 2022. They see the event as an opportunity to create jobs and address the root causes of irregular migration.
12 June 2019	Frontex and Senegalese authorities inaugurated the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) Risk analysis cell in Senegal	

9 July 2019	EBCGA's mission to Dakar	To finalise the Working Arrangements (with the DG of National Police) and the Umbrella agreement (with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The finalisation is still pending.
13 – 14 April 2021	Meetings of Commissioner Johansson and Commissioner Urpilainen with President of Senegal M. Sall	The commitment of both sides to step up cooperation in a balanced and comprehensive way was noted.
9-12 February 2022	Joint high level mission, led by President von der Leyen - included EVP Vestager, Commissioners Johansson, Urpilainen, Simson and Breton	To strengthen cooperation on all aspects of migration, including anti-smuggling, border management. The EU also offered to step up Frontex cooperation through a working arrangement and/or a Status Agreement. A follow-up technical mission is scheduled for end of May/beginning of June.
17-18 February 2022	Visit of President Sall to Brussels	As AU chair at the EU-AU Summit
31 May 2022	Political Dialogue on Migration with Minister of Foreign Affairs	To discuss all aspects of a comprehensive EU-Senegal migration and mobility partnership
31 May 2022	DDG HOME mission to Dakar with Minister of the Interior, Minister of Defence, Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Secretary for Senegalese from abroad	1. To negotiate a Frontex working arrangement; 2. to discuss the concepts of an operational anti-smuggling as well as of a talent partnership; and 3. to pass a (strong) message in returns.
1-3 June 2022	HOME/Frontex mission to Dakar, with the participation of DG INTPA	HOME DDG Luchner & Frontex travelled to Dakar to discuss working arrangement/status agreement with Frontex, as well as anti-smuggling and readmission. Discussions on the WA, for which Senegal expressed interest, are ongoing.
13 September 2022	Meeting EU Delegation with SN authorities (MFA -General Direction of the Senegalese Abroad/DGASE)	SN committed to enhance cooperation on readmission, together with all other dimensions of migration, and agreed to establish a framework for a regular dialogue on migration (first dialogue scheduled in November)
9 November 2022	Commission proposal on visa restrictive measures adopted	

5-7 December 2022	HOME senior level mission (DDG Luchner) to Dakar for the first technical dialogue on readmission	Senegal took a number of commitments to improve cooperation on return and readmission
21 December 2022	DG M.Pariat met with Senegalese Ambassador in Brussels	Senegalese ambassador confirmed commitment at the highest level, as well as his role in coordinating Senegalese embassies/consulates efforts on readmission in the EU.
21 March 2023	Commissioner Johansson met the Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs	
31 March 2023	DDG Luchner met with Senegalese Ambassador in Brussels	
3 May 2023	HOME senior level mission (DDG Luchner) to Dakar for the 2 nd technical dialogue on readmission	Commitment to continue cooperation
31 August 2023	DDG Luchner met with Senegalese Ambassador in Brussels	
26 September 2023	VP Schinas Visit to Senegal to follow up on the Lampedusa 10 points action plan.	Senegal political engagement on an agreement with FRONTEX and enhanced cooperation on returns and readmission.
5 December 2023	3 rd Technical Dialogue on readmission at senior level (DDG Luchner, VTC)	
April 2024 (tbc)	Discussions on cooperation on migration	
April 2024 (tbc)	4 th Technical dialogue with Senegal on Return and Readmission	

B. SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

MOROCCO

The EU-Morocco Association Agreement entered into force in 2000. A Mobility Partnership was signed in June 2013. Since 2013, the EU supports the implementation of Morocco's National Strategy on Migration and Asylum. The Commission has a mandate to negotiate a readmission agreement since 2000. Negotiations on a readmission agreement have been intensively pursued but ended in a stalemate in 2010. Following the signing of the Mobility Partnership in 2013, the Commission also received a mandate to negotiate a visa facilitation agreement in 2014. A single round of negotiations on both agreements took place in January 2015. Migration and mobility are part of the EU-Morocco Partnership priorities, currently being updated.

After several years of stalemate (within the general freeze of the relations EU-Morocco) the dialogue was formally relaunched in 2019 (Association Council of 27 June 2019). Morocco recognizes Migration and Security as central areas for cooperation with the EU. Morocco has engaged substantially, reducing significantly the flow of irregular migrants arriving to the EU via the Mediterranean Sea. However, irregular arrivals of Moroccans and from Morocco remain high. As of November 2023, Moroccan was the main nationality registered along the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic routes, and Morocco was the main country of departure.

Following the visit of Commissioner Johansson and Commissioner Várhelyi to Rabat (1-2 December 2020) and the SOM on Migration (17-18 March 2022) led by DG Pariat, a new impetus was given to the dialogue and cooperation on migration with Morocco with concrete steps to strengthen cooperation on fight against migrant's smuggling and trafficking in human beings, border management, return and readmission, Talent partnerships, protection and asylum, cooperation with JHA agencies (Frontex, Europol, EUAA), and migration and development. An Anti-smuggling operational partnership was launched by Commissioner Johansson after the tragedy occurred in Melilla in July 2022.

EU portfolio on migration with Morocco, reached a total of approximately EUR 360 million under the MFF 2014-2020, out of which around EUR 234 million are drawn from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa-North Africa window. Under NDICI-GE for 2021 and 2022, a budget support action of 152 million contributing to the objectives of the SNIA (including in the area of borders management and anti-smuggling) was adopted in November 2022. Morocco also benefits from NDICI-funded regional actions on protection, return and reintegration, as well as on legal migration and mobility.

An overall 2023 Southern Neighbourhood migration package worth EUR 279 million was adopted on 26 June 2023, focusing on fighting against smugglers and human traffickers, strengthening border management, and assisted voluntary return.

As outlined in the Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU published on 27 April 2022, Morocco is among the partner countries to be engaged in a Talent Partnership. The first Talent Partnership roundtable occurred on 26 April 2023.

Key past and upcoming events

16 January 2019	Positive EP vote on Agriculture Agreement and HRVP visit to Rabat to mark the relaunch of relations	
12 February 2019	Positive EP vote on Fisheries Agreement	
25 April 2019	Visit by Head of Cabinet of Csr Avramopoulos to Rabat to meet Senior Officials	
20-21 June 2019	Moroccan and EU Senior Officials Meeting (HOME/NEAR/EEAS) in Brussels	Relaunch of the mobility EU-Morocco dialogue under the Mobility Partnership of 2013 on co-operation on migration and security ahead of the Association Council.

27 June 2019	EU-Morocco Association Council	Joint political declaration that includes references to cooperation on migration and mobility
28/29 August 2019	Commission (NEAR/HOME) mission to Morocco	
31 October 2019	First Joint Committee EBCGA-Morocco in Warsaw	
10 December 2019	Operational Committee of the EUTF for Africa – North of Africa window	Additional package on border management and the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling
13 July 2020	Ministerial Conference of the Ministers of Interior of EU Member States and Partner Countries on countering Migrant Smuggling	Chaired by Italian Minister Luciana Lamorgese with the participation of Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi
7 October 2020	Second Joint Committee EBCGA-Morocco (VTC)	
1-2 December 2020	Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi's visit to Morocco	
8 February 2022	President von der Leyen's visit to Morocco	
9-10 March 2022	Commissioner Várhelyi's visit to Morocco to discuss overall cooperation	
17-18 March 2022	Senior Official Meeting on Migration	Inter-institutional mission led by DG Monique Pariat (DG HOME)
19 May 2022	Social Affairs and Migration Subcommittee	
8 July 2022	Commissioner Johansson's visit to Morocco; launch of the first-ever Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership with Moroccan Mol Laftit and Spanish Mol Grande-Marlaska	
21 September 2022	Technical meeting on various aspects of migration (ASOP, readmission and returns, Talent Partnership - on Talent Partnership	Meeting chaired on the EU side by DDG Luchner Launching technical discussions on the operationalisation of a Talent Partnership with Morocco
5 – 6 January 2023	HRVP Borrell's visit to Rabat and Fez	Migration issues raised with the Head of Government Aziz Akhannouch
22- 23 February 2023	Commissioner Várhelyi's visit to Morocco to discuss overall cooperation	
2023 (tbc)	Technical meeting on readmission	The meeting was agreed to take place on 3 June 2023 but was cancelled a few days before by Morocco.
26 April 2023	Talent Partnership roundtable	

TUNISIA

The EU-Tunisia Association Agreement entered into force in 1998.

A Mobility Partnership was signed on 3 March 2014 between Tunisia and the EU. In this context, the Commission has a mandate to negotiate agreements on Visa Facilitation and Readmission. The latest negotiation round took place in January 2019. Migration and mobility are part of the Strategic Priorities 2018-2020 adopted in November 2018, whose post-2020 version is being negotiated with Member States.

The EU-Tunisia partnership has been shaped by the negotiations, signature and the implementation of the EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding on a strategic and global partnership signed on 16 July 2023. It aims at strengthening cooperation over five priority pillars (macro-economic stability, economy and trade, green energy transition, people-to-people contacts, and migration and mobility). The migration pillar of the MoU includes EUR 105 million in projects funded from the 2023 budget on migration, building on ongoing programmes and reinforcing areas of mutual interest.

The EUTF support to Tunisia amounted to around EUR 91 million and focuses on assisting Tunisia in the implementation of joint priorities in the field of migration. These include mobilising Tunisians abroad for investment in the country; providing social and economic assistance to Tunisian returnees through a 'National Mechanism of Reintegration' (Tounesna); supporting young Tunisians prone to migration in regions most affected by emigration; supporting the national governance on migration to have reliable and representative figures on migration dynamics in Tunisia; supporting Tunisia in the development of an Integrated Border Management system; supporting Tunisia in the protection of vulnerable migrants and refugees; and supporting Tunisia in its Labour Migration Governance.

Under NDICI, the EU dedicated to Tunisia EUR 188 million for the period 2021-2023, focusing on migration programmes in the area of border management, protection and socio-economic integration of Tunisian returnees. As part of this funding, Tunisia also benefits from regional actions in the areas of voluntary returns to countries of origin, legal migration and anti-smuggling.

As outlined in the Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU published on 27 April 2022, Tunisia is among the priority countries to be engaged for the launching of a Talent Partnership. The first Talent Partnership roundtable took place on the 20th June 2023 and both sides are taking the work forward with the organization of a working group to prepare the next roundtable.

Key past and upcoming events

22-23 January 2019	Last round of negotiations for a Visa Facilitation Agreement and Readmission Agreement	
11 April 2019	EU-Tunisia Association Committee	Migration and Mobility on the agenda
17 May 2019	EU-Tunisia Association Council	Migration and mobility on the agenda
13 July 2020	Ministerial Conference of the Ministers of Interior of EU Member States and Partner Countries on countering Migrant Smuggling	Chaired by Italian Minister Luciana Lamorgese with the participation of Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi
17 August 2020	Mission to Tunisia of Commissioner Johansson and Commissioner Várhelyi, together with MoI and MFA of Italy	
10 March 2021	Sub-committee on justice and security	
20 /21 May 2021	Mission to Tunisia of Commissioner Johansson together with Italian Minister of Interior Lamorgese	
4 June 2021	Visit of Tunisian President Kais Saied to Brussels; meetings with Presidents von der Leyen, Charles Michel, David Sassoli and President of the EIB	

9-10 September 2021	HRVP Borrell's mission to Tunis; meeting with President Kais Saied and Minister of Foreign Affairs Othman Jerandi as well as with political parties and civil society	
28-29 March 2022	Commissioner Varhélyi's visit to Tunisia	
11-13 April 2022	Visit of members of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee	
30 November 2022	Meeting between DG Monique Pariat and Tunisian Ambassador Nabil Ammar	General exchange on main aspects of migration and security
13 December 2022	Technical (hybrid) meeting on Talent Partnership	Launching technical discussions on the operationalization of a Talent Partnership with Tunisia
31 January 2023	Sub-committee on Migration and Social Affairs	Positive meeting, discussed all areas of migration including Talent Partnerships and returns. Availability of Tunisia to discuss more, ascribing any challenges to lack of funding.
21 March 2023	Senior official mission, with participation of NEAR's DG Gert-Jan Koopman and HOME's DDG Johannes Luchner	Further exploring opportunities for cooperation on counter-smuggling, border management, returns (to Tunisia and from Tunisia to sub-Saharan Africa), legal pathways (Talent Partnership)
27 March 2023	Commissioner Gentiloni's visit to Tunisia	
27 April 2023	Commissioner Johansson's visit to Tunisia	
9-10 May 2023	Visit of Belgian and Portuguese Foreign Ministers on behalf of the HRVP	
11 June 2023	President von der Leyen's visit to Tunisia	Advancing comprehensive approach built around five pillars, including one on migration and one on people-to-people contacts; announcing extra available funding for migration management.
19 June 2023	Visit of French and German Ministers of Interior in Tunis	
22 June 2023	Talent Partnership roundtable	
16 July 2023	Agreement on Memorandum of Understanding on a strategic and comprehensive EU-Tunisia partnership	Formalising the approach proposed by President von der Leyen during her visit.
17-18 January 2024	Technical EU mission (DG NEAR, DG HOME and EEAS) in Tunis on the implementation of the MoU	Taking stock and agreeing on the next steps and priorities in the implementation of all five pillars of the MoU, including on migration.

ALGERIA

The EU-Algeria Association Agreement entered into force on 1 September 2005. The Commission received a mandate to negotiate a readmission agreement with Algeria in November 2002. No negotiations have so far taken place. Migration and mobility are one of the 5 Partnership priorities adopted in March 2017, currently being renewed.

Algeria was eligible for funding under the EU Trust Fund for Africa but did not express an interest. In recent engagement, including the seventh EU-Algeria Informal Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (July 2023) in 2022, the Algerian authorities have shown renewed interest in cooperation on migration, and in particular triangular cooperation and voluntary returns to sub-Saharan Africa.

Key past and upcoming events

13 July 2020	Ministerial Conference of the Ministers of Interior of EU Member States and Partner Countries on countering Migrant Smuggling	Chaired by Italian Minister Luciana Lamorgese with the participation of Commissioners Johansson and Várhelyi, Algerian Minister of Interior Kamal Beldjoud
7 December 2020	EU-Algeria Association Council (VTC)	Co-chaired by High Representative/Vice President J. Borrell and the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Boukadoum. Commissioner Johansson and Minister Boukadoum discussed migration and mobility in a dedicated session.
1 July 2021	EU-Algeria informal dialogue on migration and mobility	Co-chaired by DG HOME DDG Mr Johannes LUCHNER, with participation from EUDEL, EEAS, NEAR, SG and JHA counsellors as observers and on the Algerian side - Mr Cherif OUALID (Directeur des Affaires Consulaires, Direction Générale des Affaires Consulaires et de la Communauté Nationale à l'Étranger, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères), with participation from the ministries of foreign affairs, the interior, labour and social affairs, the gendarmerie nationale.
13 September 2021	10 th Sub-committee on Justice and Home Affairs	Co-chaired by EEAS Head Division Rosamaria Gili and Director Noredine BENFREHA (MFA, Directeur de la coopération avec l'UE et des institutions européennes).
3 March 2022	Meeting between DDG Luchner and Algerian Ambassador Mohamed Hanèche	Discussion on relations with Algeria and on a way forward in cooperation on return
28 June 2022	Technical workshop on new EU-funded multi-country, migration-related programmes open to Algerian participation	
6 July 2022	Technical workshop on opportunities for 'triangular cooperation', involving EU, Algeria and sub-Saharan countries	Algeria showed particular interest in cooperation on returns to sub-Saharan countries, unaccompanied minors.
17 January 2023	Meeting between DG Monique Pariat and Algerian Ambassador Ali Mokrani	General exchange on main aspects of migration and security

12-13 March 2023	HRVP visit to Algeria	Meeting with President Tebboune and PM Benabderrahmane
20 June 2023	11 th Sub-committee on Justice and Home Affairs	Co-chaired by EEAS Head of Division Rosamaria Gili and Director Said Meziane (MFA, Directeur de la coopération avec l'UE et des institutions européennes). <i>Home affairs discussed although it was agreed to discuss migration in upcoming informal dialogue (below)</i>
13 July 2023	Seventh Informal Dialogue on Migration and Mobility followed by a technical meeting on irregular migration, including readmission	
1 February 2024	COM DG NEAR+EEAS mission to Algeria	

EGYPT

Relations between the EU and Egypt are governed by an Association Agreement since 2004. The latest EU- Egypt Partnership Priorities were adopted on 19 June 2022 and include a chapter on the strengthening of bilateral co-operation on migration and mobility. On 16 December 2017, Commissioner Avramopoulos and Egyptian FM Shoukry launched the EU-Egypt Migration Dialogue. The 3rd Migration Dialogue took place in November 2021.

In recognition of Egypt's key role in the security and stability of the region, the Commission is working on developing a Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership with Egypt, which will unleash the full potential of EU-Egypt relations. The Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership was presented to President Al-Sisi by the President of the Commission during her visit to Cairo in November 2023. It will consist of a package of short and medium-long term deliverables and commitments built around the following main blocks: political relations; macroeconomic stability; investment and trade, including energy, water, food security and climate change; migration; security, and human capital development.

This approach received overwhelming support from both parties in the context of the 10th EU-Egypt Association Council on 23 January.

In the area of migration, the EU has responded to the Egyptian government calls for more international support through its different funding instruments, in particular, via the EUR 60 million programme "Enhancing the Response to Migration Challenges in Egypt" under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa currently under implementation (total portfolio for Egypt: EUR 91 million).

Under NDICI, in 2022 the Commission has adopted a 23 million action on protection and a 23 million action on border management, both of which were topped-up by EUR 5 million each in 2023. Egypt benefits from regional actions on protection, return and reintegration, as well as on legal migration and mobility.

An overall 2023 Southern Neighbourhood migration package worth EUR 279 million was adopted on 26 June 2023, focusing on fighting against smugglers and human traffickers, strengthening border management, and assisted voluntary return. Out of the EUR 279 million, EUR 115 million were allocated to Egypt in 2023 to support border management, anti-smuggling, returns and reintegration, as well as protection.

As outlined in the Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU published on 27 April 2022, Egypt is among the priority countries to be engaged for the launching of a Talent Partnership. The first Talent Partnership Roundtable took place on 7 June 2023.

