

Immediate response

- Triple the capacities and assets for the Frontex joint operations Triton and Poseidon in 2015 and 2016.
- Activation of the Emergency system under Article 78(3) of the Treaty to better distribute Asylum seekers in Europe.
- A new “Hotspot” concept: under the coordination of the Commission, EASO, Frontex and EUROPOL will be working on the ground in frontline Member States to swiftly identify, register and fingerprint migrants arriving and coordinate returns.
- Mobilising additional € 60 million in emergency funding for frontline Member States.
- A € 50 million resettlement scheme to transfer 20 000 persons to Europe in a safe and legal manner.
- € 30 million for the Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPPs) starting from North Africa and the Horn of Africa in 2015/2016.
- Information pooling by Europol with the contribution of all EU agencies to dismantle criminal networks, Frontex and EUROPOL to develop profiles of vessels traffickers could potentially use.
- Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations in the Mediterranean to capture and destroy boats.
- Migration to become a specific component of ongoing Common Security and Defence policy (CSDP) missions already deployed in Niger and Mali, which will be strengthened on border management.
- Establishment of pilot multi-purpose centre in Niger in cooperation with IOM and UNHCR.
- Deployment of European Migration Officers to EU delegations in key countries of transit.

The way forward

Reducing the incentives for irregular migration

283 532 detected irregular border crossings in 2014 (164% increase on previous year)

- An Action Plan to step up investigation and prosecution of criminal networks of smugglers, to help disrupt them, bring the perpetrators to justice and seize their assets.
- A return handbook to align return practices in all Member States.
- Stronger partnerships with Third Countries in the field of smuggling and return.
- A stronger engagement of EU delegations in key countries.
- Stronger role of Frontex in return operations, also by establishing a dedicated department to support Member States in implementing the Return Directive.

Saving lives and securing the external borders

Out of the 24 000 migrants rescued in the Channel of Sicily since the beginning of 2015, nearly 7300 persons were saved by means deployed by Frontex

- Revised proposal on Smart Borders.
- Finance initiatives to strengthen the capacities of countries in North Africa to intervene and save lives of migrants in distress.
- Reflection on the establishment of a European System of Border Guards.
- Stronger role of Frontex.

A strong asylum policy

626 715 asylum applicants in 2014 (45% increase on previous year)

- Full implementation of the Common European Asylum system through a new monitoring mechanism.
- Evaluation of the Dublin system by mid-2016 in view of its revision.
- Decisive initiatives to fight abuses of the asylum system.
- Reflection on the establishment of a single asylum decision process to guarantee equal treatment of asylum seekers throughout Europe.

A new policy on legal migration

**17 million Schengen visas issued in 2013
2.3 million residence permits issued in 2013**

- Review the Blue Card directive.
- Establishment of a dedicated platform of cooperation with Member States, businesses and trade unions on economic migration.
- Cheaper, faster and safer remittance transfers.
- Reflect on the development of an “expression of interest system” which would use verifiable criteria to automatically make an initial selection of potential migrants.
- Maximising the development benefits for countries of origin.

