

Pact on Migration and Asylum



Embedding migration in international partnerships

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A new paradigm based on comprehensive partnerships with countries of origin and transit to the EU is being developed. The Commission has concluded or advanced negotiations for global partnerships with Tunisia, Egypt, and Mauritania, covering issues such as economic cooperation, green energy, digital, cultural exchanges, better migration management, and security.

This new approach embeds migration in international partnerships to prevent irregular departures and loss of life, fight migrant smuggling, reinforce cooperation on readmission and promote legal pathways.

Preventing irregular departures and loss of life



- ✓ Strengthening border management authorities' capacities through training and equipment as well as reinforced cooperation with Frontex.
- ✓ Migration dialogues with priority partner countries, to help them enhance their own migration and asylum policies.
- ✓ Information campaigns on the dangers of unsafe and irregular migration.

Fighting migrant smuggling



- ✓ Dedicated and tailor-made Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships with partner countries, Member States and UN agencies tackle smuggling in key locations. Partnerships are in place with Morocco and Tunisia, and a Regional Operational Partnership is in place with the Western Balkans and Asia.
- ✓ Beyond the Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships, the Commission is working through bilateral and regional operational cooperation against migrant smuggling in Africa and in 2023, the Commission proposed new legislation to strengthen the criminal law framework and to establish a European Centre to Counter Migrant Smuggling. The Commission also launched a Call to Action for a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling.

Cooperation on return and readmission



- ✓ Developing legal migration must also go hand in hand with strengthened cooperation on return and readmission. For return and readmission to function effectively, countries of origin have to cooperate in the identification of their nationals, issue travel documents and accept return operations. Visa policy has provided new tools to promote cooperation in this area.
- ✓ For instance, under Article 25a of the Visa Code, the Commission regularly assesses third countries' cooperation on readmission and reports to the Council suggesting a proportionate response. For the 64 countries with whom the EU has a visa-free regime in place, the visa suspension mechanism is a safeguard against the abuse of visa-free travel that can result in irregular migration.

Promoting legal pathways



- ✓ **Talent partnerships** have been launched with Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Pakistan and Bangladesh. They will allow people from the countries concerned to come work, study, and train in the EU, developing new skills that can benefit later their countries of origin.
- ✓ **EU Talent Pool** launched In November 2023, the Commission proposed to establish an EU Talent Pool, the first EU-wide platform to facilitate international recruitment to sectors facing labour shortages.