Key past and upcoming events

25 June 2019	Visit of Commissioner Avramopoulos for the second round of the Migration Dialogue	Main purpose to ensure political continuity to the Migration Dialogue and discussion on Security
10 July 2019	Senior Officials meeting on migration in Cairo	To follow up on the 2 nd round of the Migration Dialogue at the technical level
3 September 2019	EU Counterterrorism dialogue Coordinator visit to Egypt	To relaunch the dialogue on counterterrorism with Egypt.
27 November 2019	Meeting of the 7 th EU-Egypt Stability Cluster, Cairo	The meeting covered counterterrorism, migration and asylum, as well as consular issues.
3-4 February 2020	EUAA consultation meeting with Egyptian authorities in Malta	Opportunities for future cooperation
18-19 February 2020	Seminar organised by EUAA on asylum in Alexandria	Asylum systems and procedures under the Common European Asylum System
3 September 2020	HRVP visit to Cairo	To discuss bilateral and regional relations; migration pact was briefly raised
4-9 October 2020	EUAA technical level mission to Cairo	Future cooperation

5 November 2020	President of the European Council Michel visit to Cairo	To discuss bilateral and regional relations including fight against Terrorism
12 July 2021	Meeting between Commissioner Johansson and Egyptian Foreign Minister Shoukry	Discuss migration and security cooperation, raise EU intention to hold the next Migration Dialogue meeting in autumn 2021
05 October 2021	EU-Egypt 7th meeting of Association Committee,	To discuss various aspect of cooperation and in particular programmes for 2021, including migration
25 October 2021	Commissioner Varhelyi visit to Egypt	Meetings with President Al Sisi and Foreign Minister Shoukry (besides other Ministers as well as CSOs, HR- defendants, business). Discussions focused on all aspects of cooperation, including migration and future programmes
15 November 2021	Commissioner Johansson visit to Cairo	Discussed all aspects of cooperation on migration and mobility with relevant ministers
16 November 2021	Migration Dialogue at senior officials level	
31 May - 1 June 2022	31 May - 1 June 2022	Meetings with President Al Sisi, Foreign Minister Shoukry, Minister of Planning and Economic Development Hala Elsaid. Discussions focused on food security, socioeconomic recovery, and migration (border assistance package).
15 June 2022	President von der Leyen's visit to Egypt	Meeting with President Al Sisi focused on food security and energy cooperation.
19 June 2022	9th EU-Egypt Association Council	Endorsed the Partnership Priorities 2021-2027 and discussed all aspects of bilateral relations, including migration.
31 October 2022	Commissioner Varhelyi visit to Cairo	Signature of contract for new EU-funded border management programme
7 December 2022	Sub-Committee on Justice and Security Working Group on Migration, Social and Consular Affairs	
27 January 2023	Meeting between HOME DDG Luchner/EEAS MD Hallergard and the Egyptian Ambassador to Brussels	Follow up Article 25a, upcoming visit of VP Schinas, legal migration
25 – 28 February 2023	VP Schinas to Cairo	Addressed migration issues in a comprehensive manner, discussed interfaith dialogue

27-28 February 2023	CT Coordinator Salmi	
2-3 May	Coordination Committee of the GCTF	Coordination meeting in view of our Joint co-chairmanship of the GCTF
7 June 2023	Talent Partnership roundtable	
13 June 2023	Senior level meeting on law enforcement and security	Covering also migrant smuggling; First positive signals on possible cooperation in this area, including with the EU agencies; to be followed up at technical level
18 – 19 June 2023	HRVP to Cairo	Meetings with President Al Sisi, FM Shoukry and MoD Zaki: On bilateral issues, migration was a prominent theme across meetings. HRVP announced a 20 MEUR support to EGY in their response to the flux of refugees from Sudan.
19-20 June 2023	EUMC Chairman	Exchange with Ministry of Defence on CSDP missions
24-28 July 2023	FRONTEX mission	
October 2023	CT Dialogue	1 st CT Dialogue: examined regional threats
17 November 2023	President Von Der Leyen's visit to Cairo	Presentation of a Strategic and Comprehensive partnership with Egypt
23 January 2024	10 th EU-Egypt Association Council	Both parties reaffirmed commitment to pursue an elevated partnership through the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership.
March 2024	High Level Migration Dialogue (tbc)	
March 2024	Senior Officials meeting on migration (tbc)	
March 2024	Commissioner Johansson visit to Cairo (tbc)	

LIBYA

The overriding priority of EU action is to contribute to a stable, democratic and united Libya. To this end, the EU supports the ongoing facilitation efforts undertaken by UNSRSG Bathily, ultimately aimed at holding national elections.

The EU aims to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and legitimate national institutions for a stable, resilient and prosperous Libya. Stabilisation is also a prerequisite for developing a rights-based migration management system in Libya and for the EU-Libya partnership on migration.

In 2023 Libya was one of the main countries of departure on the Central Mediterranean route (approximately 50.000 irregular arrivals), second only to Tunisia (almost 100.000 irregular arrivals).

Promoting human rights including the human rights of migrants remains a priority. In March 2023 the **Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya** presented its final report. The Mission found reasonable grounds to believe that the exploitation of migrants entailed violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and the commission of crimes against humanity. The report also came to the conclusion that State affiliated entities in Libya “received technical, logistical, and monetary support from the EU and its MS for inter alia the interception and return of migrants to Libya.”

The EU Border Assistance Mission (**EUBAM Libya**) was established in July 2013 as a civilian advisory Mission. In June 2023, the Council extended EUBAM Libya’s mandate until 30 June 2025, with a refocus on support to integrated border management, fight against cross-border crime (including human trafficking and migrant smuggling) and counter-terrorism. EUBAM Libya provides technical advice, capacity-building activities at the operational and technical levels and carries out projects, complemented as appropriate and on a case-by-case basis by specialised training. The Mission furthermore provides strategic advice where requested by the Libyan authorities.

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI was launched on 31 March 2020 with the core task to contribute to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on Libya, through the use of aerial, satellite and maritime assets. In particular the mission is mandated to carry out inspections of vessels on the high seas off the Libyan coast suspected to be carrying arms or related material to and from Libya. The mandate also includes the training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy in law enforcement tasks at sea and the disruption of the business model of human smuggling and trafficking in human beings networks. In March 2023 the Council extended the mandate of EUNAVFOR MED IRINI until 31 March 2025.

Libya was the biggest beneficiary of the EUTF-NoA, with EUR 465 million. Over half of the funding went to the protection of migrants and refugees, one third to community stabilisation in Libyan municipalities, and the rest of the funds goes to actions for border management.

In 2021 and 2022, three new actions targeting Libya were adopted with a focus on increasing protection and resilience of migrants, forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Libya (EUR 55 million); on supporting return and reintegration (indicatively EUR 30 million, out of a regional budget of EUR 60 million); and on supporting border management institutions.

A2023 Southern Neighbourhood migration package worth EUR 279 million was adopted on 26 June 2023, focusing on fighting against smugglers and human traffickers, strengthening border management, and assisted voluntary return.

Key past and upcoming events

4 April 2021	Visit to Tripoli by European Council President Charles Michel	First EU-level meeting with new Government of National Unity (GNU)
28 May 2021	Visit to Tripoli by Commissioner Varhelyi with Italian and Maltese Foreign Ministers Di Maio and Bartolo	Meeting to discuss with GNU closer economic cooperation with the EU

7 June 2021	Visit to Tripoli by Commissioner Johansson	Meeting with GNU to discuss new areas of cooperation in migration and border security
8 September 2021	Visit to Tripoli by HRVP Borrell	Meeting with GNU on a range of issues related to stabilisation, political and economic reform
21 October 2021	Ministerial Conference on Libya's Stabilisation	Conference to prepare elections, stabilisation and cooperation with the African Union, EU and UN on stabilisation agenda
12 November 2021	International Conference on Libya	It brought together Libyan transitional authorities, the heads of State and government of the countries invited to the Berlin conferences, and the countries in Libya's neighbourhood.
22-24 November 2021	VP Koni visit to Brussels	
20 March 2023	Principals meeting of the trilateral EU-AU-UN Task Force in Brussels	Adoption of Terms of Reference and agreement of next priorities
27-28 November 2023	International Conference on a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling on 28 November 2023, in Brussels	Participation and intervention of minister of interior Trabelsi in the conference and conveying a message of willingness to cooperate on anti-smuggling
4/5 December 2023	Musa Al-Koni, Vice-President of the Libyan Presidential Council, visit to Brussels	Bilateral meetings with Commissioner Johansson, Commissioner Várhelyi and HRVP Borrell where VP Koni passed a message of willingness for cooperation
5-8 February 2024	HOME, NEAR and EEAS mission to Libya	Meeting the relevant legal authorities to engage on migration and border management, as well as on anti-smuggling.

JORDAN

Relations between the EU and Jordan are governed by an Association Agreement which entered into force in 2002. On 12 December 2012, the EU and Jordan launched a Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security. On 9 October 2014, the EU and Jordan signed a Mobility Partnership. First bilateral discussions on visa facilitation and readmission took place in November 2016, but were afterwards put on hold by the Jordanian side, mainly due to concerns over third country nationals' clause in the readmission agreement. The EU—Jordan Partnership Priorities 2021-2027 text (including migration and mobility) has been adopted at the 2 June 2022 EU-Jordan Association Council.

The Brussels VII Conference on the Future of Syria and the Region succeeded in mobilising aid to Syrians inside the country and in the neighbouring countries, through international pledges totalling €5.6 billion for 2023 and beyond, including €4.6 billion for 2023 and €1 billion for 2024 and beyond. From 2011 to date, the European Union and its member states have been the largest donors of humanitarian and resilience assistance to Syria and the region with over €30 billion.

Key past and upcoming events

17 June 2019	EU raised Mobility Partnership in Association Council.	EU reiterated that it is ready to relaunch the negotiation process on visa facilitation and readmission, and encouraged Jordan to actively explore all opportunities provided by the Mobility Partnership.
26 May 2021	EU-Jordan Subcommittee on justice and security	
31 May 2021	EU – Jordan Association Committee	Discussed a range of subjects including security and Mobility Partnership
30 November – 1 December 2021	Mission of Commissioner Varhelyi to Jordan	
2 June 2022	EU-Jordan Association Council	The EU-Jordan Partnership Priorities 2021-2027 adopted
6-7 March 2023	13 th meeting of Sub-committee on Human Rights, Democratisation and Governance	
13 March	The EU- Jordan Subcommittee on Climate Action and Green Economic Growth	Both parties agreed on joint deliverables
27 April	EU-Jordan Research and Innovation Subcommittee	Both parties agreed on joint deliverables
2 May	EU-Jordan Trade, Agriculture and Customs Subcommittee	
6 February 2024	EU-Jordan Association Committee	Migration issues part of the agenda
23 April (TBC) 2024	EU-Jordan Business Forum	

LEBANON

Relations between the EU and Lebanon are governed by an Association Agreement signed in June 2002 (entered into force in April 2006). On 10 December 2014, the EU and Lebanon launched a Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security. In 2016, the EU and Lebanon adopted the Partnership Priorities for the period 2016-2020 (extended until new ones are signed), migration and mobility being one of them.

Lebanon expressed in May 2019 an interest in starting the negotiations for a Visa facilitation agreement. In the autumn 2019, there were signals that Lebanon would be willing to relaunch the negotiations on the Mobility Partnership, but no concrete follow-up steps have been taken by Lebanon so far (also due to the deteriorating political, financial, economic and social crisis, exacerbated by the 2020 explosion in the port of Beirut and the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a power vacuum in 2022 – no government formed since the 15 May parliamentary elections and president not elected since the expiration of the mandate on 31 October).

At the Brussels VII Conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region held in June 2023, hosted by the EU, pledges for both, Syria and the region close to EUR 4.57 billion for 2023 and multi year pledges of close to EUR 1 billion for 2024 and beyond. Since the start of the conflict in 2011, the EU and its Member States have mobilised over 30 billion to help those affected by the Syrian conflict. This makes the EU collectively the largest provider of international aid in response to the Syria crisis, delivering humanitarian, stabilisation and resilience assistance inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

Key past and upcoming events

7 December 2020	FAC adopted Council Conclusions on Lebanon	
18-20 June 2021	HR/VP visit to Lebanon	
30 July 2021	The Council adopted a framework for targeted restrictive measures to address the situation in Lebanon. The framework has been extended for one year on 26 July 2022.	
11 November 2021	VP Schinas mission to Lebanon	Discussed Lebanon's role in hosting the Syrian refugees as well as the situation at the EU external borders with Belarus
18 May 2022	Commissioner Johansson meeting Abdallah BouHabib, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants	Meeting in the margins of the IMRF in New York
4-5 October 2022	Commissioner Varhelyi meetings with President Michel Aoun, Speaker of the Parliament Berri, Caretaker PM Mikati, Minister of Finance Khalil, Commander-in-chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces Joseph Aoun	Mission of the Commissioner to Lebanon
30 January -2 February 2023	Visit by the General Director of the General Security General Ibrahim Abbas to Brussels – meetings with DDG HOME Luchner; ECHO Commissioner Lenarcic; EEAS MENA Managing Director Le Gal	

15 June 2023	Commissioner Varhelyi meeting with Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdallah Bou Habib	Meeting in the margins of the Brussels 7 th Conference on the Future of Syria and the region. Discussed the current situation of multiple crisis in Lebanon and refugee file.
29-30 March 2023	Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarcic	A mission to Lebanon to assess the humanitarian situation and announcement of the annual humanitarian allocation for Lebanon
5-7 January 2024	HRVP Josep Borrell mission to Lebanon	Meetings with Prime Minister Najib Mikati, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Abdallah Bou Habib, Speaker of the Parliament Nabih Berri, General Joseph Aoun

C. Western Balkans

Cooperation with all Western Balkan partners remains a top political priority for the EU, as i.e. demonstrated by the EU-Western Balkan Summit Declaration adopted on 13 December 2023. The declaration specifically also mentions that migration management remains a joint challenge and responsibility, which the EU and Western Balkan Partners will continue to address together, in line with the EU Action Plan on Western Balkans presented by the Commission in December 2022. All partners enjoy a visa-free regime with the EU.

The Western Balkan region mainly serves as a transit route for migrants and victims of trafficking. Partnership with the Western Balkans is a good example of the comprehensive approach to migration management as set out in the New Pact. Through the support of the JHA Agencies and with significant financial assistance, the EU is working closely with partners in the region in the area of asylum and reception, visa policy alignment, border management, return and readmission, migrant smuggling, and sharing of information.

There are bilateral Justice and Home Affairs subcommittee meetings and Joint Readmission Committees with Western Balkan partners. From 2007-2020, the EU has provided assistance to the Western Balkans in the area of migration for a total of EUR 492.75 million, channelled through the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (EUR 450.15 million), as well as humanitarian aid (EUR 42.6 million). Overall, total migration support to the Western Balkans adopted so far under IPA III (2021-2023) amounts to €291.9 million.

Key past and upcoming events

17 May 2021	EU – Western Balkans JHA SOM	Asylum, migration, border management and police cooperation in the area of prevention and investigation of child sexual exploitation online and off-line were discussed.
9 - 10 June 2021	Brdo Process Ministerial conference	Main topics were the management of mixed migration and the prevention and investigation of online child sexual abuse.
24 June 2021	Salzburg Forum Ministerial	Schengen, Joint Coordination Platform
29 June 2021	Berlin Process Ministerial	Home Affairs Ministers in the framework of the Berlin Process (focus on security)
30 September 2021	President von der Leyen's mission to the Western Balkans	President von der Leyen visited Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.
6 October 2021	EU – Western Balkan Summit	
11-12 November 2021	Ministerial Conference on Child Sexual abuse	Western Balkan partners were invited to this ministerial conference organised by the Slovenian Presidency in Brdo, Slovenia
2-3 December 2021	EU – Western Balkans JHA Ministerial Meeting	Organised by the SI Presidency in Brdo, Slovenia. Western Balkans partners were invited. Topics: migration, counter terrorism, organised crime. Commissioner Johansson held bilaterals with BiH,

		MK, KS.
14 December 2021	Salzburg Forum Meeting	VTC conference organised by the HU Presidency of the Salzburg Forum.
21-24 February 2022	JCP Ministerial Return Conference, Vienna	Organised by the Joint Coordination Platform. Topic: set up a regional return mechanism and return partnership.
16 May 2022	EU – Western Balkans JHA SOM	Organised in Brussels. Topics: 1) Improving the exchange of operational information on border management and organised crime; 2) Improving cooperation on returns and assistance to migrants.
23 June 2022	Meeting of the members of the European Council with Western Balkans Leaders	
3-9 October 2022	VP Schinas mission to Western Balkans	VP Schinas met with North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
20 October 2022	Berlin Process Meeting	Hosted by DE Minister of the Interior. Western Balkan ministers of interior and security, MS associated to the Process and the UK discussed migration and security with Commissioner Johansson.
24-25 October 2022	Fourth Prague Process Ministerial Meeting	Hosted by CZ; Attended by several WB partners and by Commissioner Johansson; Commissioner's intervention on WB/UA under "Current migration challenges in our region and beyond".
26-29 October 2022	President Von der Leyen tour of the Western Balkans	President von der Leyen visited Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.
3 November 2022	Berlin Process Summit	Hosted by DE Chancellor. Western Balkan leaders discuss migration and security with President Von der Leyen, as part of a wider agenda
3-4 November 2022	EU – Western Balkans JHA Ministerial Meeting	Organised by the CZ Presidency in Tirana, Albania. Topics: security implications of war

		against Ukraine, migration, asylum and border management. Launch of Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership (ASOP).
15-16 November 2022	IOM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Migration Governance in the Western Balkans	
28-29 March 2023	Immigration Liaison Officers (ILO) Network regional meeting in Tirana, Albania.	Technical meeting organised by DG HOME for the operationalisation of the Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership with Western Balkans. Participants: Immigration Liaison Officers from EU Member States, JHA agencies, Western Balkan partners. Special Envoy on external aspects of migration.
3-4 April 2023	Ministerial Conference Brdo-Process	Two main topics were discussed at the Ministerial Conference: 1. regional cooperation in the fight against migrant smuggling 2. return management and cooperation on readmissions
15 May 2023	EU-WB JHA SOM	The SOM is held annually, usually in May, to prepare the annual Western Balkans JHA Ministerial meeting which this year will take place on 26 October 2022 in Skopje, under the Spanish Presidency.
16 May 2023	Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)- Ministerial	
8-9 June 2023	Sarajevo Migration Dialogue	The aim of this conference was to define concrete follow-up actions towards the implementation of the Skopje Declaration commitments to address smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, increase access to alternative pathways for migrants in protracted transit situation and work towards a holistic return management approach. The conference was co-hosted by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU with facilitation by IOM.
15-16 June 2023	Prespa Dialogue Forum	This year has been the 5 th anniversary since the signature of the Prespa agreement

		between Greece and North Macedonia.. A EU-Western Balkans Migration Management: Solidarity and Shared Commitments” session has been organized
December 2022 – February 2023	Joint HOME-NEAR-MS-HOME Agencies missions to the Western Balkan partners, led by DDG HOME	Implementation of the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans (Belgrade 6/12/2022; Skopje 21/12/2022; Tirana 31/01/2023; Podgorica 2/2/2023; Sarajevo and nd ; Pristina 14-15 March 2023)
14 September 2023	Berlin Process Home Affairs ministerial, Tirana	Organised by Albania. Topics: migration management, cybersecurity and fight against organized crime
26 October 2023	EU Western Balkans Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Forum, Skopje	Organised by ES. Topics: strengthening migration and asylum and border management, counterterrorism, illicit drugs. Follow-up on the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Western Balkans
13-14 February 2024	Sarajevo Security Forum-ministerial	New initiative promoted by BIH with 4 EUMS (IT, HU, SI and AT) to improve migration and border management, to strengthen the fight against related organized crime, mainly against transnational crime activities, and to enhance law enforcement cooperation in related areas
20-21 March 2024	Ministerial Conference Brdo-Process	continuation on last year’s discussions on the pressing challenges in the field of internal affairs in the region of Western Balkans.
16 April 2024	EU-WB JHA SOM	Preparation for JHA Ministerial meeting to be held at the end of the year under HU Presidency
25-26 June 2024	Salzburg Forum	The focus of the Ministerial meeting of the Salzburg Forum will be on trying to incorporate current and future Forum Salzburg priorities and submit them to the future European Commission. Further, to continue the Slovenian initiative on preventing human smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

ALBANIA

Albania formally agreed an association with the EU by signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement in 2006 (entry into force in 2009). Albania was awarded candidate status in 2014. The accession negotiations were opened in 2020 and launched in July 2022 with the first Inter governmental Conference.

