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| **Niger** | |
| Action and progress October-December 2016 | Next steps |
| *High level engagement*   * Visit of the German Chancellor (October) * Visit of the Minister of Interior to France (November) * Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy (November) * Meeting between President of Niger and the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development in the margins of the summit of the International Organisation of La Francophonie * Visit of Sherpas, with attendance of high level EU officials (December)) * Visit of the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs (December) * Visit of the President of Niger to Brussels (December).   *Key progress by Nigerien authorities*   * Strong cooperation with EU on the implementation of the short term Action Plan against illegal migration. * Flow of irregular migrants transiting the country reduced. * Effective action against smuggling in Agadez region continued (seizure of equipment and arrest of smugglers). * 4,430 migrants redirected to IOM for repatriation to their home countries.   *EU support*   * Support for the implementation of the short term Action Plan against smuggling and trafficking in human beings. * Deployment of capacity in the North. The EU CSDP Sahel Niger mission field office in Agadez is operating close to full capacity, which will be reached in early 2017. * European Migration Liaison Officer to be deployed early in 2017. * European Border and Coast Guard Agency liaison officer to be deployed in 2017. * Projects under preparation under the EU Trust Fund focus on financial assistance for reintegration of returning migrants and for host communities; providing economic alternatives. * The Commission has developed a short term impact project for the creation of alternative income to replace the “migration industry". For the longer term, the EU and Member States are working to tackle the root causes and to provide sustainable alternatives for the local economy with a package of budget support. * Support to Niger is also provided through regional action on protection - access to status determination procedures, reception conditions and assistance to asylum seekers. | * Continue the implementation of actions to fight smuggling and trafficking, building on results achieved. * Elaborate a medium and long term Action Plan focused on root causes and creation of economic alternatives in the regions most affected by irregular migration. * Monitor possible diversion of migration to other routes. * Deployment of European Border and Coast Guard Agency liaison officer. * Full deployment of EU staff and the EUCAP antenna in Agadez, including for training. |
| **Nigeria** | |
| Action and progress October-December 2016 | Next steps |
| *High level engagement*   * Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany (October) * Visit of President of Nigeria to Germany (October) * Visit of Minister of Interior to Italy (October) * Visit of Minister for EU Affairs and Trade of Sweden (October) * Visit of Secretary of State of Portugal (October) * Visit of Secretary of State of Slovakia to the 5th EU Nigeria Business Forum (November) * EU-Nigeria Ministerial being prepared for spring 2017.   *Key progress by Nigerian authorities*   * Negotiations on a EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement started in October. * Identification missions took place in November to three European countries. Two more missions are planned before the end of the year. * EU-Nigeria cooperation platform on migrant smuggling launched in October. * Liaison officers from Nigeria are supporting identification upon arrival on the Central Mediterranean route. * A European Migration and Liaison Officer will be deployed in early 2017.   *EU support*   * Three projects have been approved under the EU Trust Fund for Africa in the field of resilience, three more in the pipeline to address return and reintegration, and anti-radicalisation. * Protection challenges in Nigeria are being addressed by mobilising different kinds of support (protection concerns are mainstreamed in the EU humanitarian response and specific support related to child protection is provided). * In the framework of the EDF, cooperation is ongoing or planned in migration management and the fight against trafficking of human beings. | * Further develop projects and initiatives addressing trafficking and smuggling including with the support of Europol and the European Border Coast Guard Agency. * Conclude negotiations on EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement and foster good practices in the field of return, also by addressing internal constraints. * Develop initiatives to address root causes of migration and stimulate investments. |
| **Senegal** | |
| Action and progress October-December 2016 | Next steps |
| *High level engagement*   * Participation of Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development in the International Conference on Migration in Dakar (October). * State visit of the President of Senegal to Poland (October)) * Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy (November). * Visit of French Minister of Foreign Affairs (November) * Participation of EU High Representative/Vice President in the Third International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa in December in Dakar (December).   *Key progress by Senegalese authorities*   * Continued negotiations between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the Senegalese authorities on improved working arrangements on returns. * Official contact points in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior are now operational. * European Migration Liaison Officer to be deployed in early 2017.   *EU support*   * Projects under the EU Trust Fund for Africa support job creation for youth and professional training. * Senegal benefits from a regional project supporting law enforcement entities, internal security and border management. * New projects are currently under development in the field of better migration management and facilitating reintegration and sensitisation of potential migrants; civil registry systems; economic and employment opportunities. | * Continue fostering practical cooperation in the field of return and readmission, including through dedicated missions to Member States. * Step up cooperation in the field of fight against smuggling and to address root causes including by swiftly implementing the projects adopted under the EU Trust Fund for Africa. |
| **Mali** | |
| Action and progress October-December 2016 | Next steps |
| *High level engagement*   * Visit of Minister of Foreign affairs of Mali to the Netherlands (October) * Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy (November) * Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (December).   *Key progress by Malian authorities*   * Identification missions carried out to 5 Member States. * Mali has worked with the EU in view of the return of persons irregularly staying in the Union on the basis of standard procedures finalised between the two parties respecting their mutual obligations. Missions have been carried out to this end   *EU support*   * European Migration Liaison Officer to be deployed in early 2017. * Mali remains one of the most important recipients of funds under the EU Trust Fund and three more projects are expected to be approved soon, including on biometric population registry, reintegration for returnees, awareness raising campaigns on the risks of irregular migration, and youth employment. * The European Commission has been providing humanitarian support to Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. The EU Trust Fund for Africa will support the resilience and self-sufficiency of these refugee populations, contribute with UNHCR to maintain peaceful coexistence between displaced populations and communities and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees. | * Maintain close dialogue with Mali as Chair of the Rabat Process, in the preparations of the Valletta Senior Officials Meeting in February 2017. * Monitor and address the situation in terms of protection and displacement. * Step up work with Mali on the transit dimension as a matter of priority.   Strengthen cooperation in terms of effective returns. |
| **Ethiopia** | |
| Action and progress October-December 2016 | Next steps |
| *High level engagement*   * Visit of the Italian Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (December) * Visit of the UK Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (December)   *Key progress by Ethiopian authorities*   * Technical dialogue has continued, a workshop on readmission is being prepared for the beginning of 2017. * A European Migration Liaison Officer will be deployed to Ethiopia in early 2017.   *EU support*   * Ethiopia is one of the main beneficiaries of the EU Trust Fund for Africa, with activities on the protection and development needs of refugees and host communities, root causes of irregular migration, economic opportunities and resilience of the most vulnerable communities. * Further programmes are in the pipeline to support job creation, in particular for refugees (also through support for the newly planned industrial parks), as well as to support the establishment of a unified national identification and registration system. * EU development and protection support to refugees in Ethiopia has continued through the implementation of the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) for the Horn of Africa, including specific action for the protection of children. | * Maintain close dialogue with Ethiopia as Chair of the Khartoum Process, in the preparations of the Valletta Senior Officials Meeting in February 2017. * Continue building on the initial steps taken in order to improve cooperation in the field of return and readmission. * Strengthen further support to Ethiopia as a country of transit and of destination of migrants and refugees. |