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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>3,186</td>
<td>2,869</td>
<td>4,579</td>
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Countries of departure for migrants coming to Europe via the Central Mediterranean route

- Libya 90%
- Egypt 7%
- Turkey 2%
- Algeria 0.5%
- Tunisia 0.5%

Types of vessels provided by smugglers

- Rubber 70%
- Sailing 2%
- Fishing 7%
- Wooden 21%
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
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 border*
- 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, 1st Report on the operationalisation of the European Border and Coast Guard, 25 January 2017