Albania has agreements or arrangements signed with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (Status Agreement signed in 2023 (to replace previous SA from 2019);) with teams currently deployed at Greek border and in the Adriatic, Europol (2013), CEPOL (2013), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (2019), and a Roadmap with the European Union Asylum Agency, and has signed the 2019 Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans, whose implementing arrangement was revised in December 2022..

The sixth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in October 2023 confirmed that Albania has taken actions identified in the Fourth Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled.

Key past and upcoming events

20 February 2021	Commissioner Johansson's mission to Albania	Meeting with Minister of the Interior and visiting Frontex joint teams at the border with Greece
1 March 2021	11th EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council	
23 November 2021	Meeting on the bilateral implementing arrangement of the Counter-Terrorism Joint Action Plan for the Western Balkans	EU mission to Tirana
9-10 December 2021	13th EU-Albania Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security	
15 February 2022	EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Committee	
16 February 2022	9 th EU-Albania Joint Readmission Committee meeting, VTC	
19 July 2022	intergovernmental conference	
9 December 2022	Signature of the REVISED Arrangement for the implementation of the Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans between the European Commission and Albania	T
31 January- 1 February 2023	Visit of DDG HOME to discuss the WB Action Plan	Commitments taken by the Albanian authorities to implement the Action Plan
15-16 March 2023	EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council	
28-29 March 2023	Immigration Liaisons Officers (ILO) Network regional meeting in Tirana, Albania.	Technical meeting organised by DG HOME for the operationalisation of the Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership with Western Balkans. Participants: Immigration Liaison Officers from EU Member States, JHA agencies, Western Balkan partners.
14-15 June 2023	14 th EU-Albania Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security	

September 2023	Signature of new Status Agreement for Deployment of EBCG Standing Corps	
5 October 2023	10 th EU-Albania Joint Readmission Committee meeting, Brussels	
6-7 March 2024	Visit of DDG HOME to follow-up on the implementation of the WB Action Plan	
Q3/Q4 2024 (tbc)	11 th EU-Albania Joint Readmission Committee meeting	

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina formally agreed an association with the EU through the Stabilisation and Association Agreement which entered into force on 1 June 2015. Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for EU membership in February 2016. On the basis of the Commission's Opinion, the EU Council endorsed in 2019 the 14 key priorities the country needs to fulfil to open EU accession negotiations. These cover a number of issues including democracy /functionality, the rule of law, fundamental rights, and public administration reform. Under key priority 8, Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to ensure the effective functioning of border management, migration and asylum systems.

Negotiation of a Status Agreement with the EU, allowing the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to deploy teams in the country, on the basis of the current EBCG Regulation was authorized by the Council in 2022 but BiH has yet to officially appoint a negotiating team. A Working Arrangement with Frontex on operational cooperation was signed in 2009. Bosnia and Herzegovina has an Agreement on Operational and Strategic Co-operation with Europol (2016) and a Working Arrangement with CEPOL (2014). In January 2021, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) agreed on a roadmap with Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the overall objective of enhancing the protection space for asylum seekers in Bosnia, thus aligning it in with the EU Common European Asylum System. Bosnia and Herzegovina has signed the 2019 Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans. A new reception and identification centre officially opened in Lipa on 19 November 2021.

The sixth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in October 2023 confirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina has taken actions identified in the Fifth Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled.

Key past and upcoming events

18 - 19 February 2021	Commissioner Johansson's mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Meeting with state level and local authorities and visit to Lipa reception centre
13 July 2021	EU-BiH Stabilisation and Association Council	
22-23 September 2021	High Level Visit on Migration in Brussels, with the BiH Minister of Security, Selmo Cikotic	BiH delegation met with Commissioners and DGs During the visit, DG NEAR convened a working meeting as a follow-up to the high-level EU-BiH meeting on migration, (July 2019) which was attended also by Deputy Director-General Johannes Luchner (HOME) and colleagues from ECHO and EEAS.
10 November 2021	Bilateral meeting (VTC) of Commissioner Johansson with BiH Minister of Security	Migration and security cooperation, and opening of Lipa were discussed.
18 November 2021	Regional conference on "Irregular Migration and the Western Balkan, Response Future Challenges and Joint Solutions"	Cssr Johansson attended the opening session by VTC
6 December 2021	8th EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Joint Readmission Committee meeting, Sarajevo	
13-14 December 2021	Mission of DDG Onidi to discuss state of play of cooperation on CT and P/CVE	To discuss the implementation of the Joint Action Plan on CT and more in general on security issues given the political situation in the country.

19 September 2022	2 nd Sarajevo Migration Dialogue	Organised by Selmo Cikotic, Minister of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina, about migration and returns in the Western Balkans - with participation of Commissioner Johansson.
8-9 December 2022	Sub- Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security with BiH	
20-21 February 2023	Mission DDG HOME to discuss WB AP	To discuss the engagements of BiH authorities for the implementation of the AP
16 June 2023	EU-BiH 6th SA Committee,	
23-24 March 2023	Visit Mr. Nestic to Brussels and meeting with Commissioner Johansson and DDG Onidi	
28 March 2023	9 th EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Joint Readmission Committee meeting, Brussels	
22 June 2023	Opening Ceremony Europol National Focal Point	DDG Onidi attended the opening ceremony together with HoD BiH EUD and Europol Deputy Director for Operations. Establishment of a single National Contact Point for all BiH law enforcement authorities with Europol, connecting them to the Europol Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) system. The creation of this National Contact Point, who will coordinate the communication between relevant BiH law enforcement authorities and Europol, is accompanied by the deployment of a BiH Liaison Officer to the agency.
12 September 2023	Bilateral Commissioner Johansson and Minister of Foreign Affairs Konakovic	Discussions focused on visa alignment and on the appointment of the Frontex negotiation team
28 November 2023	Bilateral DDG Onidi and Min Nestic in the framework of the International Conference on a Global Alliance to counter migrant smuggling	Discussions focused on visa alignment and on the appointment of the Frontex negotiation team
29 November 2023	Phone meeting DDG Onidi and Minister of Foreign Affairs Konakovic	Discussions focused on visa alignment
6-7 December 2023	Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security with BiH	

12-14 February 2024	Visit of DDG Onidi	Follow up of implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan
Q4 2024 (tbc)	10 th EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Joint Readmission Committee meeting	

NORTH MACEDONIA

North Macedonia formally agreed an association with the EU through the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, which entered into force in 2004. It applied for EU membership in 2004 and the Council decided in December 2005 to grant the country candidate status. In March 2020, the General Affairs Council decided to open accession negotiations under the revised methodology. In July 2020 the draft negotiating framework was presented to the Member States.

North Macedonia has agreements or arrangements signed with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (2009 working arrangement and 2022 status agreement, operational since April 2023), Europol (2011), CEPOL (2017) and has signed the 2019 Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans. On 26 October, the EU and North Macedonia signed a Frontex Status Agreement. North Macedonia has a Joint Roadmap with the EUAA, to support the further development of a national asylum and reception system in line with EU standards in place.

The sixth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in October 2023 confirmed that North Macedonia has taken actions identified in the Fifth Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled.

Key past and upcoming events

17-18 November 2021	EU-North Macedonia Sub- Committee meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security - VTC	
4 May 2022	Meeting on the implementation of the Joint action Plan on Counter Terrorism, Skopje	
30 June 2022	9 th EU-North Macedonia Joint Readmission Committee meeting, VTC	
19 July 2022	intergovernmental conference	
26 November 2022	Signature of the Frontex Status Agreement	Commissioner Johansson signed in Skopje, witnessed by President von der Leyen
9 December 2022	Signature of Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans between the European Commission and the authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia	Signature of the JAP
20-21 December 2022	Mission DDG Onidi for WB Plan	Commitments taken by North Macedonia for the implementation of the WB AP
15-16 March 2023	EU-North Macedonia Sub- Committee meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security	
April 2023	Launch of Frontex JO North Macedonia Land (on basis of status agreement)	
6 February 2024	EMN Fact finding mission	
5-6 March 2024	EU-North Macedonia Sub- Committee meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security in Skopje	
May-June 2024	Mission DDG Onidi for WB Plan	Follow up of implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan
Q3 2024 (tbc)	10 th EU-North Macedonia Joint Readmission Committee meeting	

MONTENEGRO

Montenegro formally agreed an association with the EU by signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement in 2007 and was awarded candidate status in 2010. The accession negotiations started in 2012 and to date 33 negotiating chapters have been opened (including Chapter 24 on Justice, freedom and security) of which three have been provisionally closed. Sub-Committees on Justice, Freedom and Security take place, in principle, annually.

Montenegro has agreements or arrangements signed with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (2019 Status agreement; new agreement currently signed on 16 May 2023) with teams deployed at EU borders, Europol (2014), and CEPOL (2011), and has signed the 2019 Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans and a 2021 Joint Roadmap for cooperation with the EUAA. In 2023 Montenegro made the request to sign a Working Arrangement with the ECMDDA

The sixth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in October 2023 confirmed that Montenegro has taken actions identified in the Fifth Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled. Montenegro has observer status in the European Migration Network.

Key past and upcoming events

17 and 18 March 2021	10th EU-Montenegro Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security	
22 June 2021	Intergovernmental Conference	Montenegro accepted the revised enlargement methodology.
25-28 October 2021	Visit of Minister of Interior Sergej Sekulovic to Brussels	Meetings with Commissioners Jourova, Johansson, Dalli and senior officials from EEAS and the Commission
26 November 2021	7 th EU-Montenegro Joint Readmission Committee meeting, VTC	
13 December 2021	Intergovernmental Conference	
26 January 2022	11th meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Committee	
15-16 February 2022	11th EU-Montenegro Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security	
4 July 2022	11th EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Council meeting	
23 September 2022	Signature of an Administrative Arrangement for Montenegro's participation in the European Migration Network	DDG Onidi and Minister of Interior Filip Adžić met in Brussels
25 January 2023	Stabilisation and association committee Montenegro	To discuss progresses on chapters 23 and 24

1-2 February 2023	Mission DDG HOME to discuss the WB AP	Discussion and commitments taken by MNE authorities for the implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan
23 March 2023	Visit to Brussels Min of Interior Adzic and meeting with Commissioner Johansson	
22-23 March 2023	EU- Montenegro Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security	
16 May 2023	Signature of new Status Agreement for the deployment of EBCG Standing Corps	
28 November 2023	signature the revised Counter-Terrorism (CT) Arrangement and bilateral with Commissioner Johansson	First courtesy visit by the new Minister Saranovic. Discussions focused on visa alignment and on WB Action Plan priorities
7-8 March 2024	Visit of DDG Onidi	Follow up of implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan
13-14 March 2024	EU- Montenegro Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security in Podgorica	
Q1/Q2 2024 (tbc)	8 th EU-Montenegro Joint Readmission Committee meeting	

SERBIA

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

Serbia has Working Arrangements in place with Frontex (2009; new agreement currently being negotiated), CEPOL (2017) and EMCDDA (2020). An Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation with Europol was signed in 2014. A Status Agreement with the EU, allowing the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to deploy teams of the EBCG standing corps in the country, was ratified in February 2021 and implemented in June 2021. Serbia has a Joint Roadmap with EUAA in place to support the further development of a national asylum and reception system in line with EU standards.

The sixth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in October 2023 confirmed that Serbia has taken actions identified in the fifth Report, but has to continue its efforts in view of full alignment to EU visa policies, has to swiftly finalise the negotiations of the Frontex Status Agreement and to fully implement the third country nationals provision of the EU-Serbia Readmission Agreement.

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

Key past and upcoming events

17 – 18 June 2021	Commissioner Johansson’s mission to Serbia	Meetings with President Vucic (accompanied by Minister of European Integration Joksimović) and Minister of Interior Vulin.
14 December 2021	Intergovernmental Conference	
25 January 2022	EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Council	
9 – 10 March 2022	EU-Serbia Subcommittee for Justice, Freedom and Security	
7 April 2022	Meeting on the implementation of the Joint action Plan on Counter Terrorism, Belgrade	
22 November 2022	Commissioner Johansson’s meeting with EU Integration Minister Tanja Mišćević	Discussion about Serbia’s progress on migration management (visa alignment, border management, asylum and reception, return and readmission, the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings), and the fight against organized crime and corruption.
24 November 2022	9 th EU-Serbia Joint Readmission Committee meeting, Belgrade	
6 December 2022	Mission DDG HOME to discuss the WB AP	Discussion and commitments taken by the Serbian authorities for the implementation of the Western Balkans Action Plan, especially on visa alignment and on the new Frontex Status Agreement
24/01/2023	Commissioner Johansson’s meeting with Deputy First Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dačić	Discussion about Serbia’s progress on the Western Balkans’ Action Plan on Migration.

16/03/2023	Commissioner Johansson's visit to Serbia	Discussion about the EU Action Plan, visit of Frontex deployment at the HU border
29-30/03/2023	EU-Serbia Subcommittee for Justice, Freedom and Security	
4 April 2023	Meeting with Serbian authorities on the implementation of the third countries nationals clause of the Readmission Agreement	
12 June 2023	Status Agreement for deployment of EBCG Standing Corps	First negotiation
30 November 2023	Technical meeting on the readmission of third country nationals under the EU-Serbia Readmission Agreement	Meeting with Serbia and Slovakia on practical solutions for the readmission of third country nationals
11 September 2023	Commissioner Johansson's meeting with EU Integration Minister Tanja Mišević	Discussion about migration management, Frontex Status Agreement, returns, visa alignment, draft amendments to the law on citizenship
25 October 2023	Commissioner Johansson's meeting with Prime Minister Ana Brnabić	Discussion about Frontex Status Agreement, visa policy alignment and state of play on passports for Kosovo Serbs
6-7 February 2024	Mission of DDG HOME to follow-up on the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans	
Q1 2024 (tbc)	10 th EU-Serbia Joint Readmission Committee meeting	
12-13 March 2024	EU-Serbia Justice Freedom and Security Sub Committee	

KOSOVO

Kosovo formally agreed an association with the EU by signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement which entered into force in 2015. Kosovo is a potential candidate. In 2018, the Commission confirmed that Kosovo had fulfilled all outstanding visa liberalisation benchmarks. On 18 December 2022, CZ PCY and EP reached an agreement on visa free travel for Kosovo*. The final vote in EP took place on 18 April. The visa free regime for Kosovo passport holders entered into force on 1 January 2024. Kosovo has Working Arrangements with EBCGA (Frontex) since 2016, Europol (2020), CEPOL (2017) and EMCDDA (2020). Kosovo has a Joint Roadmap with EUAA in place since March 2022.

Key past and upcoming events

9 – 10 June 2021	5th EU - Kosovo Sub-Committee Meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security	
7 December 2021	5th EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Council	
22 - 23 June 2022	6th EU - Kosovo Sub-Committee Meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security	
5 May 2022	Meeting on the implementation of the Joint action Plan on Counter Terrorism, Pristina	
13 May 2022	Visit of Minister of Internal Affairs of Kosovo, Xhelal Sveçla to Brussels to discuss visa liberalisation	Meetings with DG NEAR and HOME; VTC with Commissioner Johansson on 23 May.
22-23 June 2022	EU-Kosovo Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security	
3 November 2022	Commissioner Johansson's meeting with Minister of Internal Affairs of Kosovo, Xhelal Sveçla, in the margins of the Tirana Ministerial	Migration management, security, visa liberalization.
14-15 March 2023	Visit of DDG HOME to discuss the WB Action Plan	Commitments taken by the Kosovo authorities to implement the Action Plan
21-22/06/2023	EU-Kosovo Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security	POSTPONED
16 November 2023	COM proposal to grant visa free travel to holders of passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate	
18 April 2023	Final vote in EP on COM proposal to grant visa free travel to Kosovo passport holders	
1 January 2024	Entry into force of visa free regime for Kosovo passport holders	

TÜRKIYE

In 2008 the Council adopted a revised Accession Partnership with Türkiye. On 16 December 2013 the EU and Türkiye signed a readmission agreement and launched a visa liberalisation dialogue. The Commission adopted the first report on the implementation of the Visa liberalisation roadmap on 20 October 2014. Türkiye continued to develop its administrative capacity to implement the re-admission agreement, which entered into force for Turkish nationals in October 2014. Regarding the readmission of third country nationals, the relevant provisions entered into force on 1 June 2016. Nevertheless, so far the Turkish Council of Ministers has not taken the decisions authorising the application of these provisions.

