



European Commission

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE: COMMISSION ACTION PLAN TO SUPPORT ITALY AND STEM MIGRATION FLOWS

JULY 2017

With the situation becoming ever more pressing along the Central Mediterranean Route, the Commission is today setting out a series of measures to be taken by the Commission, Italy and other EU Member States. Building on the solid work of the past two years to save lives at sea and manage the increasing numbers of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean Route, all actors now need to accelerate their efforts in line with the increasing urgency of the situation.



«Neither Italy nor Greece can be left on their own to deal with the migration and refugee crisis. And the Commission will be there to support what I would call the heroic efforts made by Italy to meet this challenge.»

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, Tallinn, 30 June 2017

2017 FACTS

- **85,183** arrivals in Italy
- More than **2,000 lives** lost in the Mediterranean
- Main country of departure: **Libya (95%)**
- Top five nationalities: **Nigeria, Bangladesh, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia**

5 KEY AREAS OF ACTION



Saving lives:

- better coordination and clear rules for all those involved in search and rescue activities
- an enhanced Libyan coast guard able to save lives in Libyan territorial waters
- establishing Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia



Fighting trafficking in Libya:

- assisted returns from Libya and Niger to countries of origin, financed by the EU
- engagement with Niger and Mali to prevent movements to Libya
- opening legal pathways from Libya and Niger to the European Union



Cooperating with partner countries:

- concluding readmission agreements with countries of origin and transit
- using positive and negative leverages, like visa policy, to encourage cooperation



Stepping up returns

- deployment of the EU Border and Coast Guard Agency 'Rapid Return' teams to Italy
- expedited return procedures in Italy
- increased reception and pre-removal detention capacity in Italy



EU Solidarity

- accelerated relocation from Italy to other Member States
- agreement on a future reform of the EU asylum system

ALL ACTORS NEED TO PITCH IN:



THE COMMISSION WILL

- mobilise funding for Italy
- mobilise the EU Agencies for Italy
- work on enhancing the capacity of the Libyan Coast Guard
- launch a new resettlement pledging exercise
- accelerate returns from Libya and Niger
- work with Italy on writing a Code of Conduct for NGOs carrying out search and rescue



OTHER MEMBER STATES SHOULD

- mobilise funding for the EU-Africa Trust Fund
- accelerate relocation from Italy
- help conclude agreements with partner countries in Africa
- agree on the future reform of the Asylum system



ITALY SHOULD

- write a Code of Conduct for NGOs carrying out search and rescue
- improve the relocation procedure in Italy
- increase reception and detention capacity in Italy
- step up returns