



EU ACTIONS ALONG THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

December 2018

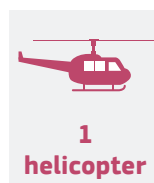
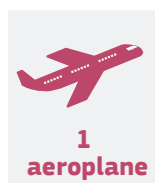
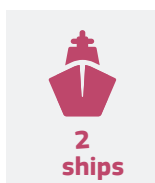
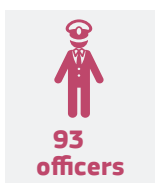
In 2018, a substantial increase of arrivals has been recorded on the Western Mediterranean route, with over 57,000 irregular arrivals. In response, the EU has intensified work, launching a number of new initiatives with partner countries. Along other migratory routes, the European Union has put in a place an integrated approach in its migration policy, taking into account the “whole of the route”. This includes saving and protecting people’s lives at sea, tackling irregular migration, fighting the business of smugglers and traffickers, through close cooperation with partner countries and international organisations, supporting migrants and refugees along the route, as well as creating legal pathways and economic opportunities to offer alternatives to irregular migration. To take cooperation with partners even further, the same integrated approach is now being applied to the **Western Mediterranean** route.



EU ACTION AT SEA

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency supports Spain in controlling its external borders through maritime joint operations along its **southern coasts**: Joint Operations Indalo and Minerva, and in the **Atlantic**, Joint Operation Hera. The officers, vessels and aircraft deployed by the Agency in Spain assist the Spanish authorities with border surveillance, as well as search and rescue.

Currently the European Border and Coast Guard has deployed to Spain:



SUPPORT FOR THE MAGHREB REGION

EU-Morocco partnership



For over 10 years, the European Union has been **Morocco's** strongest partner in terms of technical and financial support on migration. The EU and Morocco concluded in 2013 a **Mobility Partnership Agreement**. Cooperation also takes place through regional dialogues under the **Rabat process** and through the **African Union**.

€ The EU has committed **€107 million** to support Morocco in better managing migration since 2014, and new measures will be adopted by the end of 2018.



Socio-economic integration: Over **2,100 migrants** have received **information and training in job search and entrepreneurship** skills and **370 refugees and migrants** secured funding for their own **entrepreneurship projects**. More than **1,340 minor migrants** have benefited from **schooling** and **600 migrants** (40% female) attended **literacy classes**.



Institutional support and capacity building: The EU has been providing substantial support to Morocco in planning and managing migration policies, including the **National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum** adopted in 2014 to integrate migrants, and to develop sustainable return and reintegration systems. Under the **EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa**, projects worth €10 million are helping to improve **migration management**.



Protection and rights: More than **2,000 minor migrants** received **information on their rights and have access to social services**. Over **7,400** vulnerable female migrants were provided with **social, medical and psychological support**. Projects have been launched to help with **integration**, legal empowerment of migrants and the fight against discrimination .

BORDER MANAGEMENT



The €55 million **Border Management Programme for the Maghreb Region** under the EU Trust Fund is helping national border agencies and related bodies engaged in front-line border management to protect vulnerable migrants, addressing irregular migration, and dismantling cross-border criminal networks involved in human trafficking and migrant smuggling. EU actions will be reinforced with an additional €40 million programme to support Moroccan border management agencies in the coming weeks.

EU-IOM JOINT INITIATIVE FOR MIGRANT PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION



The **EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Africa**, launched in December 2016, continues to support vulnerable migrants with life-saving assistance and support services, such as food or water, medical and psycho-social support, as well as access to information, counselling or family tracing. At the same time, it helps strengthen migrant protection and sustainable reintegration systems. A flexible mechanism, it adapts to the specific needs of the people and the respective country.



Over 5,800 migrants will be assisted in voluntarily returning from Morocco to their homes, where they will receive reintegration support. More than **9,300 people** in **Mali**, over **3,200** in **Ivory Coast**, more than **8,500** in **Guinea** and over **3,500** in **Senegal** and **The Gambia** respectively, received **post-arrival reception and reintegration support**.

Through the Partnership Framework on Migration, the EU has put in place tailor-made cooperation with African partners. The EU and Member States' efforts are being closely coordinated and all relevant EU policies and tools are used to reinforce cooperation, bringing tangible results.



Protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants

In addition to the substantial actions under the EU – IOM Joint Initiative, the EU, together with IOM, helped increase through the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**, Mauritania's capacity to assist stranded and vulnerable migrants through legal, health and reintegration support.



Capacity building

To improve the capacities of governments to develop informed and sustainable migration policies, the EU supports the development of a **coherent and robust civil registry system**, both in **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Senegal**. These efforts aim to improving the management of public policies, the exercise of fundamental rights and economic integration.



Creating opportunities

Employability of youth and vulnerable groups: in **Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania**, as well as at regional level, programmes have been launched to strengthen micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises' capacities, as well as to increase job demand and to provide adequate training. These are pre-requisites for **sustainable employment perspectives**, especially for young people.

91 programmes under the **EU Trust Fund for Africa** are in place in the Sahel and Lake Chad region, worth around **€1.7 billion**. They focus on strengthening **resilience**, improving **economic** and **employment opportunities**, while providing protection for migrants along the routes and enhancing the countries' capacities to fight criminal networks.



Effective return and readmission

The EU is following a cooperative approach with key countries of origin and transit to improve joint work on readmission. With **six new readmission arrangements** have been agreed since 2016, the EU now has 23 readmission agreements and arrangements in place. **European Migration Liaison Officers** have been deployed in third countries, acting as key contacts with national authorities, while third countries' Migration Liaison Officers in EU Member States can help identifying potential returnees. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency increased its capacity to coordinate and organise return operations.

FIGHTING SMUGGLERS AND TRAFFICKERS IN THE COUNTRIES IN THE GULF OF GUINEA



The EU is providing capacity building support, with over **€17,4 million** from the **EU Trust Fund for Africa**, for training and advice to national institutions in **Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin** and **Nigeria** to disrupt smugglers' and traffickers' activities, protect and assist migrants, and further support the judiciary.

In **Senegal**, the EU will assist the Senegalese Government through training and advice on investigation techniques, ensuring that cooperation is strengthened, also at regional level, between police, gendarmerie and the different Ministries involved.

REGIONAL DIALOGUES TO JOINTLY ADDRESS MIGRATION



The **Rabat Process** provides a platform to facilitate exchange and cooperation between partner countries on the migration route in **North, West and Central Africa and Europe**. In May 2018, participating countries reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together to manage migration by adopting the **Marrakech Political Declaration** and Action Plan.

The **Joint Valletta Action Plan**, adopted by European and African leaders in November 2015, has induced more than **1,200 initiatives**, worth over **€11.7 billion**, that address the **root causes** of irregular migration, promote **legal channels**, the **saving and protecting of lives**, the **fight against traffickers and smugglers** and facilitate **return, readmission and reintegration**.