The meeting of Heads of State or Government with Türkiye on 29 November 2015 activated the Joint Action Plan on Migration in order to step up cooperation for the support of Syrian refugees under temporary protection and their host communities in Türkiye and to strengthen cooperation to prevent irregular migration flows to the EU. A comprehensive cooperation based on shared responsibility, mutual commitments and delivery between the European Union and Türkiye was agreed within the framework of the 18 March 2016 EU- Turkey Statement.

In response to the call from EU Member States for significant additional funding to support refugees in Türkiye, the Commission established on 24 November 2015 the Facility for Refugees in Türkiye. The Facility is a mechanism that coordinates the mobilisation of resources made available under both the EU budget, and additional contributions from Member States integrated into the EU budget as external assigned revenue. Contributions amount to a total of EUR 6 billion, with EUR 3 billion committed for the years 2016-2017 and a further EUR 3 billion committed for 2018-2019. Both tranches combined, all operational funds have been committed and contracted, with just over to EUR 5 billion disbursed. In 2020 an additional EUR 535 million were committed to ensure the continuation of two flagship Facility interventions (basic needs and access to education). This comes on top of the Facility's EUR 6 billion. In June 2021, the European Council confirmed its commitment to continue supporting refugees and host communities in Türkiye. The Commission is finalising the preparation of the 2021-2023 EUR 3 billion package to be financed by the EU budget. 1 billion EUR was already allocated in 2021 (of which 325 million will be provided for the continuation of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), 530 million EUR to education, and 30 million EUR to the improvement of migration management), and in 2022, another EUR 1 235 million were committed in the priority areas of basic needs and socio-economic support (EUR 634 million), as well as border management (EUR 220 million). The balance of this package was being programmed in 2023 (barring the adoption of a EUR 14.4 million Support Measure, to be adopted in early 2024), going towards the areas of health (EUR 210 million), as well as post-earthquake support in the areas of socio-economic support and infrastructure services (EUR 240 million), and health and education infrastructure (EUR 115.6 million).. Overall, the new 2021-2023 funding package is intended to gradually move away from humanitarian assistance to long-term livelihood support and gradual disengagement, pending the final restoration of national ownership.

Following the June 2021 European Council Conclusions, a High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Security took place on 12 October 2021 in Ankara. On 25 November 2021, a High-Level Dialogue on Counterterrorism at senior officials' level took place in Brussels, facilitating a discussion on security threats related to irregular migration, specifically in relation to the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and the enduring migratory pressures, alongside the financing of terrorist activities through human smuggling and trafficking in human beings operations.

The continued implementation of the 18 March 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, which reduces irregular and dangerous crossings and saves lives in the Aegean Sea, plays a key role in ensuring that the migration challenge is addressed effectively and jointly by the EU and Türkiye, is in the interest of both sides and remains crucial with a view to saving lives and preventing irregular migration to the EU.

On 23 November 2023, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson and the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Türkiye Ali Yerlikaya met in Brussels for the second Türkiye-EU High Level Dialogue on Migration and Security. They exchanged views on their respective policies and actions related to the prevention of irregular migration and discussed common approaches on a number of issues, including border security and the fight against migrant smuggling. They also looked at how to enhance the cooperation of their respective migration and law enforcement Agencies. Parties agreed to meet at the level of technical and senior officials regularly to review the progress on cooperation on

the shared interests in the fields of migration and security.

*Following the devastating earthquakes on 6 February 2023, the European Commission and the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU co-hosted an **International Donors' Conference for the earthquake-affected populations of Türkiye and Syria, for which the EU pledged EUR 1 billion for Türkiye.** Negotiations are ongoing with the Turkish authorities to provide humanitarian and development assistance to refugees and host communities in the affected regions. As part of this pledge, the Commission mobilised **EUR 355.6 million of the refugee package** (originally planned for socio-economic support and social cohesion) to support refugees and host communities in the earthquake affected regions as well as further humanitarian assistance of over **EUR 100 million.***

Key past and upcoming events

15 March 2019	54 th Meeting of the EU-Turkey Association Council	
15 April 2019	Commission's third annual report on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey	
17 May 2019	12 th FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	
3 October 2019	Joint Visit of Commissioner Avramopoulos and DE Mol to Turkey	
5 December 2019	Joint Visit of VP Schinas and Commissioner Johansson to Turkey	
9 December 2019	13 ^d FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	
9 March 2020	EU-Turkey Leaders' Meeting (Brussels)	President Von Der Leyen and President Michel met President Erdogan
30 April 2020	Commission's fourth annual report on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey	
6-7 July 2020	HRVP Borrell meeting with Turkish FM Cavusoglu	
5 November 2020	14 th FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	
21 January 2021	Turkish Foreign Minister Cavusoglu's Visit	Met with President von der Leyen, HR/VP Borrell, VP Schinas, Commissioner Johansson
6 April 2021	Joint Visit of President Von Der Leyen and President Michel to President Erdogan in Ankara	
7 May 2021	Visit of Commissioner Johansson in Ankara	Commissioner Johansson held meetings with Vice-President Fuat Oktay, Minister of Interior Sul-eyman Soylu, and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.
25 June 2021	European Council	EU leaders confirming commitment to continue supporting refugees and host communities in Turkey.
22 August 2021	PEC phone call with President Erdogan	Focused on Afghanistan
6-7 September 2021	Visit of Commissioner Varhelyi to Turkey	Meetings with FM Cavusoglu, Mol Soylu, Presid. Advisor Kalin
12 October 2021	EU-Turkey High Level Dialogue on Migration and Security	Co-chaired by Commissioner Johansson and Minister of Interior Soylu

27-29 October 2021	Visit of DFM Kaymakci to Brussels	Meetings with NEAR, HOME, EEAS
18-20 November 2021	Visit of VP Schinas to Türkiye - focus on the migration situation in Belarus	VP Schinas met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Cavusoglu and Minister of Interior Soylu
25 November 2021	EU-TK CT Dialogue at senior official level (Brussels)	Last one held in 2017
1-3 December 2021	Visit of Commissioner Lenarcic to Türkiye	
17 December 2021	16th Steering Committee Meeting on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey	
24-26 January 2022	Acting-Director General Popowski's visit to Türkiye	
1 February 2022	Follow-up meeting to EU-Turkey High Level Dialogue on Migration and Security (VC)	
17 March 2022	Meeting between Commissioner Johansson and Faruk Kaymakci, Deputy Foreign Minister of Türkiye	
7 April 2022	Mission of DG Monique Pariat to Ankara	Meetings with DFM Faruk Kaymakci and Deputy Interior Minister Muhterem Ince
25-26 April 2022	EU-Turkey subcommittee meeting on customs, taxation, drug trafficking and money laundering (VTC)	Migration issues discussed
18 May 2022	Commissioner Johansson meeting Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs	Meeting in the margins of the IMRF in New York
31 May 2022	DDG Popowski meeting with Deputy Minister of Interior Catakli	
23 June 2022	17th FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	A TR delegation led by Deputy Interior Minister Catakli participated in part of the meeting.
6 July 2022	Visit of Deputy Foreign Minister Kaymakci in Brussels	
13 September	DDG Popowski (online) meeting with Deputy Interior Minister Catakli	
26-28 October 2022	Commissioner Varhelyi visit to Istanbul and Van (TR-Iran border)	
8 December 2022	18th FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	

20 March 2023	Donors Conference: People in Türkiye and Syria	Support to the 2 countries (including refugees) in the aftermath of the February 2023 earthquake.
27-28 April 2023	EU-Türkiye subcommittee meeting on customs, taxation, drug trafficking and money laundering (VTC)	Migration issues discussed
5 July 2023	19 th FRiT Steering Committee Meeting	
6-7 September 2023	Commissioner Varhelyi visit to Türkiye	Meeting with Turkish authorities following the elections (including migration).
23 November 2023	EU-Türkiye High Level Dialogue on Migration and Security	Chaired by Commissioner Ylva Johansson and Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya

D. ASIAN COUNTRIES

CHINA

The EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership came into force in 2003. China signed an Approved Destination Status Agreement in 2004, facilitating the entry of Chinese tourists into EU Member States and including provisions on readmission. Formal negotiation of an EU readmission agreement, based on 2002 negotiating directives, has not started yet. Negotiation of a PCA, including an article on readmission and visa cooperation, started in 2007.

At the 14th EU-China Summit in February 2012 both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of facilitating mobility for Chinese and EU citizens, and strengthen cooperation on illegal immigration, as well as to pay special attention to the question of mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports. At the 16th EU-China Summit (20-21 November 2013), shared commitments were taken to reinforce the objectives in the 2020 Agenda. Following that, a Roadmap, which consists of a two-stage approach, was finalised during the 2nd meeting of the EU-China Migration and Mobility Dialogue (Beijing, 9 April 2015). The first stage of the Roadmap, which comprises the signature of the EU-China short stay visa waiver for holders of diplomatic passports, the permission for EU Member States to open Visa Application Centres in 15 Chinese cities and the first Expert meeting held in Beijing on 5 November 2015, is considered finalised. The implementation of the 2nd phase of the roadmap is currently on-going. It involves parallel negotiations on: A visa facilitation agreement (VFA) covering holders of other types of passports (including ordinary passports). This also includes discussions on China allowing EU Member States to open further Visa Application Centres (VACs) in additional Chinese cities; and an agreement on cooperation in combating illegal migration (CIMA – including provisions on readmission in line with the EU mandate).

Key past and upcoming events

9 April 2019	EU-China Summit	China committed “to actively engage in the EU-China Mobility and Migration Dialogue (MDD) and to swiftly conclude the parallel negotiations on the agreements on visa facilitation and on cooperation in combating illegal migration.” The EU has invited China to indicate dates for the 5 th meeting of the MDD, but there has been no concrete reply by the CN side yet.
28 May 2019	Third round of negotiations on EU-China Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illegal Migration (CIMA) in Brussels	For the first time, China accepted to discuss concrete procedures on readmission and did not question the structure of the draft submitted in October 2018 after the second round of negotiations.
3 July 2019	Comments from China on draft Visa Facilitation Agreement	
26-27 November 2020	Technical meeting on immigration systems (webinar): policies and regulations	
10-11 December 2020	Seminar on cross-country cooperation to fight transnational organized crime: experiences of investigation, prosecution and conviction of trafficking in human beings' cases	
11 May 2021 and 2 July 2021	Trainings for EU-Embassies in China on identification of victims of trafficking	

16 December 2021	Virtual seminar on EU and Chinese return management	
1 April 2022	EU-China Summit (VTC)	
8 July 2022	2nd EU-China Dialogue on Drugs	
Fall 2022 (tbc)	Training for Chinese officials on anti-document fraud	
10 February 2023	Meeting between HOME DDG Luchner and the Chinese Ambassador in Brussels	Discuss relaunching dialogue on migration and mobility, follow-up article 25a Visa Code
30 November or 1 December 2023	2 nd EU-China Dialogue on Drugs	
Q1 2024	Virtual workshop readmission management	

INDIA

The EU-India Co-operation Agreement entered into force in 1994. In 2004 the EU and India established a Strategic Partnership. The EU-India Joint Action Plan was agreed in 2005 at the Summit in The Hague and revised in 2008 at the eighth EU-India Summit in Marseille. This plan aims to promote among others people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges. After the first EU-India migration dialogue meeting held in 2006, the December 2010 EU-India Summit emphasised the importance of movement of people, and agreed to deepen cooperation by establishing a regular, comprehensive and structured dialogue on migration issues.

The 2012 EU-India Summit discussed possible ways to facilitate mobility – a recurring Indian request in parallel with preventing and combating irregular migration. A Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) was signed and subsequently endorsed at the 2016 EU-India Summit. CAMM implementation is referred to in the EU-India Agenda for Action-2020, also endorsed at 2016 Summit as well as in the EU-India Roadmap 2025, endorsed at the 2020 EU-India Summit. The EU-India Leaders' Meeting in Porto on 8 May 2021 confirmed the commitment for close and comprehensive cooperation from both sides on all pillars of the CAMM and the continued engagement under the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility. A project implemented by ILO and ICMPD supported the CAMM/HLDMM from 2017 to 2022; a second phase was launched in October 2023. India continues to express a high level of interest in strengthening cooperation with the EU on legal migration and labour mobility.

Indian citizens enjoyed visa freedom to Serbia until the end of 2022, and used this route (especially via Belgrade Airport) to enter the EU irregularly. Throughout 2022, thousands of Indian citizens filed asylum applications in the EU (mainly in Austria). At EU level, there are currently no plans to engage in any new discussions on formal visa facilitation agreements with third countries, but the Government of India is increasingly requesting facilitations for students and businesspersons due to lengthy visa processing delays at MS consulates in India. NB: India concluded bilateral agreements on migration and mobility with France, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Denmark and Italy. Further, BENELUX and EL confirmed being in active negotiations with India on similar texts, and discussion are ongoing also with FI, CY and SE. Most EU Member States already grant visa-free access to Indian diplomats, notable exceptions being the Benelux countries.

Key past and upcoming events

9-11 July 2019	EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM), India, New Delhi and side meetings with Ministry of Interior, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC).	Discussions on possible parallel negotiations on a visa waiver agreement for diplomatic passport holders and a readmission agreement between India and the EU.
9-11 July 2019	2 nd Project Advisory Committee of the CAMM/HLDMM support project & Migration governance seminar	
2 July 2020	3 rd Project Advisory Committee of the CAMM/HLDMM support projects	
15 July 2020	EU-India Summit	Adoption of Joint Statement and 2025 Roadmap
8 May 2021	EU-India Leaders Meeting	Adoption of Connectivity Partnership (including a section on people-to-people connectivity focused on students and researchers)
10 June 2021	1 st virtual seminar on Irregular Migration	

24 June 2021	4th Project Advisory Committee of the CAMM/HLDMM support project	
24 February 2022	Closing event of the CAMM/HLDMM support project	
14 June 2022	Technical workshop on irregular migration	Facilitated by the former project implementing partners as an ad-hoc event
27 October 2022	EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility, Brussels	Announcement by the COM of preparations for the 2 nd phase of the migration and mobility project with India under Global Gateway.
20 October 2023	EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility + launch of the 2 nd phase of the CAMM/HLDMM support project, New Delhi	
Q2 2024 (tbc)	Virtual workshop on readmission management	
Q2/Q3 2024 (tbc)	EU-India Summit	
Q4 2024 (tbc)	EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility, Brussels	

BANGLADESH

The EU-Bangladesh Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Return of Persons without an Authorisation to Stay (SOPs) was signed on 20 September 2017. To support capacity to implement the SOPs, DG HOME started in July 2018 a project under the Readmission Capacity Building Facility (RCBF, EUR 4.8 million) aiming at developing a Returnee Case Management System (RCMS) in Bangladesh and deploying an AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) to enable search by fingerprints in the copy of the Machine-Readable Passport database owned by the Special Branch Police. The pilot phase was launched on 9 November 2020. Six Joint Working Groups on the implementation of the SOPs with Bangladesh have taken place to date. The sustainable reintegration of returnees is supported through the PROTTASHA II project, which aims to facilitate *orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed policies.*

Bangladesh has been providing assistance with the support of the EU, international community and humanitarian and development organisations to the Rohingya refugees, who fled violence in Myanmar in 2017.

During her visit to Dhaka in November 2022, Commissioner Johansson discussed strengthening cooperation on all aspects of migration management with the Bangladeshi authorities and both sides reaffirmed their commitment to countering irregular migration and migrant smuggling and continuing enhanced cooperation on return and reintegration of Bangladeshi nationals.

As outlined in the Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU published on 27 April 2022, the Commission has started assessing the feasibility of launching a Talent Partnership with Bangladesh, as one of the key components of a reinforced migration management cooperation with this country. During Commissioner Johansson visit to Bangladesh in November 2022, it was agreed that an informal migration and mobility dialogue would be launched with Bangladesh and the Talent Partnership would be a component. 7 JWG have taken place.

Key past and upcoming events

5 April 2019	3 rd EU- Bangladesh Joint Working Group on the Standard Operation Procedures for return, Brussels	
17 October 2019	EU-Bangladesh Sub-group on Human Rights and Good Governance (including a point on Rohingya), Dhaka	
20 October 2019	EU-Bangladesh Sub-group on Development (including points on migration and forced displacement)	
21 October 2019	EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission (including points on migration and Rohingya situation), Dhaka	
16 January 2020	4 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the implementation of the SOPs, Dhaka	
21 June 2021	5 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the implementation of the SOPs, VTC	
26 October 2021	EU-Bangladesh Diplomatic Consultations (VTC)	
10 March 2022	6 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the Implementation of the SOPs, VTC	

19 May 2022	Bilateral meeting between Commissioner Johansson and State Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Alam	Meeting in the margins of the IMRF in New York
20 May 2022	10th EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission (and subgroups on Trade, Development and Human Rights and Good Governance)	Foreseen discussion on return cooperation
10 – 11 November 2022	Visit of Commissioner Johansson	Foreseen discussions on enhanced cooperation on migration management, on progress in readmission, Talent Partnership and countering migrant smuggling
1 March 2023	7 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the Implementation of the SOPs, Dhaka	
1-2 March	First meeting of the Migration Dialogue back-to-back with the Joint Working Group on the implementation of the SOPs on return of irregular migrants	Discussions on readmission, operationalisation of a Talent Partnership, countering migrant smuggling, and trafficking in human beings.
2 May 2023	Visit of MD Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, to Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Johansson with to discuss migration and broader geopolitical issues
1 st Semester 2024 TBC	Diplomatic consultations	
1 st semester 2024 TBC	EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission (and subgroups on Trade, Development and Human Rights and Good Governance)	Possibly joined with negotiations of the partnership and cooperation agreement
1 December 2023	Meeting of co-chairs of the JWG + Technical meeting on the EU-Bangladesh RCMS in Brussels as a follow up to the JWG	
5 March 2024 (TBC)	8 th EU-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for the Implementation of the SOPs, Brussels	
6 March 2024 (TBC)	2 nd Informal Migration and Mobility Dialogue, Brussels	

PAKISTAN

Pakistan is a major country of origin, transit and destination of refugees and migrants. Under the Strategic Engagement Plan of 2019, Pakistan and the EU have been working towards launching a comprehensive EU-Pakistan Migration Dialogue. Following the visit of Commissioner Johansson to Pakistan on 13-14 November 2022, the first meeting of the Informal Migration and Mobility Dialogue took place on 15 March in Islamabad. The Dialogue was organised back-to-back with the 14th Joint Readmission Committee, a regular annual meeting focusing on the implementation of the EU-Pakistan Readmission Agreement, as well as with the Talent Partnership roundtable. Next series of those meetings is planned take place in spring 2024 in Brussels. These meetings are complemented by interactions at regional level through the Budapest Process. as well as bilateral meetings at technical level with Pakistani partners by representatives of EU institutions but also from EU Member States. The full and effective implementation of the Readmission Agreement remains a priority. Ensuring protection space in Pakistan and support for Afghan refugees and host communities in the country, addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, reducing further arrivals of irregular migrants, strengthening migration governance, border management, countering migrant smuggling and opportunities for legal migration through talent partnerships (a major interest of Pakistan) are areas to continue to be addressed. To note, that Pakistan reacted very positively to the call to action on a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling sending and was represented (as the only country from Asia) at Foreign Minister level at the conference in Brussels on 28 November 2023.

