

CONTENTS1

ITEMS DEBATED

Migration 3

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

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Migration

The Council discussed migration issues, in particular the situation in the Mediterranean. Ministers confirmed a strong commitment to act so as to prevent tragedies like the recent events in the Mediterranean.

Work will be taken forward along three strands:

* the fight against organised crime networks and human traffickers. Several options were discussed, including stepping up work on the routes of travel used by migrants and enhanced police cooperation on counter-measures against smugglers;
* more efficient efforts to save lives at sea by reinforcing Frontex activities, in particular the Triton and Poseidon operations in the Mediterranean. For this, further funds for Frontex, more assets for both operations as well as an enlargement of their operational area will be needed. A sustainable and more long-term approach should be taken to search and rescue obligations;
* a fairer sharing of responsibilities regarding resettlement and relocation projects. The Commission announced that it would launch an initiative for an EU-wide voluntary pilot project on resettlement offering a number of places to persons in need of protection.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED