



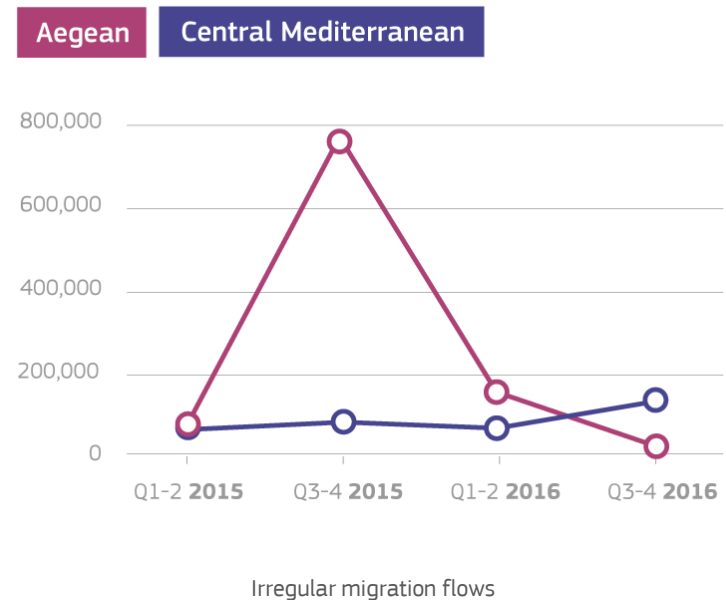
# **Taking action on the Central Mediterranean route**

Managing flows, saving lives

Malta Summit  
3 February 2017

# The Central Mediterranean is now the main access route to Europe

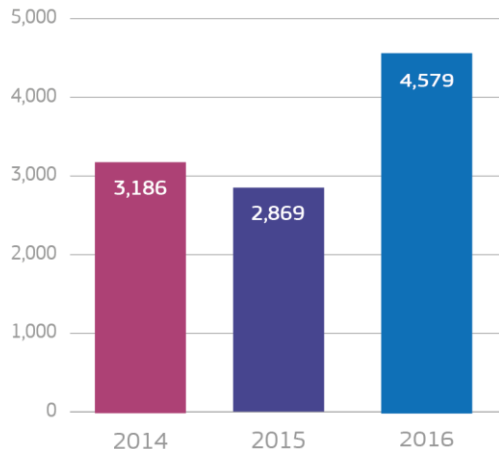
- ➔ Since the **EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016**, illegal border crossings have significantly reduced in the Eastern Mediterranean route
- ➔ **80** average daily arrivals to Greece since August 2016, down from **10,000** in a single day in October 2015 – **a drop of 98%**
- ➔ **However, the Central Mediterranean is now the main point of entry** for irregular migrants to Europe, with **15% increase in crossings** in 2016 (**181,000** people), compared to 2015 (**154,000** people)



# Libya needs our urgent attention



Thousands of people have lost their lives at sea **attempting to cross the Mediterranean**



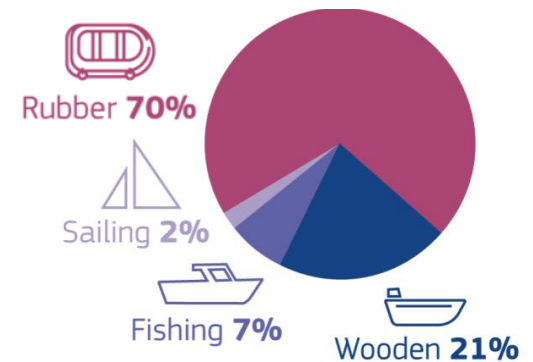
Deaths of migrants in the Central Mediterranean

**Libya** represents the departure point for **90%** of those seeking to travel to Europe via the Central Mediterranean route



Countries of departure for migrants coming to Europe via the Central Mediterranean route

Today, smugglers use **cheap rubber dinghies** instead of bigger boats, which increases the number of deadly incidents



Types of vessels provided by smugglers

# Providing support for the Libyan Coast Guard and breaking the business model of smugglers



**Today, traffickers and smugglers operate in waters close to Libya where EU operations Sophia and Triton cannot operate. Therefore, the EU needs to...**