At the same time, migration-related cooperation with Pakistan cannot be isolated from the regional dimension of Afghan displacement and cooperation with Afghanistan and Iran. Since October 2023, Pakistan has aggravated the situation of displaced Afghans by launching a major operation against illegal migrants targeting primarily Afghan nationals within an “Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan”. Till the end of January 2023 some 0,5 mln Afghans crossed the border back to Afghanistan. Even if these returns are labelled in the majority of the cases as “voluntary”, UN agencies report that most of the people interviewed testify experiencing harassment, detention or being otherwise incited to leave Pakistan. According to UNHCR 99% of the problems were experienced on the Pakistani side of the border. Border crossing statistics show a decrease in these returns since mid-December, after a spike in November. It is to be seen if numbers will increase again after the elections (February 2024) and Ramadan (March - April 2024). In line with EU Council Conclusions on Afghanistan from September 2021 and March 2023, the EU has mobilized substantial assistance to help returnees on the Afghanistan side of the border [see the table on Afghanistan]. The EU has also actively reached out to Pakistani authorities directly and called publically on Pakistan to suspend the execution of the so called Plan. It has made also clear in all communications that the assistance mobilized is not meant to help implement the Pakistani Plan but only to provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced returnees.

As outlined in the Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU published on 27 April 2022, the Commission started assessing the feasibility of launching a Talent Partnership with Pakistan as one of the key components of a reinforced migration management cooperation with this country. Work towards the development of a Talent Partnership with Pakistan is advancing, through regular discussions at the technical level and ahead of the next Talent Partnership roundtable, planned for spring 2024.

An Action Plan on Pakistan was elaborated and discussed in the respective EMWP meetings in June and July 2022. The subsequent discussions about the Action Plan on Pakistan continued in 2023.

Key past and upcoming events

20 March 2019	EU-Pakistan Political Dialogue, Brussels	
26 March 2019	EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, Islamabad	
15 November 2019	EU-Pakistan Joint Commission	Including a point on migration and mobility

28 January 2020	11 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee and high-level mission (DG HOME DDG meeting various migration-related counterparts)	
8 October 2020	EU-Pakistan Political Dialogue	Including point on migration (return and readmission) and implementation of Readmission Case Management System
3 November 2020	EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, Islamabad	Including point on migration (return and readmission, Pact on Migration and Asylum)
24 February 2021	12 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee, VTC	
16 June 2021	EU-Pakistan Joint Commission	Included a point on migration and mobility.
3 December 2021	EU-Pakistan Political Dialogue	Included a point on migration and mobility.
7 December 2021	EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue	Included a point on migration and mobility.
27 June 2022	13 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
5 October 2022	EU-Pakistan Joint Commission	Included a point on migration and mobility
13-14 November 2022	Visit of Commissioner Johansson	Discussions on enhanced cooperation on migration management, including an agreement to launch the Migration Dialogue in Q1 2023, on progress in readmission, Talent Partnership and countering migrant smuggling
29 November 2022	EU-Pakistan Political Dialogue	Included a point on migration and mobility.
15 March 2023	14 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee, Islamabad	
15-16 March 2023	First meeting of the Migration and Mobility Dialogue back-to-back with the 14 th Joint Readmission Committee and Talent Partnership roundtable, Islamabad	Discussions on readmission (within the JRC); operationalisation of a Talent Partnership; countering migrant smuggling, international protection of Afghan refugees and trafficking in human beings
31 May – 1 June 2023	Consular Workshop on cooperation with Pakistan on readmission, Berlin	
12 June 2023	Visit of Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, to Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Johansson to discuss migration and security issues
23 June 2023	EU-Pakistan Joint Commission	A point on migration and mobility on the agenda.
4 July 2023	Technical Workshop on operational cooperation on readmission with Pakistan, Warsaw	
26 July 2023	HOME/MOVE meeting with the Pakistani civil aviation authority and Federal Investigation Agency	

September 2023	Commissioner Johansson met Minister for Foreign Affairs on the margins of UNGA	
27 November 2023	Bilateral meeting between Commissioner Johansson and Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani, Caretaker Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan	Bilateral took place in the margins of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling, to discuss migration and security issues, incl. cooperation with Pakistan on tackling migrant smuggling
April/May 2024 (TBC)	15 th EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
April/May 2024 (TBC)	Second meeting of the Migration and Mobility Dialogue back-to-back with the 15 th Joint Readmission Committee and Talent Partnership roundtable, Brussels	

AFGHANISTAN

Since 2016, the EU has been engaged with Afghanistan in a constructive dialogue on migration and forced displacement, with the aim to build a long-term partnership in this area in a spirit of solidarity. This balanced and comprehensive cooperation on migration was reflected in the Joint Way Forward (JWF) and its successor arrangement entitled 'Joint Declaration on Migration Cooperation (JDMC-signed on 26 April 2021) which built on the JWF and consolidated the already very good EU-Afghan cooperation on migration governance by adapting it to the migratory situation in 2021. These documents had been instrumental in allowing Afghans residing irregularly in the EU to return in a safe, dignified and orderly way, and in reintegrating them in Afghanistan. Since the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August 2021, this arrangement is on hold. While any decision on returns is the competence of EU Member States within the limits imposed by EU law, carrying out returns remains effectively impossible, in the current circumstances where human rights in Afghanistan are systematically abused.

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

1. Safe evacuation and passage of EU nationals from Afghanistan, as well as of those Afghans and their families who have worked for the EU and for its Member States;
2. Ensure safe and legal pathways for Afghans in need of immediate protection, with a strong gender dimension. Building on the Resettlement Forum of July 2021, Commissioner Johannsson repeatedly called on EU Member States to step up their engagement on resettlement, increase their quotas and consider other complementary pathways to ensure the highest possible number of legal admissions of Afghan refugees, notably women and children.
3. On 7 October 2021, Commissioner Johannsson and High Representative Vice-President Josep Borrell convened a High-level Forum on providing protection to Afghans at risk dedicated to taking stock of the EU Member States' intentions as regards providing protection to the various categories of people at risk in Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries. In addition, a specific, multi-annual Support Scheme for Afghans was announced with the aim to combine short-term measures, notably evacuations/safe passage, and more medium- and long-term measures, including resettlement from neighbouring countries (based on referrals from UNHCR, e.g. from Iran and Pakistan), humanitarian admissions, and other complementary pathways (family reunification and pathways linked to study or work). For 2022, Member States committed 38,000 pledges for humanitarian admissions (as of November 2022, 41 000 humanitarian admission arrivals of Afghan nationals were reported) and 1,111 for resettlement. Furthermore, 13 000 places for Afghans at risk in 2023 were pledged by 16 Member States. Under the current EU resettlement and humanitarian admission scheme for 2024-2025, 8 Member States made specific pledges for Afghans. In total, MS pledged 29 310 places, of which 2 910 for resettlement (9% of total resettlement pledge) and 26 400 for humanitarian admission.
4. Continue supporting the neighbouring countries to Afghanistan and countries of transit in their efforts to provide protection, safe and dignified reception conditions for displaced Afghans and to support the host communities. Continuation of ongoing EU programmes and strengthening cooperation, including on capacity building for host communities in Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan, as well as other countries in the region, to prevent the unsafe and irregular movements of people, to strengthen border management with the support of Frontex and support protection systems, further reinforce existing programmes on law enforcement cooperation to counter migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings networks, with the support of Europol. In close co-operation with UNHCR and IOM, the new regional Team Europe Initiative has so far generated 1.1 billion euros in indicative financial allocations and aims to support Afghan IDPs and host communities through policy dialogue, protection (including social inclusion and sustainable reintegration), provision of basic services, job creation and access to the labour market.

5. *The Regional Team Europe Initiative on the Afghan displacement situation put forward by the Commission is the EU's response to the Afghan regional displacement crisis. It links to the Support Platform for the Solution Strategy for Afghan refugees SSAR project run by UNHCR , and covers Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Central Asian countries. In full compliance with the Council Conclusions of 21 September 2021 and March 2023, EU and Member States support protection, improve livelihood conditions and provide durable solutions for displaced Afghans and their host communities. The TEI also supports better migration management and fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, thus contributing to the operationalization of the external dimension of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in countries of primary relevance for the EU. The Regional TEI gathers humanitarian and development actors from EU Services (DG INTPA as well as ECHO and HOME) and 12 EU Member States.*
6. *Enhanced political outreach and dialogue and further strengthening the international community's response on Afghan displacement is also carried out through the Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solution Strategy for Afghan refugees (SSAR). The EU has used its lead role as chair of this Group in this respect in 2021 and 2022, followed in 2023 by Qatar and the Netherlands as the Chair and co-Chair. To note, that - since October 2023 - the EU has been also actively engaged in providing assistance to Afghans returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan in the framework of the Pakistani "Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan" [see the table on Pakistan for more details]. DG ECHO mobilised EUR 61 million to assist the returnees (EUR 60 million directed to the Afghan side of the border and EUR 1 million to assist on the Pakistani side of the border).*

Key past and upcoming events

8 May 2019	6 th Meeting of the EU – Afghanistan Joint Working Group under the JWF on migration	
14 May 2019	2nd EU – Afghanistan Joint Committee, Kabul	
9 May 2019	2nd meeting of the Special Working Group on Human Rights, Good Governance and Migration, Kabul	
6 December 2019	7 th Meeting of the EU – Afghanistan Joint Working Group under the JWF on migration, Brussels	
17 – 18 February 2020	International Conference on 40 years of hosting Afghan refugees in Pakistan , Islamabad	
11 November 2020	8th meeting of the EU - Afghanistan Joint Working Group under the Joint Way Forward (JWF) on migration issues	
23 -24 November 2020	Ministerial Pledging Conference on Afghanistan	
24 February 2021	Special Working Group meeting on Human Rights, Good Governance and Migration	
14-18 March 2022	EU Special Envoy Niklasson mission to Islamabad and Kabul	
24 March 2022	Third Global Core Group Meeting of the SSAR Support Platform	
8-12 May 2022	EU Special Envoy Niklasson second mission to Kabul since the Taliban takeover and Islamabad	
14-15 September 2022	DMD Paola Pampaloni joined mission with INTPA in framework of EU's SSAR chairmanship to Pakistan	

02-06 October 2022	EU Special Envoy Niklasson third mission to Kabul since the Taliban takeover	
27 October 2022	The 9th Expert Platform on Afghanistan (EUAA) focusing on the involvement of selected civil society organisations in the identification of long-term solutions for Afghans	
13 December 2022	The 10 th Expert Platform on Afghanistan (EUAA) focusing on security screening, identity checks and travel documents	
27 October 2023	Meeting of the Regional Team Europe Initiative on the Afghan Displacement Situation	
5 December 2023	EUAA Expert Platform on Safe Pathways for Afghans focusing on integration practices & housing support for Afghan refugees Brussels	

IRAN

In February 2019, the Council adopted the text of the Framework for a Comprehensive Dialogue Between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union on Migration and Refugee Issues, i.e. the terms for reference for a migration dialogue. The document was endorsed during the EU-Iran High Level Dialogue of December 2020 (not yet signed). The EU side has repeatedly approached the Iranian side, and also at a high level, with the proposal of holding the first meeting of the dialogue to be held at senior official level, however up till now, the dialogue has not been launched. Given the wider political context, it seems unlikely that the Dialogue would be launched in a foreseeable future.

Key past and upcoming events

8 December 2020	High-Level Dialogue with Iran – endorsement of Dialogue on Migration and Refugees Issues, agreement to start discussions at technical level while awaiting political launch.	
October 2021	Visit of EEAS delegation to Tehran	Possibility of launching the first technical meeting under the Dialogue on Migration and Refugee issues brought up.
30 March 2021	EEAS/HOME discussion with Iranian Ambassador in Brussels	Formal invite of an Iranian delegation to Brussels to hold technical discussions under the Dialogue on Migration and Refugee issues.
14 October 2021	Visit of EEAS DSG Mora to Tehran	Expressed the willingness of EEAS and HOME to organise a first working meeting at senior level.
26 March 2022	Visit of EEAS DSG Mora to Tehran	Insisted on the importance of having a technical discussion on migration
25 June 2022	Visit of the HRVP to Tehran	Raised the importance of having a technical discussion on migration and related issues in Brussels, under the agreed Terms of Reference of the migration dialogue

IRAQ

Four meetings under the informal Migration Dialogue took place in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 respectively, discussions comprised irregular migration and return, migration governance and migration and development. The 2022 meeting of the informal dialogue could not take place due to general elections and a political deadlock in the government formation process. The 19 March 2023 EU-Iraq Cooperation Council emphasized that while not losing sight of the need to (re)-commit to the general reform path in Iraq and to address the root causes of fragility in a holistic manner, concrete steps on returns were necessary ahead of the June 2023 JHA Council.

While the readmission of own nationals is included as a legally binding obligation in the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (art. 105) in force since 1 August 2018, cooperation on non-voluntary returns remains unsatisfactory.

Iraq is one of the countries for which restrictive measures were proposed by the Commission, in July 2021, following the first report under Art. 25a of the Visa Code. The Council, however, decided not to proceed with the proposal at the time. Discussions are ongoing with Iraq on returns, including non-voluntary, through regular meetings with the Iraqi authorities at the political and technical level on concrete steps to improve readmission cooperation, as well as a coordinated joint demarche conducted in Baghdad on 6 May 2023.

This intense engagement culminated in a meeting called by foreign minister Hussein on 23 May 2023, during which he announced a new policy on return and readmission based on the acceptance of all types of returns, and a firm commitment to cooperate and deliver tangible results. A promising shift in approach of the Iraqi government which, however, needs to be put into practice by concrete and consistent results.

Key past and upcoming events

27 March 2019	3 rd meeting of Informal Migration Dialogue	
8 September 2020	Sub-committee meeting on Human Rights and Democracy under the PCA.	
17 September 2020	Visit of Iraqi Foreign Minister in Brussels/meeting HRVP	Intention to hold the next iteration of the informal Migration Dialogue was confirmed
15 February 2021	4th meeting of the informal Migration Dialogue	
17 June 2021	Meeting of the EU Delegation with Iraqi Prime Minister to deliver a letter addressed to three migration-related ministers and co-signed by HRVP and the EU Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs focusing on Iraqi lack of cooperation on non-voluntary returns.	
21 June 2021	Iraqi Foreign Minister took part in FAC	
30 June 2021	Iraqi Prime Minister met PCOM in Brussels	
30 July 2021	Meeting with the newly established Iraqi National Committee on Migration, headed by DFM Khairallah.	Iraq agreed to revert in writing with an outline of their proposals on return and readmission on which basis further exchanges could take place.

6-7 September 2021	Visit to Iraq by HR/VP Borrell	On readmission and returns, Iraq verbally reconfirmed willingness to extend non-voluntary return to some other categories. Measures taken to restrict arrivals of irregular migrants into Belarus, such as flights suspension in place until mid-September.
24 September 2021	Iraqi Foreign Minister replies to a June Letter of HRVP and Commissioner Johansson	Openness to work on migration including returns, however, forced returns not approached.
27 October 2021	Iraqi Foreign Minister follow up letter to his September letter addressed to HRVP and Csr Johansson.	Reiterates openness to work on migration including returns, providing more details on proposed measures however, forced returns are not addressed.
15 November 2021	VP Schinas' visit to Iraq	Talks focused on the situation at the Belarus border. Non-voluntary returns brought up also in relation to the process under article 25a of the Visa Code. Reiteration of commitment to solve the BY situation.
29 November 2021	Visit of DFM Khai-rallah to Brussels	The DFM met with an EU delegation led by DG HOME (DDG Luchner). Discussions focused on the current situation at the EU/Belarus external border, the Visa Code article 25a process and ways to improve cooperation on voluntary and non-voluntary returns of Iraqi citizens.
20 January 2022	Visit of Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister to Brussels	To discuss cooperation on migration and esp. returns in the context of the BY situation and in general
10 March 2022	Visit of DFM and the National Committee on Migration to Brussels	Discussion on returns, including non-voluntary continued. The Iraqi caretaker government showed openness but was unable to engage in official written confirmation.
10 May 2022	Meetings of Iraqi Foreign Minister Hussein with HRVP and Commissioner Johansson	Discussion on current situation and returns. Iraq stress the Iraqi Airways ban that they see as a major irritant.
17-19 May 2022	HOME/EEAS/INTPA mission to Bagdad and Erbil	EU delegation led by DG HOME (DDG Luchner) to continue discussions on cooperation on migration, mainly concrete steps to improve cooperation on voluntary and non-voluntary returns of Iraqi citizens.

