

EU ACTION IN LIBYA ON MIGRATION

THE COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEADERS' AGENDA

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The EU is active in Libya and along the Central Mediterranean route to prevent migrants and refugees from embarking on dangerous journeys to and from Libya, put an end to the trafficking and smuggling business and above all protect migrants and refugees in line with international law. This is part of our broader engagement along the Central Mediterranean route, starting in West Africa, where we fight root causes of migration and strive to prevent people from falling into the hands of criminal networks. All our actions are conducted in partnership with UN agencies and international actors active on the ground.

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

In the margins of the EU – African Union Summit, the EU together with the African Union, and United Nations set up a joint **Task Force** to accelerate the programme of the International Organisation for Migration for assisted voluntary returns from Libya to countries of origin and the emergency transit mechanism of the UNHCR, to evacuate people in need of international protection. Leaders also adopted a [Joint Statement on the Migrant Situation in Libya](#).

The EU will **fund an additional 15,000 assisted voluntary returns** and speed up **support for the emergency transit mechanism with at least 1,000 resettlements by February 2018**.

The work on migration is only one part of the EU's broader relations with Libya and support to the stabilisation of the country. This work is based on 3 areas: diplomatic engagement, economic recovery and humanitarian action.

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT, ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The EU is assisting Libya's political transition and is supporting the UN-led mediation efforts, through the UN Special Envoy Ghassan Salamé, to fully implement the Libyan Political Agreement and forge a lasting solution to the political crisis in Libya. The EU is the fourth member of the Libya Quartet which brings together the UN, African Union (AU) and the League of Arab States. The EU will continue to support the Libyan political process and maintain its financial assistance for re-establishing fully functioning effective institutions serving all Libyans.

BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

EU assistance to Libyan people is focused on restoring effective governance and improving socio-economic conditions.

Close to €120 million in bilateral support is in place with 37 projects across six sectors: **civil society; governance; health; youth and education; migration and protection; support to the political process, security and mediation**.

EU support is provided mainly through the [European Neighbourhood Instrument](#) (ENI) and the [Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace](#) (IcSP).

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

The EU has **humanitarian funding worth almost €30 million** in place aimed at helping the most vulnerable conflict-affected Libyans, mainly internally displaced people, through humanitarian organisations, especially in terms of access to emergency health services and essential medicines.

As with all the EU's humanitarian aid, funding will only be provided to humanitarian organisations and is strictly monitored.

EU ACTIONS ON MIGRATION

SAVING LIVES AT SEA AND IN THE DESERT

Over 170,000 migrants have been rescued in the Central Mediterranean since 2015 thanks to the efforts of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia. Through the Common Security and Defence Policy mission in Niger and Mali and the EU Trust Fund for Africa, the EU supports search and rescue missions in the desert: so far over 1,100 migrants have been rescued in the Sahara in Niger this year by Nigerien authorities and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Launched in June 2015 to counter human trafficking and smuggling in the Central Mediterranean, the **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Operation EUNAVFOR Med Sophia** has so far contributed to the apprehension of over 100 suspected smugglers and traffickers and has neutralised close to 500 assets. Operation Sophia also contributes to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2292.

Most lives are lost in Libyan territorial waters, to which EU operations do not have access. For this reason, Operation Sophia, as well as the Italian Coastguard and Operation Seahorse, are also engaged in training the Libyan Navy and Coastguard to enhance their ability to perform search and rescue activities, disrupt smuggling and trafficking activities, and improve the overall security in Libyan territorial waters. The training of Operation Sophia has a strong human rights component and is conducted together with the IOM and the UNHCR. First results are already visible: The IOM has recorded nearly 19,000 migrants having been rescued between January and the end of October 2017 in Libyan territorial waters. Further steps to support better border management are under way, including support for the establishment of a Libyan Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.

The EU is fighting smuggling activities further upstream along the route by providing capacity building, training and advice to local security forces through the civilian CSDP missions in the Sahel, EUCAP Sahel Niger and Mali. In Niger, the EU and Niger set up a Joint Investigation Team to step up the fight against smugglers.

PROTECTING AND HELPING MIGRANTS INSIDE LIBYA

So far, the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa has contributed to the voluntary repatriation of **more than 14,000 vulnerable migrants through the IOM**, supported with reintegration assistance to their countries of origin. The EU will support the acceleration of the International Organisation for Migration's programme for assisted voluntary returns from Libya to countries of origin, funding an additional 15,000 returns by February 2018. As a measure to raise awareness about the dangers of embarking in perilous journeys, information will be disseminated directly among Libyans and migrants, reaching out to up to 23,500 people.

With EU financial backing, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have helped to protect and assist more than 20,000 migrants in detention centres and disembarkation points and have also supported 3,000 displaced Libyan families.

Work under the European Union - African Union - United Nations **Task Force**, set up in Abidjan on 29 November 2017, will be taken forward as a priority, to save and protect the lives of migrants and refugees along the routes and in particular in Libya.

Since 2014, the EU has mobilised **€182 million on migration-related projects**, out of which **€162 million** under the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#), **€20 million** under the European Neighbourhood Instrument.

The North Africa Window of the Trust Fund however still has a **funding gap of €340 million** to which all EU Member States should contribute by March 2018.



Further, Stabilisation Programmes in place focus on facilitating access to basic services to host communities and employment opportunities for both the local population and for migrants, thus creating alternatives to smuggling.



PROTECTING AND ASSISTING THOSE IN NEED AND SUPPORTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A programme worth €90 million from the EU Trust Fund was adopted in April 2017 to ensure:

- 1) **Protection and assistance** for all those in need in Libya, with a particular focus on migrants and refugees – to be implemented by the IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF.
- 2) **Stabilisation**, aiming at supporting socio-economic development at municipal level and local governance, in order to better integrate migrants, internally displaced persons and returnees and stabilise host communities. It will also ensure that at least 50,000 children have access to education supplies. This action is implemented by UNDP, GIZ, IOM and UNICEF.

ENSURING EFFECTIVE LEGAL PATHWAYS TO EUROPE

In September 2017, the Commission launched a new resettlement scheme for at least 50,000 vulnerable refugees, with a focus on North Africa and the Horn of Africa, notably **Libya, Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Chad and Ethiopia**, whilst ensuring continued resettlement from **Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon**. The new scheme is also supporting the UNHCR in establishing an emergency evacuation mechanism from Libya – with the first evacuation of 25 refugees from Tripoli having taken place on 11 November.

The Commission has set aside **€500 million** to support Member States' resettlement efforts in the next two years. So far, 19 Member States have pledged more than **39,750 places** under the new scheme.