**Ensure funding for the training** of the Libyan Coast Guard through an immediate release of **€3.2 million in 2017 from the EU budget** and **provide additional patrolling assets**



**Pool intelligence** between Member States, the EU naval operations, Europol, Interpol and partners in the region to **target the supplies of smugglers** and help break their business models



**Ensure** that the **Seahorse Mediterranean Network** is operational by spring 2017, allowing **greater exchange of information** between Member States and the Libyan Coast Guard

# Stemming the migrant flows from Libya



**The Libyan authorities need to improve their capacity to manage the migration crisis. Therefore, the EU needs to...**



**Provide support to Libyan authorities** dealing with migration and help them to **improve the conditions in centres** for migrants



**Step up work with local communities** in coastal areas and in Southern Libya to **promote alternatives to smuggling** and increase opportunities for **migrants' reintegration**



**Support the international organisations** in expanding their **assisted voluntary returns** programme from Libya

# Supporting Libya in managing its Southern border



To reduce migration pressure via the Libyan Southern border, the EU needs to...



**Step up EU support** for migration protection and **border management** in Southern Libya



**Promote border cooperation** and dialogue between Libya and its Southern neighbours, including using the **Africa-Frontex** Intelligence Community



**Deepen cooperation** on migration management with **Egypt, Tunisia** and **Algeria** and strengthen work with **Niger** to stem migration flows to Libya

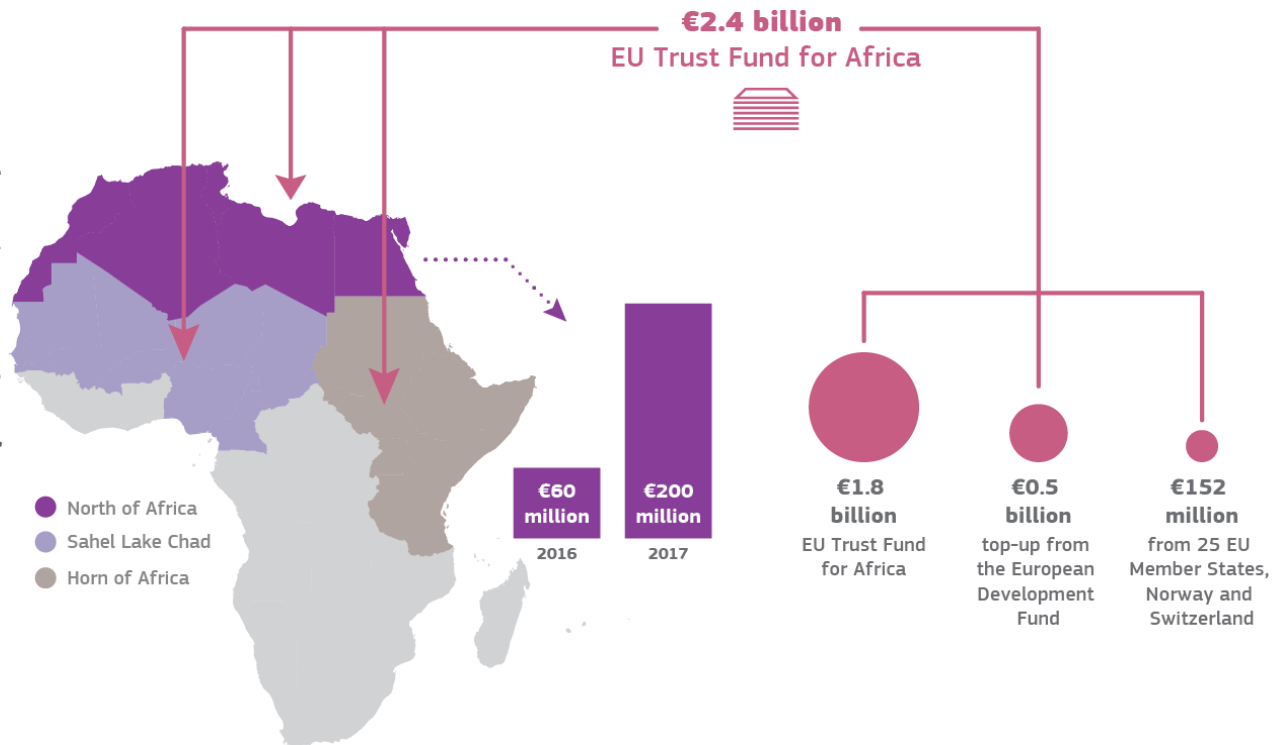
# Mobilising funding for North Africa

Between 2014-2020, the EU will provide **€31 billion official development assistance for Africa**