19 March 2023	EU-Iraq Cooperation Council (Brussels)	Discussion to also include migration, including readmission cooperation.
Q1 2023-Q1 2024	Regular coordination meetings on the migration file hosted at the Iraqi embassy (Brussels)	DG HOME, EEAS and Presidency level attendance
06 May, 2023	EU demarche delivered on cooperation on return and readmission (Baghdad)	The demarche was delivered in the presence of Mr Mohammed Bahr al-Uloom, Deputy Foreign Minister. Attendance: AT - BG - CZ - DE - EL – ES – HU - FI - FR - IT - NL -RO - SE. Norway was invited as Schengen country.
15 June, 2023	HRVP Borrell's meeting with FM Hussein at the margins of the VII. Syria Conference	HRVP thanked the Government of Iraq for the proactive cooperation on the migration file

E. EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

ARMENIA

EU relations with Armenia are currently governed by the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed in November 2017, which entered into force on 1 March 2021 (substantial parts of it had been provisionally applied already since 1 June 2018).

The EU-Armenia Mobility Partnership was signed on 27 October 2011. The first EU-Armenia Mobility Partnership High Level Meeting took place in January 2018. The Visa Facilitation Agreement was signed on 17 December 2012 and the Readmission Agreement on 19 April 2013. Both agreements entered into force on 1 January 2014. Both agreements are implemented in a satisfactory manner, the only issue being the high number of unfounded asylum applications. Possible future launch of a visa liberalisation dialogue is currently being explored, as agreed in November FAC 2023. Strengthening border management is another strand of EU's cooperation with Armenia; there is a working arrangement between Frontex and Armenia in place since 2012 and strengthened cooperation is currently being considered. The Administrative Arrangement establishing cooperation between the European Commission and the Migration Service of Armenia in the European Migration Network was finalised (signed) in October 2022.

A Working Arrangement with Europol was signed in 2021 and an international agreement between Armenia and the EU on cooperation with Eurojust should be soon signed.

Key past and upcoming events

August 2020	6 th EU-Armenia Joint Readmission Committee – written exchange	
17 December 2020	EU-Armenia Partnership Council	
28 April 2021	EU-Armenia Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	
27 May 2021	EU-Armenia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
29 June 2021	7 th EU-Armenia Joint Readmission Committee	
28 April 2022	EU-Armenia Partnership Committee	
18 May 2022	EU-Armenia Partnership Council	
14 July 2022	8 th EU-Armenia Joint Readmission Committee	
8 November 2022	12 th EU-Armenia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	The EU and Armenia exchanged on issues related to security (Counter-terrorism, Drug trafficking, Trafficking in human beings, and cybercrime, incl. the cooperation with Europol and CEPOL) and migration (implementation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement and of the Readmission Agreement, asylum statistics).
28 June 2023	EU-Armenia Partnership Committee	
19 October 2023	7 th EU-Armenia Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	
25 October 2023	9 th EU-Armenia Joint Readmission Committee, Yerevan.	
8 January 2024	EU-Armenia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
Q4 2024 (tbc)	10 th EU-Armenia Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels.	

AZERBAIJAN

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

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

Key past and upcoming events

6 November 2019	EU-Azerbaijan Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	
5 March 2020	EU-Azerbaijan JLS Subcommittee, Brussels	
Autumn 2020	EU-Azerbaijan Joint Readmission Committee (written exchange)	
19 November 2020	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Committee	
18 December 2020	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council	
27 April 2021	EU-Azerbaijan Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss, share updates and exchange views on many topics of mutual interest for the EU and Azerbaijan in the home affairs area, such as the implementation of the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements, the migration / asylum / border management situation as well as the recent counter-terrorism / combating organised crime measures.
21 June 2022	EU-Azerbaijan Joint Visa Facilitation Committee	
22 June 2022	EU-Azerbaijan Joint Readmission Committee	
19 July 2022	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council	
23 May 2023	EU-Azerbaijan Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
February 2024 (TBC)	Joint Readmission Committee (TBC)	
Autumn 2024	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council	
Autumn 2024	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Committee	

BELARUS

Belarus is the only country in the Eastern Partnership region that does not have a framework document with the EU. The EU-Belarus Partnership and Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1995, but ratification was frozen in 1997. Negotiations on the EU-Belarus Partnership Priorities (a political document of non-binding nature) started in 2016, however were put on hold in 2020. Following fraudulent elections in 2020 the EU scaled down bilateral relations with Belarus, suspended cooperation with the Belarusian authorities and challenged support to Belarusian democratic forces and civil society (see Conclusions of 12 October 2020).

In 2021, Lithuania, Poland and Latvia experienced an unprecedented increase in irregular border crossings from Belarus, as a result of the Belarusian regime's attempts to incite or acquiesce in irregular border crossings of non-EU nationals into the EU for political purposes. The EU and its Member States strongly condemned this instrumentalisation of migrants and refugees by the Belarusian regime. In 2022, the situation has de-escalated at the external EU borders with Belarus with a significantly lower number of arrivals and prevented crossings. Despite a year-on-year increase recorded in 2023, the level of arrivals and prevented crossings remained well below the peak of the crisis in 2021. The situation however remains complex and unpredictable, and the Commission keeps monitoring the developments.

On 13 October 2016, Belarus and the EU signed a Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership. The kick off meeting took place on 10 November 2017. On 1 July 2020, the EU-Belarus Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force. On 28 June 2021, Belarusian authorities announced its decision to suspend the Readmission Agreement (formally notified on 2 December 2021).

On 9 November 2021, the Council adopted the Commission proposal on the partial suspension of the EU-Belarus Visa Facilitation Agreement. The suspension concerns government officials of Belarus (members of Belarus official delegations; members of Belarus national and regional Governments and Parliaments, Belarus Constitutional Court and Belarus Supreme Court). In line with the latest guidelines, DG HOME has suspended any ongoing or planned bilateral engagement with representatives of Belarus, including at technical/expert level.

Key past and upcoming events

26 March 2019	6 th and final round of negotiations on the visa facilitation and readmission agreements, Brussels	Final texts were agreed between the chief negotiators on 29 March.
24-25 April 2019	7 th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, Minsk	

GEORGIA

The EU – Georgia Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Trade Agreement, (succeeding the PCA of 1999), was signed on 26 June 2014 in Brussels and entered fully into force on 1 July 2016.

The Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Georgia was signed in November 2009. The Readmission and Visa Facilitation Agreements with Georgia entered into force on 1st March 2011. Georgian citizens were granted visa-free travel to the Schengen area on 28 March 2017.

A Working Arrangement between Georgia and CEPOL, replacing the previous Cooperation Agreement, was signed remotely on 22 June 2022.

Cooperation between Georgia and EMCDDA moved to a new stage in September 2022, when the new Working Arrangement and 2022-2024 work programme came into force. Georgia is also a beneficiary of the first bilateral technical project between EMCDDA and Georgia, the EMCDDA4GE, which is focused primarily on knowledge transfer and capacity building in the areas of drug monitoring, reporting, prevention and treatment.

An operational Agreement enabling the exchange of personal data with Europol has been in force since 2017.

A revised working arrangement between Frontex and Georgia was signed on 11 February 2021. In 2021, Georgia became an observer in the European Migration Network.

Georgia was given European perspective on 23 June 2022. Twelve priorities specified in the Commission's opinion on Georgia's membership application have to be addressed as part of the process.

The fifth report adopted in December 2022 concluded that Georgia continued to fulfil the visa liberalisation benchmarks and has taken action to address the Commission's previous recommendations. However, further efforts are needed in aligning visa policy with the EU's list of visa-required third countries and fighting money laundering and organised crime.

On 14 and 15 December 2023, the European Council decided to grant the status of candidate country to Georgia, on the understanding that the 9 steps set out in the Commission's recommendation of November 2023 are taken.

Key past and upcoming events

5 March 2019	EU-Georgia Association Council, Brussels	Bilateral meeting between Commissioner Avramopoulos and Prime Minister of Georgia in the margins of the Association Council to discuss stepping up cooperation, followed by a visit of DG to Georgia (23-24 April 2019).
22 May 2019	JLS Subcommittee with Georgia, Tbilisi	Discussion to identify concrete operational measures to decrease irregular migration and crime-related challenges linked to the travel of Georgian citizens to the EU.
18 June 2019	EU-Georgia Association Committee, Tbilisi	
17 September 2019	9 th EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee, Tbilisi	
1 July 2020	EU-Georgia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	

11 November 2020	10 th EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee (VTC)	
15 December 2020	EU-Georgia Association Committee	
16 March 2021	EU-Georgia Association Council	
15 October 2021	EU-Georgia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
22 October 2021	11 th EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee (VTC)	
24-25 March 2022	EU-Georgia Association Committee	
22-23 June 2022	EU-Georgia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
6 September 2022	EU-Georgia Association Council	
30 November 2022	12 th EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
1 December 2022	EU-Georgia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
18-19 July 2023	EU-Georgia Association Committee	
26 October 2023	13 th EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee, Tbilisi	
20 February 2024	EU-Georgia Association Council	
Q4 2024 (tbc)	14 th EU-Georgia Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
Q4 2024 (tbc)	EU-Georgia Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, (succeeding the PCA of 1994), was signed on 27 June 2014 and fully entered into force on 1 July 2016.

The EU-Moldova Visa Facilitation Agreement and Readmission Agreement entered into force in January 2008. An amended Visa Facilitation Agreement entered into force in July 2013. A Mobility Partnership was signed in June 2008. Moldovan citizens were granted visa-free travel to the Schengen area on 28 April 2014. Moldovan citizens continued to benefit from visa-free travel to the EU and the Schengen Associated Countries. From 28 April 2014 until 31 December 2020, some 2 366 647 Moldovan citizens made almost 9 million trips to the Schengen area under the visa-free regime. The fifth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in December 2022 confirmed that Moldova continues to fulfil the visa liberalisation benchmarks. At the same time, it also identified that further efforts were needed to address the issues of unfounded asylum applications, alignment of Moldova's visa policy with the EU lists of visa-required third countries as well as in the areas of financial fraud, anti-money laundering, the prevention and fight against corruption and organised crime.

Moldova has agreements or arrangements signed with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) since 2005. A Status agreement was signed on 17 March 2022. An operational and strategic cooperation agreement with Europol (2015), and a working arrangement with CEPOL (2012). The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) redirected and scaled up its activities to assist in managing the influx of refugees (with additional EUR 15 million) and support on Solidarity Lanes. Amendment of EUBAM's mandate was signed on 6 June 2022, allowing executive powers for border checks and customs controls, if requested.

In 2021, Moldova became an observer in the European Migration Network.

Moldova was awarded EU candidate status on 23 June 2022.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is having severe spill-over effects on Moldova. Since 24 February 2022, over 870,000 Ukrainian nationals have entered Moldova (via the MD-UA border sector), of which roughly 102 000 have remained. Since March 2023, 36 860 displaced persons from Ukraine have registered for Temporary Protection in the Republic of Moldova, 28 332 are documented under the Temporary Protection regime in Moldova. The EU has been mobilising several strands of assistance since the outbreak of the war (humanitarian, border and migration management, security, energy, trade). In parallel, the programmed assistance is being re-purposed to strengthen Moldova's resilience. Transfers of vulnerable people are also taking place from Moldova to the EU, under the Solidarity Platform, coordinated by the Commission. Since March 2022 Member States, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and Iceland made pledges to welcome 17 870 people transiting Moldova. Out of the pledges made so far, a total of 2 769 persons have been transferred (including 249 by Lithuania on a bilateral basis) to the EU from Moldova, mostly via air (charters and commercial flights), within the agreed workflow in cooperation with UNHCR, IOM and the support of EUAA. In order to support transfers, DG NEAR is running a programme implemented by IOM Moldova entitled "Supporting Protection, Transit, Voluntary and Informed Return and Reintegration of Eastern Partnership Citizens and Third Country Nationals affected by the conflict in Ukraine" with a budget of €15 million for a duration of 36 months (having started retroactively on 24 February 2022).

Key past and upcoming events

30 September 2019	Association Council	
15 October 2019	10 th EU-Moldova Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
14 November 2019	JLS Subcommittee	
24 September 2020	JLS Subcommittee	
19 February 2020	EU-Moldova Association Committee	
18 November 2020	11 th EU-Moldova Joint Readmission Committee	

12 October 2021 (VTC)	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
28 October 2021	EU-Moldova Association Council	
2 – 3 March 2022	Visit of HRVP Borrell and Commissioner Varhelyi to Moldova	
3 March 2022	Visit of Commissioner Lenarcic to Moldova	
4 May 2022	PEC Charles Michel visit to Moldova	
12 May 2022	Visit of Commissioner Johansson to Moldova	
17 June 2022	EU-Moldova Association Committee	
19 October 2022	Human Rights Dialogue	
20 October 2022	EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management: thematic focus of Trafficking in Human Beings	Measures taken to protect persons fleeing the war in Ukraine and for the cooperation with the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator,
20 October 2022	JLS Subcommittee	
10-11 November 2022	PEP Roberta Metsola visit to Moldova	
7 February 2023	EU-Republic of Moldova Association Council	Discuss EU-Moldova relations against the background of Moldova's EU candidate country status, exchange views on global and regional challenges, including the negative impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

UKRAINE

The Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) entered into force in 1998. Negotiations on an EU-Ukraine Association Agreement started in September 2008 and initialled in 2012. Ukraine and the EU parliament simultaneously ratified the economic and political parts of the Association Agreement on 16 September 2014.

The Readmission and Visa Facilitation agreements were concluded in 2008. An amended version of the Visa Facilitation agreement with Ukraine entered into force in July 2013. As of the 11 June 2017, Ukrainian citizens, can travel visa-free to the Schengen area. The fourth report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted in August 2021 confirmed that Ukraine has taken actions identified in the Third Report and the visa liberalisation benchmarks continue to be fulfilled.

The fifth visa suspension mechanism report covered the period up until the end of 2021, and mainly reflected the situation before the start of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Under the exceptional circumstances, the visa-free regime between the EU and Ukraine has allowed to facilitate travel to and from Ukraine, in particular for those Ukrainian nationals who decided not to take up residence in the EU or do not fall under the scope of the temporary protection directive.

The Administrative Arrangement establishing co-operation between the European Commission and the State Migration Service of Ukraine in the European Migration Network was signed on 2 August 2022. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has quickly led to the fastest-growing movement of people in Europe since World War II. The EU is still committed to supporting people fleeing Ukraine, as well as EU Member States and Eastern Partner countries directly affected.

On 4 March 2022, the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive to offer immediate support and protection to the people fleeing the war in Ukraine. On 2 March, the Commission adopted operational guidelines for external border management to facilitate border crossings at the EU-Ukraine borders. temporary protection has been extended until March 2024 temporary. A Solidarity Platform has also been set up and a 10-point Action Plan presented by Commissioner Johansson in order to support various strands of action.

'The mandate of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) has been expanded to provide executive powers to the mission to support the Moldovan border police with border control and strengthen its capacity and human resources, and a new regional action of EUR 15 million, implemented in partnership with IOM, has been adopted to ensure the protection and facilitate the transit, voluntary return and relocation of Ukrainians and third country nationals from Moldova to the EU and to countries of origin.

*The temporary protection is extended until March 2024.
Ukraine was granted candidate status on 23 June 2023.*

Key past and upcoming events

22 March 2019	JHA Subcommittee, Kyiv	
8 July 2019	EU-Ukraine Summit, Kyiv	
6 September 2019	12 th EU-Ukraine Joint Readmission Committee Meeting, Kyiv	
5 November 2019	EU-Ukraine Association Committee	
December 2019 (tbc)	EU-Ukraine Association Council	
1 July 2020	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
6 October 2020	EU-Ukraine Summit, Brussels	
10 November 2020	EU-Ukraine Association Committee	

8 December 2020	EU-Ukraine Association Council-	This was replaced by a call on 8 December and the EU-Ukraine Association Council took place on 11 February 2021
11 February 2021	EU- Ukraine Association Council	
19 May 2021	EU-Ukraine Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
12 October 2021	EU-Ukraine Summit	
18 November 2021	14 th Joint Readmission Committee	
29-30 November 2021	EU-Ukraine Association Committee	
4 May 2022	Meeting between Commissioner Johansson and Ms Olga Stefanishyna, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine (UA DPM)	Discuss the protection of Ukrainians arriving in the EU
5 September 2022	EU-Ukraine Association Council	It reconfirmed the unwavering broad support to Ukraine
3 February 2023	EU-UA Summit	It reconfirmed the unwavering broad support to UA, acknowledged UA's reform progress and strengthened the bilateral relation with a number of initiatives bringing Ukraine closer to the UE
27 April 2023	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
11 May 2023	Visit of Csr Ylva Johansson to Kyiv	Focused on fight against serious crime, involvement of Europol, police cooperation, de-mining, border management, fight against corruption and UA's path to the EU.
3 February 2023	EU-UA Summit	
9-10 March 2023	Justice, Home Affairs Council	
26 April 2023	Human Rights Dialogue	
27 April 2023	Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee	
6 September 2023	EU-UA Health Ministerial	
2 October 2023	Informal EU-UA Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kyiv	
30 November 2023	Association Committee (Trade formation)	
14-15 December 2023	European Council	

F. RUSSIA

The EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) came into force in 1997. Ministerial meetings for Freedom, Security and Justice area were organised regularly until the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula / Ukraine (2014) by Russia. The Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force on 1 June 2007. On 11 April 2011, the Council adopted a mandate for the renegotiation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement. However, further cooperation with Russia in the Home Affairs area was affected by the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula and Russian military destabilisation of eastern Ukraine (2014), which led to the introduction of sanctions against Russia. Meetings at ministerial and senior officials levels and all negotiations on new home affairs agreements, namely on visa liberalisation, upgraded Visa Facilitation Agreement (VFA), and Eurojust (agreement on operational cooperation), have been suspended. The Strategic Agreement signed with Europol in 2003 has also been suspended. Following the Russian full-scale military invasion of Ukraine (24 February 2022), any ongoing or planned bilateral engagement with representatives of Russia has been suspended, including at technical/expert level.

Following the Russian full-scale military aggression against Ukraine, the Commission immediately proposed a partial suspension of the Visa Facilitation Agreement. On 25 February 2022, the Council adopted the Commission proposal, targeting Russian government officials, Russian diplomats and business persons. On 4 April 2022, Russia also partially suspended the EU-Russia Visa Facilitation Agreement, targeting EU diplomats, MS or EU officials, and journalists. On 9 September 2022, the Council adopted a decision to suspend the Visa Facilitation with Russia in full. In addition, on 9 September 2022, the Commission presented the guidelines to support Member States' consulates in handling short-stay visa applications lodged by Russian citizens. The guidelines follow the political agreement reached by Foreign Affairs Ministers at their informal meeting of 31 August on a common and coordinated way forward when it comes to visa issuance for Russian citizens and ensure a consistent approach across consulates. On 30 September 2022, following the announcement of a partial mobilisation in Russia and sham referenda in the occupied regions of Ukraine, the Commission adopted the updated guidelines to Member States on visa procedures as well as on border controls for Russian citizens at the EU's external borders. The guidelines call for reinforced security scrutiny when issuing visas to Russians and heightened border controls, while fully respecting EU asylum law. In December 2022, the EP and Council adopted the Decision on the non-acceptance of Russian travel documents issued in the occupied regions of Ukraine and in the breakaway territories of Georgia. The Decision brings legal certainty and ensures a coordinated and uniform approach across the Schengen area when it comes to these passports and the crossing of borders. In November 2023, there has been a significant increase in third country citizens without Schengen visa or residence permit who were allowed by the RU Border Guard Service to cross the Finnish-Russian border. The Finnish government decided to close all the border-crossing points with Russia until 11 February 2024. In the course of 2023, in particular in the summer, there has been an increase of illegal migrants arriving from Russia at the Belarusian-Polish border with Russian tourist and work visas, implying an active involvement of Russia in steering migration crisis.

Key past and upcoming events

21 October 2019	EU-Russia Counter-Terrorism Talks (high-level), Moscow	
22 November 2019	EU-Russia Joint Readmission Committee, Brussels	
4 December 2019	EU-Russia expert dialogue on Drugs, Brussels	
24 November 2020	EU-Russia Drugs Dialogue, Brussels	
24 November 2021	EU-Russia Expert Meeting on Drugs, VTC	

G. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Relations between the EU and the US were formalised in 1990 in the Transatlantic Declaration, and further developed in the New Transatlantic Agenda which outlined a new framework for cooperation including a number of areas for joint action. An EU-US Joint Statement endorsed by the EU-US JHA Ministerial Troika in October 2009 (the so-called "Washington Statement") sets out common values and foundations of EU-US cooperation in the JHA area until 2014 and includes a commitment to enhance both political and operational cooperation in various JHA issues. In 2015, the framework of the EU –US cooperation for 2014-2020 was further developed in the "**Renewed EU-U.S. Statement on Enhancing transatlantic cooperation in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security**".*

Further to this commitment cooperation has been developed on migration and asylum issues in the context of the EU-US Cooperation Platform on Migration and Refugee issues, launched in 2010. Activities included areas such as unaccompanied minors, biometrics, refugee resettlement, trafficking in human beings and development of capacity building for migration management in third countries and contribution of the Diaspora to the development of countries of origin of migration. The dialogue was not continued under the Trump administration And restarted again in November 2021 with a meeting dedicated to Afghanistan. Issues related to border management and visas are also discussed in the regular EU-US Justice and Home Affairs Senior Officials and Ministerial meetings.

Key past and upcoming events

27-28 February 2019	EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting, Bucharest, Romania	Topics covered counterterrorism, cybersecurity, border management (including visa reciprocity) and migration (combatting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings).
19 June 2019	EU-US JHA Ministerial, Bucharest, Romania	Topics covered: counterterrorism, information exchange, cybersecurity, borders, visas and migration (including updates by the EU on EBCGA and ETIAS)).
26 September 2019	EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting SOM, Brussels, Belgium	Topics discussed included visa reciprocity (US are in the process of assessing Member States' replies to their questionnaire, progress expected to be achieved quickly), counterterrorism, cyber- security, aviation security, resilience of electoral systems, hybrid threats, cross-border access to evidence
10-11 December 2019	EU-US JHA Ministerial, Washington D.C, USA	The agenda included mostly security related issues and visa reciprocity. It was decided to launch a transatlantic exchange of experiences on violent extremism
28 May 2020	VTC - EU-US JHA	A VTC focused on Covid-19 related developments in the EU and US (including travel restrictions). EU and US informed about each other's measures and confirmed the willingness to continue the information exchange.

15 September 2020	VTC - EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting	While the most salient points of the discussion covered PNR and data protection, US informed that Croatia was close to meet the US Visa Waiver Requirements. Both sides explained their different travel restrictions related to COVID-19.
14-15 April 2021	VTC - EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting	The agenda included mostly security related issues, but also covered migration. EU and US expressed interest to reengage on migration and in this context to explore possible issues of mutual interest.
22 June 2021	EU-US JHA Ministerial, Lisbon	Agenda included EU and US migratory situation and the Principals confirmed their agreement to pursue a transatlantic migration dialogue. Possible issues to discuss could include protection of those in need, community sponsorships, integration, legal pathways, partnerships with countries of transit and origin, readmission, and tackling smuggling of migrants.
9 July 2021	High Level Resettlement Forum	Event organised by Commissioner Johansson. The US and Canada were invited at ministerial level.
27 August – 2 September 2021	Visit of Commissioner Johansson to the United States	
20 September 2021, Slovenia	EU-US Justice and Home Affairs' Senior Officials' meeting	The US announced publicly its decision to move away from the current travel ban and to open the air borders to all vaccinated passengers from the EU+ as of "early November".

29 November 2021	EU-US Platform on Migration and Asylum	The discussion focused on Afghanistan, resettlement and possible coordinated approach, as well as explore other avenues for future cooperation, one of the examples being smuggling of migrants.
16 December 2021, Washington D.C	EU – US JHA Ministerial meeting	Discussions centred on cyber-crime, child sexual abuse, ransomware, Artificial Intelligence, environmental crime, Afghanistan, violent extremism and PNR. The next SOM is scheduled for 5 April 2022 and JHA Ministerial Meeting for 24 June 2022.
5 April 2022	EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine.
7 June 2022	EU-US Platform on Migration	Focus on Ukraine and support to persons fleeing the war, forward looking discussion
23 June 2022	EU – US JHA Ministerial Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine.
6-7 October 2022	EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine.
15 December 2022	EU – US JHA Ministerial Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine.
5-6 16-17 March 2023 (Stockholm)	EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine.
20-21 June 2023 (Stockholm)	EU – US JHA Ministerial Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine.
5-6 October 2023 (Madrid)	EU - US JHA Senior Officials Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine. May also cover other migration issues
13-14 November 2023 (DC)	EU – US JHA Ministerial Meeting	Discussions included respective responses to the war in Ukraine, including support to those fleeing Ukraine. May also cover other migration issues

Part 2- The regional processes

A. THE PRAGUE PROCESS

The Prague Process is a framework for dialogue and cooperation between the EU and its Member States, the non-EU Schengen States and 19 partner countries to the East (Russia, Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asian countries, Western Balkan countries, Turkey).

The work is based on the Joint Ministerial Declaration (Prague 2009) and the Action Plan 2012-2016, adopted at the second Ministerial Conference of the Prague Process (Poznan, 2011) and the subsequent Ministerial Declaration of 2016 (covering the period 2017-2021).

Key past and upcoming events

5-7 March 2019	Study visit to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of Germany, Nuremberg	
10-11 June 2019	Senior Officials Meeting, Bucharest	
15 May 2020	Webinar “The impact of the Corona-crisis on migration”	
2 July 2020	Webinar “Maximizing labour migration outcomes in the Prague Process corridors: Practices on how to benchmark countries of destination in June 2020”	
24 September 2020	Webinar “EU Framework for Legal Migration: Lessons learned and main challenges”	
16 November 2020	Senior Officials Meeting, VTC	Pass on Presidency from Lithuania to Czech Republic and Work Plan for 2021 were discussed
28 January 2021	Webinar: “Migration Outlook for 2021: From COVID-19 to the EU’s Pact on Migration and Asylum”	
04 March 2021 15 April 2021	Webinar: Frontex Role and Capacity on Return Webinar: ‘Which Perspectives for Labour Migration Partnerships in the Prague Process region? Lessons from EU funded Pilot Projects on Legal Migration’	
6 May 2021	Webinar “Social Capital and Transnational Human Smuggling: What is the impact of Counter-Smuggling Policies?”	
11 May 2021	Webinar/thematic consultations: Preventing and fighting illegal migration + Promoting readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration	The first (out of 3 planned) of thematic consultations on the roadmap towards 4th Prague Process Ministerial Conference planned for the

		second half of 2022
25 May 2021	Webinar/thematic consultations: Legal migration with a special emphasis on labour migration + Making migration and mobility positive forces for development	The 2 nd (out of 3 planned) of thematic consultations on the roadmap towards 4th Prague Process Ministerial Conference planned for the second half of 2022
10 June 2021	Webinar/thematic consultations: Asylum/international protection + Integration of legally residing migrants in host societies	The 3 rd (out of 3 planned) of thematic consultations on the roadmap towards 4th Prague Process Ministerial Conference planned for the second half of 2022
24 June 2021	Webinar: 'Reporting Migration: the role of media in shaping public opinion and policies on migration'	
22 November 2021	Annual Prague Process SOM	
12-13 May 2022, Vienna	Senior Officials Meeting, Vienna	Draft Ministerial Declaration and an Action Plan for 2023-2027 to be presented
24-25 October 2022	Ministerial Conference	Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan for 2023-2027 were endorsed.
26 January 2023	Policy Talk 'Looking into 2023: What migration dynamics and policy developments to expect'	
27-28 April 2023	Senior Officials' Meeting, Lisbon	The SOM endorsed the proposed way forward for the partial implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan 2023-2027, which shall be operationalised via the ' <i>Comprehensive Action Plan Support</i> ' initiative (CAPS).
25 May 2023	Panel Discussion 'Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its implications for migration in the Prague Process region'	
22 June 2023	Webinar 'Capacity Development in the Prague Process region: The important work of the Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX+) Initiative'	

B. THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PLATFORMS AND PANEL ON MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM)

The Eastern Partnership is the framework for cooperation between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The latest Joint Declaration was adopted at the Eastern Partnership Brussels Summit of December 2021. The leaders committed to enhancing their cooperation on the basis of the EaP policy beyond 2020. The five long-term objectives of the EaP policy beyond 2020 emphasise recovery, resilience and reform as key building blocks of the future agenda. The long-term objectives are: (i) developing resilient, sustainable and integrated economies, (ii) ensuring accountable institutions, the rule of law and security, (iii) developing environmental and climate resilience, (iv) delivering a resilient digital transformation, (v) creating resilient, gender-equal, fair and inclusive societies.

Key past and upcoming events

13-14 June 2019	Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (IBM), Minsk	Theme: Information exchange on IBM, different modalities of continued EU support, including border control, integrated system of green border surveillance
12 November 2019	Eastern Partnership Platform 4 „Mobility and People-to-people contacts”	State of play of current cooperation, and jointly brainstorm on the future agenda beyond 2020
17 December 2019	Eastern Partnership Platform 1 „Strengthening institutions and good governance	The future of the Eastern Partnership
March 2020-cancelled, new date tbc	Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (IBM)	Labour Migration
20 October 2020	Eastern Partnership Panel on Rule of Law	Post 2020 Deliverables
24 November 2020	Eastern Partnership Platform 1 Strengthening institutions and Good Governance	Priorities beyond 2020
27 November 2020	Eastern Partnership Platform 4 Mobility and people-to-people contacts	Priorities beyond 2020
15 December 2021	Eastern Partnership Summit	

C. THE BUDAPEST PROCESS

The Budapest Process was initiated in 1991 as a consultative forum, currently containing more than 50 governments and 10 international organisations, aiming at developing comprehensive and sustainable systems for orderly migration. Within the Budapest Process, a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration was established at the Ministerial Conference held in Istanbul on 19 April 2013. The Istanbul Declaration sets out the main objectives and activities of the countries along this migratory route. This Dialogue is instrumental to reinforce cooperation at regional level with priority Silk Route countries, with which the EU engages on migration through various bilateral frameworks.

Key past and upcoming events

19-20 February 2019	SOM and Budapest Process Ministerial Conference, Istanbul Turkey	Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration "the Istanbul commitments and Action plan its Call to Action. 6 EUMS did not take part in the Declaration but expressed ongoing support to the process
9-10 October 2019	Joint Working Group Meeting with all three regional working groups (Silk Routes, Black Sea and Southeast Europe), North Macedonia	Working Group Meeting to discuss regional and thematic priorities to be included in the implementation plan of the „Call for Action”
4-5 December 2019	Annual Senior Officials Meeting, Turkey	Approval of the implementation plan of the „Call for Action”
3-4 March 2020	Expert meeting on return and reintegration	
14 May 2020	Virtual group discussion on labour migration in the Covid19 Pandemic	
30 June 2020	Virtual group discussion on irregular migration in the COVID-19 pandemic	
30 September 2020	Virtual group discussion on migration narratives	
3-4 November 2020	Virtual thematic Meeting on Labour Migration	
12 November 2020	Virtual Group Discussion with the South East European Region Working Group	
2-3 December 2020	Senior Officials Meeting	
24 March 2021	Webinar on Understanding and Explaining Attitudes to Migration in the Silk Routes	
5 May 2021	Webinar on Migration as a Response to Environmental Change	
1 – 2 June 2021	Thematic Meeting on dismantling of smuggling networks: international cooperation and investigations.	
13 June 2021	First meeting of the Reference Group	
13 July 2021	Second meeting of the Reference Group	
28 September 2021	Third meeting of the Reference Group	
13 October 2021	Webinar on “the Situation in Afghanistan - Implications for the Silk Routes region and what comes next?”	

14 October 2021	Joint meeting of the South East Europe and the Silk Routes Region Working Groups	
8 November 2021	Thematic Meeting on Promoting a Rights-Based Approach for Vulnerable Groups on the Move	
2 December 2021	SOM	
25-26 April 2022	Closing Conference for the 'Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes' project & Fourth Reference Group Meeting, Istanbul	
19-20 May 2022	Joint meeting of the South-East Europe and Silk Route Region Working Groups	To explore possibilities for expanding cooperation between the two regions on asylum, returns & reintegration, fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.
26 – 27 June 2022	Budapest Process Thematic Meeting on Return & Reintegration	
20 October 2022	Budapest Process Conference on Trafficking in Persons	
1 December 2022	Senior Officials Meeting	A broad agreement reached on so called Chairmanship's proposals for the future of the Budapest Process Dialogue and on organizing the next Ministerial Meeting end 2024/early 2025
4 May 2023	3rd Meeting of Community of Law Enforcement Practitioners (COLEP)	
31 May 2023	Thematic Working Group meeting on Return and Reintegration	
31 May 2023	Sixth meeting of the Reference Group	
21 November 2023	Seventh meeting of the Reference Group	
4 December 2023	Eight meeting of the Reference Group	
5 December 2023	Senior Officials Meeting	The SOM initiated a discussion on the new Ministerial Declaration and its Action Plan, which is to be endorsed at the next Ministerial Conference of the BP in late 2024. This year's SOM marked 30 years since the start of the BP and 10 years since the start of the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration.

D. THE AFRICA-EU MIGRATION AND MOBILITY DIALOGUE

The Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue is the framework for dialogue and cooperation on migration issues between the EU and all African States. It was launched at the second EU-Africa Summit in December 2007 in Lisbon.

Key past and upcoming events

21/22 January 2019	1 st EU-AU Ministerial Meeting, Brussels	While not a specific agenda point, migration was part of the Joint Communique adopted and the discussions.
3 May 2019	Continental Dialogue, Technical meeting between DEVCO and AIR to prepare the AU EU event on Remittances in Nairobi in December 2019	Follow-up meeting to the meeting in November 2018
9-10 December 2019	Technical meeting on Reduction remittances costs in Nairobi hosted by AIR	Bringing together experts on remittances reduction costs.
11 December 2019	High Level Dialogue Meeting, Nairobi	Stocktaking and charting way forward
27 February 2020	College-to-College (C2C) meeting, Addis Ababa	Migration was an agenda point discussed during both the plenary session and a cluster session.
26 October 2021	2 nd AU-EU Foreign Affairs Minister meeting (Ministerial), Kigali/Rwanda	Migration was part of the Joint Communique adopted and the joint press release.
28 November 2022	EU-AU Commission-to-Commission (C2C) meeting, Brussels	
17-18 February 2022	6th EU-AU Summit, Brussels	
28 November 2022	11th EU-AU Commission to Commission meeting, Brussels.	Migration and mobility was discussed as part of the working session at Commissioner level.
March/April (tbc)	3 rd EU-AU Ministerial Meeting, Brussels	Migration as part of the draft joint comunique'

E. THE RABAT PROCESS

The Rabat process was launched at the first Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development that took place in July 2006 in Rabat. The process aims to enhance dialogue and cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination along the West African migration route. The fourth ministerial conference was held in Rome in November 2014 where Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan for 2015-17 were adopted. The fifth ministerial conference held in Marrakesh, May 2018, adopted the Marrakesh Programme of Action which aligned the work of the Rabat process with the five themes of the Joint Valletta Action Plan, This dialogue contributes to the implementation of the Valetta Action Plan, adopted at the EU-Africa Summit on Migration on 11-12 November 2015.

Key past and upcoming events

23 January 2019	Steering Committee, Brussels	Prepare the SOM of 12-13 February
11 February 2019	Steering Committee, Ouagadougou	Prepare the SOM of 12-13 February
12-13 February 2019	Senior Officials Meeting, Ouagadougou	Define a work programme for the implementation of the Marrakech Action Plan
3 June 2019	Steering Committee, Brussels	Handover of presidency from Burkina Faso to France
1-2 July 2019	Thematic Meeting on Border Management, Madrid	Exchange of information and good practice among the Rabat Process partners
24 October 2019	Thematic meeting on fight against trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants with emphasis on dismantling of criminal networks (event led and chaired by France and Côte d'Ivoire). A side event is also organised: 'Scenario building exercise on future mixed migration in 2030 in West and North Africa'	This meeting is organised back-to-back with the Niamey Declaration High-Level Conference of 22-23 October 2019 (Organised by France/ Secretariat UNODC). This workshop aims to create synergies between the Rabat Process and the Niamey Declaration signed on 16 March 2018.
5-6 November 2019	Technical Workshop on Diaspora Remittances and Sustainable Development, Abuja	Bring together technical experts, practitioners from the public and private sectors, civil society organisations, as well as policy- and decision makers (Rabat Process partners) to improve Rabat Process partners' technical understanding; promote mutual learning and the exchange of good practices on remittances.
13 November 2019	Steering Committee, Brussels	
18 February 2020	Steering Committee, Brussels	Discussed and finalised Rabat process input to the updating of the Joint Valetta Action Plan
16 September 2020	Webinar - Assessment of anti-trafficking efforts, ECOWAS & Mauritania	Presentation of the findings of the "Assessment of Anti- Trafficking Gaps, Needs and Transferrable Practices in the Member States of ECOWAS and Mauritania".