Set up in 2015, the **EU Trust Fund for Africa** will make available **€2.4 billion** for migration-related projects

In 2017, an **additional €200 million** will be mobilised for the **North of Africa Window** of the **EU Trust Fund for Africa**

The **External Investment Plan** will mobilise up to **€44 billion** of investments in Africa and the Neighbourhood



The Council and the European Council approved the Plan in December 2016. Approval from the European Parliament is still pending.

# Minimising the risk of alternative migration routes developing alongside Libya



**The EU needs to continue support to Tunisia. A lot has already been done:**



Supporting **Tunisian domestic reforms, economic development and democratic transition** by foreseeing up to **€300 million in grants in 2017**



Supporting the mobility of **1,500 students, youth and university staff per year**, until 2020 through Erasmus+



Contributing over **€30 million** on tackling the root causes of migration, border management and internal protection

**But the EU needs to do more:**



**Conclude the readmission agreement**, alongside a visa facilitation agreement



**Reinforce the cooperation** between Tunisia and Member States on returns



Make Tunisia **a pilot country** for the identification and implementation of legal migration schemes and reinforce existing mobility schemes



Fight organised crime, smuggling and trafficking through **better border management**



# European Border and Coast Guard: a lot has been achieved



European Border and Coast Guard brings together national border guard authorities in spirit of shared responsibility - its **Management Board** consists of **one person from each Member State**



**1,550 officers** support Member States at their external borders, complementing the existing **100,000 national border guards** in Member States



## **New tools are being rolled out:**

- ➡ Setting up of the rapid reaction, equipment and return pools
- ➡ Process for identifying vulnerabilities in border management is underway

## **CURRENT DEPLOYMENTS:**



# European Border and Coast Guard: next steps

**February**

Member States to provide the European Border and Coast Guard with the **data on existing capacities**

Member States to pledge to **fill gaps in Rapid Reaction Equipment Pool**

Council to authorise the opening of negotiations with **Serbia** and **FYROM** for **cooperation agreement**

**March**

European Border and Coast Guard to launch **recruitment** procedures for new staff foreseen for 2017

**April**

Poland and European Border and Coast Guard to conclude the **Headquarters Agreement**

European Border and Coast Guard to apply mechanism for emergency threat assessment and ensure **priority process for identifying the most urgent vulnerabilities**

# European Border and Coast Guard's missions to be completed swiftly

## Gaps for Greece

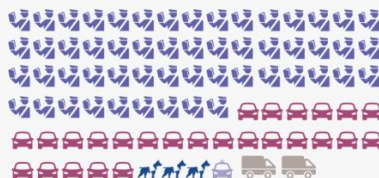
*Joint Operation Poseidon*







-  **4** officers
-  **2** transportation vehicles
-  **1** helicopter

## Gaps for Greece

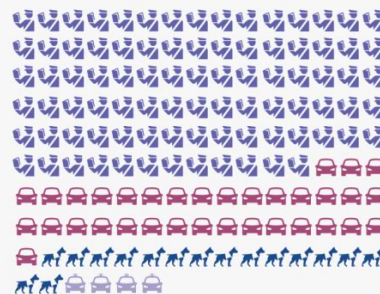
*Joint Operation Flexible Activities at the Northern Greek land boarder*







-  **54** officers
-  **26** patrol cars
-  **3** dog teams
-  **1** thermo-vision vehicle
-  **2** transportation vehicles

## Gaps for Bulgaria

*Joint Operation Flexible Activities and Focal Points*






-  **87** officers
-  **34** patrol cars
-  **16** dog teams
-  **4** thermo-vision vehicles

## Gaps for Italy

*Joint Operation Triton*



-  **27** officers
-  **1** helicopter
-  **1** coastal patrol vessel

Gaps identified for February 2017

Source: European Commission, 1<sup>st</sup> Report on the operationalisation of the European Border and Coast Guard, 25 January 2017