15 October 2020	Virtual Steering Committee Meeting	
28 October 2020	Virtual meeting with Steering Committee members and reference countries Meeting	
21 January 2021	Webinar on return and reintegration	Updates on main developments and exchange of best practices
19 April 2021	Webinar on International Migration And Development,	Identify practices from European and African countries in terms of elaboration, implementation, monitoring and multi-level governance of migration-development policies and strategies at the local, national or regional level.
20 April 2021	Steering Committee and meeting with reference countries (virtual)	
16 June 2021	<u>Virtual</u> migration scenario-building workshop in collaboration with Mixed Migration Centre	Understanding the Rate of Change in Mixed Migration: The role of technology within migration dynamics
1 July 2021	Rabat Process Steering Committee (virtual)	
7 July and 13-14 October 2021	Virtual roundtable (7 July 2021) and a roundtable/study visit (in Geneva, on 13-14 October) on protection and asylum	Exchange of best practices on protection and asylum
14-15 September 2021	Thematic Meeting on Local Authorities, National Authorities and Migration, Paris.	
29 September 2021	Rabat Process Steering Committee meeting, Brussels	
29 September 2021	<u>Virtual</u> migration scenario-building workshop in collaboration with Mixed Migration Centre	Identification of the future mixed migration certainties and uncertainties in North Africa and West Africa: The drivers of mixed migration
13-14 October 2021	Roundtable and study visit on protection and asylum: risks, assistance and durable solutions, Geneva	Exchange of best practices
27 October 2021	<u>Virtual</u> migration scenario-building workshop in collaboration with Mixed Migration Centre	Identification of blind spots and weak signals and examining their implications for policy responses: Environmental change
17-18 November 2021	Senior Officials' Meeting, Malabo	Handover of the Chairmanship from Equatorial Guinea to Spain
1 December 2021	Scenario-building workshop in collaboration with Mixed Migration Centre: "Mixed Migration Futures: How might the future of work drive migration in 2035? Focus on West and North Africa"	Developing future mixed migration scenarios in North Africa and West Africa.
16-17 December 2021	Thematic meeting on legal migration, online	Exchange of best practices on legal migration.
22 February 2022	Steering Committee meeting, Brussels	

12-13 May 2022	High level thematic event on migration & development, Madrid.	The meeting is hosted by Spain, current chair of the Rabat Process, and co-chaired by Senegal. Partners will explore how development cooperation can better address the root causes of involuntary migration, while capitalising on the positive impact of migration.
5-6 July 2022	High-level thematic meeting on border management	
29-30 September 2022	High-level thematic meeting on legal migration	
19-20 October	Meetings of the CoPil and the SOM in Madrid	Preparation for the Ministerial meeting
3-4 November	High-Level Meeting on remittances, Brussels.	
13-14 December 2022	Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Meeting, Cádiz	A political declaration and an action plan will be adopted.
21 February 2023	Steering Committee, Brussels	
25-26 April 2023	Thematic meeting on voluntary return and reintegration, Yaoundé, Cameroon	
22-23 June 2023	Thematic Meeting on Humanised Border Management, Marrakesh, Morocco	
20-21 September 2023	Thematic Meeting 'Separation of families and missing persons in the context of migration: prevention, tracing and reunification'	
19-20 October 2023	Thematic Meeting 'Migration, Youth and Development'	
31 January – 1 February 2024	Rabat Process Comité de Pilotage, SOM and Special Event on circular migration 'Circular Migration: a cycle of opportunities and skills development'	

F. THE KHARTOUM PROCESS

The Khartoum Process (the EU Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative) is a framework for dialogue and cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination along the migratory route from the Horn of Africa to Europe. It primarily focuses on smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings but includes also other areas of migration management including the root causes of irregular migration, legal migration and mobility, asylum and international protection, fight against irregular migration and smuggling of people, and return and readmission. The Khartoum Process contributes to the implementation of the Joint Valetta Action Plan adopted at the EU-Africa Summit on Migration on 11-12 November 2015.

Key past and upcoming events

6-7 March, 2019	Steering Committee and Senior Officials Meeting, (Asmara)	Eritrea takes over the chairmanship of the Khartoum Process
17 July 2019	Drafting Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards the update of the Joint Valetta Action Plan and • Preparation of the Khartoum Process Multiannual Work Plan 	
24- 25 September 2019	Thematic Meeting on “Legal Frameworks and Policy Development: Optimising the Benefits of Organised Labour Migration”, Cairo	
23-24 October, 2019	Thematic Meeting on Migration for Development: Harnessing the Potential of Diaspora, Asmara	
March 2020	Steering Committee and Senior Officials’ Meeting, The Hague	The Netherlands takes over the chairmanship the Khartoum Process ; update of JVAP discussed
5 March 2020	SOM Meeting, The Hague	
2 July 2020	Khartoum Process Virtual Meeting The impact of COVID-19 on Human Mobility in the Khartoum Process Region and Partners' Responses, VTC	
8 October 2020	Mixed Migration Centre Webinar for Khartoum Process Members on Mixed Migration and the COVID-19 crisis: What’s next for people on the move in the “New Normal”?, VTC	
2 December 2020	Steering Committee Meeting, VTC	
31 March 2021	Trafficking in Human Beings: The 4Ps Revisited. Module 1: Prevention of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation (virtual).	
28 April 2021	Trafficking in Human Beings: The 4Ps Revisited. Module 2: Protection of Victims of Trafficking (virtual)	
26 May 2021	Trafficking in Human Beings: The 4Ps Revisited. Module 3: Prosecution (International cooperation) (virtual)	
30 June 2021	Trafficking in Human Beings: Module 4: Partnership (Public-private partnerships) (virtual)	

21 September 2021	Virtual Roundtable: Return, Reintegration and Integration: Finding Durable Solutions	
29 September 2021	Khartoum Process Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels	
5-7 October 2022	Khartoum Process Thematic Meeting on Climate Change and Migration, Addis Ababa	
24-25 November 2021	Thematic Meeting on Return, Reintegration and Integration: Finding Durable Solutions	
22-23 March 2022	Steering Committee and SOM Meeting, Kampala	Change of the Chairmanship (NL to South Sudan)
5-7 October 2022, Addis Ababa	Thematic Meeting on Climate Change and Migration: Addressing Impacts & Adaptation Strategies for human mobility in the context of climate change	
10 October 2022	Khartoum Process Steering Committee Meeting	Discussion on the possible enlargement of the Steering Committee
22-24 November, Cairo	Thematic Workshop on Innovative Law Enforcement Tools to Tackle Irregular Migration	
15 - 16 March 2023, Berlin.	Khartoum Process Senior Officials' Meeting.	Handover of chairmanship from South Sudan to Germany, governance issues.
4-5 July 2023, Nairobi	Thematic Meeting on Building Resilience and Ensuring the Protection of and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	
7 September 2023, Vienna	Khartoum Process Steering Committee Meeting	Governance of the Khartoum Process
4-5 October 2023, Berlin	Thematic meeting 'Exploring the Potential of mobility in the Context of Climate Change'	
7-8 February 2024, Nairobi	Thematic Workshop on enhancing regional multi-stakeholder partnerships on combatting trafficking in persons	
7-8 February 2024, Nairobi	Thematic Meeting on Building Resilience and Ensuring the Protection of and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	

G. THE ACP-EU MIGRATION DIALOGUE

The ACP-EU Migration Dialogue was launched in June 2010 through a Joint Declaration of the ACP-EU Joint Council. The dialogue is based on Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement. In May 2011, it was decided to further deepen the dialogue, focusing in particular on 4 thematic areas (Visa, remittances, returns and readmission, THB and smuggling of migrants), with the specific aim to strengthen the operational aspects of ACP-EU cooperation on these topics. In 2020, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States became the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACP).

A series of expert meetings took place on a yearly basis. A joint report including recommendations on remittances, visas and readmission was adopted in June 2012 at the ACP-EU Joint Council of Vanuatu. A Joint Visa subgroup meeting, technical workshop on return and readmission and experts' seminar on trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants took place in 2014. The last technical dialogue took place in June 2018.

The Dialogue (and in particular the organisation of the thematic meetings) was supported by the EU- ACP Migration Action, a EUR 10M programme which implemented some of the recommendations. The programme finished in August 2019. A final evaluation was carried out and its outcome was presented to EUMS at the OACP WP of 3 June 2020. The Programme covered three components: 1) Demand- driven provision of technical assistance (requested by OACP countries or by regional institutions); 2) Direct support to NSAs projects improving the conditions of migrants and their families; 3) Collection of good practices and dissemination of results.

Both the EU and the OACP sides expressed concerns about the effectiveness of this Dialogue, particularly on the interaction between the political and the technical level, and saw the negotiations of the Post Cotonou Agreement as an opportunity to revisit the EU-OACP migration dialogue and its implementation. The new Agreement reaffirms the enhanced cooperation on migration and mobility, paying particular attention to circular migration, recognising the positive impacts of migration and mobility on sustainable development and addressing the negative effects of irregular migration on countries of origin, transit and destination. It also contains the legally binding annex on return and readmission process.

Once the new Partnership Agreement, signed by the EU and its Member States with the Members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) in Samoa on 15 November 2023 enters into force, the OACP-EU Development-Migration Dialogue will be replaced by the Partnership Dialogue, the modalities of which still have to be defined. The dialogue on migration and mobility will become part of a wider dialogue, encompassing all policy areas covered by the agreement.

Key past and upcoming events

19-21 February 2019	Regional Thematic Meeting on Remittances, Accra, Ghana	
12-14 March 2019	Regional Thematic Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants, Georgetown, Guyana	
18-20 March 2019	ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Romania	
3-5 April 2019	Regional Thematic Meeting on Visas and Cooperation on Mobility, Port Vila, Vanuatu	
12 April 2019	ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors	Migration was on the agenda

23-24 May 2019	Joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers, Brussels	Exchange on Migration in a comprehensive discussion on the basis of the implementation of the JVAP and the EUTF
11 July 2019	ACP-EU Migration Action – Final Event, Brussels	The ACP-EU Migration Action presented good practices and lessons learned based on the analysis of five years of the Action's implementation
17-21 November 2019	ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Kigali, Rwanda	Migration features in questions from MEPs and COM provided written replies. Migration and Mobility may be addressed during the Plenary, if additional questions arise.
3 and 10 December 2020	ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Brussels, remotely	Migration features in the resolution on reducing the number of unemployed youth in ACP and EU countries.
15 April 2021	Initialling ceremony of the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement.	European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen, together with Robert Dussey, Togolese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chief Negotiator of the OACPS, initialled the negotiated text for a Post-Cotonou agreement.
15 November 2023	46th session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, Samoa.	Signature of the new EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement.

H. THE VALLETTA SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

The Valletta Summit of November 2015 enabled African and EU leaders to establish a frank dialogue and the framework for cooperation on migration including the principles, the language and a comprehensive action plan.

At the Summit it was decided that the existing mechanisms of the Rabat Process, the Khartoum Process and of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy would be used to monitor implementation of the Action plan.

Key past and upcoming events

15 December 2020	Joint Steering Committee of Khartoum and Rabat Process approved update of Joint Valetta Action Plan (JVAP)	
2022 – TBC	Valletta Partners SOM (including approval of update of JVAP)	

I. THE EU-CELAC MIGRATION DIALOGUE

The EU and Latin America and the Caribbean countries (CELAC) Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration was launched in June 2009 following the mandate of the EU- LAC Lima Summit. The EU-CELAC Action Plan, adopted at the 2010 Madrid Summit, called for further developing this Dialogue. This commitment was renewed during the last EU-CELAC Summit held in Brussels in June 2015.

Key past and upcoming events

23-24 January 2019	3 rd EU-CELAC citizen security workshop, Belize	
12-14 June 2019	Regional Workshop on the outflow of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, in Brussels (TAIEX, FPI)	With the participation of 9 LAC countries: COL, ECU, PER, CHI, ARG, BRA, GUY, PAN, Dom. REP.
28-29 October 2019	International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant crisis, Brussels	With participation of European Commission, EEAS, UNHCR, IOM, NGOs
5-6 December 2019	Regional Workshop on the outflow of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, in Bogota (Colombia)	With the participation of 9-10 LAC countries.
25 May 2020	Virtual Donors Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan refugees and migrants in countries in the region, amid the COVID-19 pandemic	Co-hosted by Spain and the EU, supported by UNHCR and IOM. Over 40 countries along with UN Agencies, international financial institutions and representatives of national and international civil society.
14 December 2020	EU – LAC Informal Ministerial Meeting - Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	Joint Communiqué: mentions that migration and population mobility in LAC are increasingly important health determinants and require greater cooperation
10 June 2021	Solidarity Event for forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Central America and Mexico (MIRPS countries), San José (Costa Rica).	Organized by Spain as the Presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform. A total of \$ 110 million were announced in the event by the different participants.
17 June 2021	International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants	The European Commission pledged €147 million, in addition to pledges by EU Member States.
2 December 2021	EU-Latin America & Caribbean Leaders' Meeting	EU leaders agreed to step up cooperation to address the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure a long-term recovery. They referred to the regional Team Europe Initiative on Security and Justice to support bi-regional cooperation on citizen security, organised crime and the rule of law.
2-3 March 2022	Launch of CLASI in Brussels	CLASI (Comité Latino americano de Seguridad Interior following the model of the European COSI) with Latin American Interior Ministers (from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay).
30-31 May 2022	High level meeting between Latin America and the European Union EL PAcCTO, Paris	Exchange between Latin America and EU on security, justice and penitentiary, COSI/CLASI.

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

Part 3 - The global processes

A. GLOBAL FORUM FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The GFMD is an initiative of the UN Member States to address the migration and development nexus in practical and action-oriented ways. It is an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led process.

The process emerged after the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on 14-15 September 2006. The second High-level Dialogue on 3-4 October 2013 confirmed the GFMD as a valuable forum for holding frank and open discussions, which has helped to build trust among participating stakeholders.

The 8th GFMD Summit came immediately after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes migration as a recognised development enabler. During Turkey's Chairmanship, an important feature was the insertion of forced displacement and refugees on the agenda, not the least due to the Syrian refugee crisis.

In order to position the Forum's discussions at the heart of the 21st century priorities, the GFMD 2022-2023 Chairmanship Senegal-France has chosen "the impact of climate change on human mobility" as the main topic.

Key past and upcoming events

18-26 January 2021	13 th GFMD Summit UAE on-line, opening speech by Commissioner Johansson	Theme: The Future of Human Mobility: Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development
18 November 2021	GFMD Friends of the Forum Meeting	Update on the process of internal reform undertaken over the course of 2021 and stocktaking on the GFMD's inputs to the forthcoming International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). Senegal will co-chair the GFMD with France from 1 July 2022 to December 2023. Priorities to be presented in early 2022, key focus will be on climate change and migration.
February 2023, Dakar tbc	Chairmanship Launch event	The event, will address the link between climate change and environmental deterioration on the one hand and migrations and development on the other hand. It is supported by the Platform on Disaster Displacements (PDD).
23-25 January 2024, Geneva	14 th GFMD Summit	End of French Presidency, handed over to Colombia for 2024-2025.

B. UNITED NATIONS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015 recognizes that migration contributes to circular growth and development. It calls on UN Member States to increase international cooperation by facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. In this respect, the EU counts on a long-standing strategic partnership with the UN. In December 2018, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) were adopted by the UN General Assembly. This concluded the intense two-year process launched with the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. Follow-up and review under the Global Compact on Refugees will be conducted through the Global Refugee Forum (held every four years unless otherwise decided); high-level officials' meetings (held every two years between Forums); as well as annual reporting to the United Nations General Assembly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The first Global Refugee Forum took place on 16-18 December 2019. The first High-level Officials Meeting took place on 14-15 December 2021 to take stock of progress and look ahead to the next Global Refugee Forum. UN Member States will review implementation of the GCM through the International Migration Review Forum, to take place every four years beginning in May 2022.

Key past and upcoming events

July 2019	UN General Assembly adopted the modalities for the International Migration Review Forum (Global Compact on Migration)	
11 December 2019	First Annual Meeting of the UN Network on Migration	
17-18 December 2019	First Global Refugee Forum (Global Compact on Refugees)	
12-13 November 2020	First Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the UNECE Region	
1 December 2020	High-level launch of first biennial UN Secretary-General Report "From Promise to Action" on the GCM	UNSG Report on GCM implementation, focusing on key achievements and advancements in GCM implementation mainly among its champion countries. It could not escape the shadow that the COVID-19 pandemic put on its progress. The report present a good snapshot of the achievements of the past two years.
14-15 December 2021	High-level Officials Meeting under the Global Compact on Refugees	Stocktaking on the progress and looking ahead to the next Global Refugee Forum.
17-20 May 2022	1 st International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) New York	Adoption of a Progress Declaration Commissioner Johansson I participated in the Plenary and Roundtable 2.
7 October 2022	EU-IOM SOM	
10 November 2022	EU-UNHCR Strategic Dialogue	

21 November 2023	EU-UNHCR Strategic Dialogue	
13-15 December 2023	Second Global Refugee Forum under the Global Compact on Refugees	Take stock of the implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees, exchange lessons learnt and best practices and formulate pledges for the future.
2 February 2024	Tenth EU-IOM Senior Official Meeting	
11 March 2024	Second Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the UNECE Region	Intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation of the international cooperative framework on safe, orderly and regular migration in the UNECE region, while respecting the voluntary nature of participation, the sovereignty and the different positions of the UNECE Member States.