

**First Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration  
in the UNECE region (12 and 13 November 2020)**

**Roundtable 4 (13 November, 13:30-15:10)**

**Intervention of behalf of European External Action Service  
and European Commission services**

- Thank you to all the discussants for their intervention
- Allow me to make few comments on behalf of European External Action Service and European Commission Services, in line with our written submission
- The global challenges we face in today's world require effective multilateral approaches, based on solidarity, human rights and a rules-based international order. Building strong partnerships with countries of origin, transit and destination and working towards a comprehensive and balanced framework for engagement with partners to address migration is a key element of the European Union's migration policy.
- In line with the guiding principles of the GCM, the European Commission Services and the European External Action Service (EEAS) have been engaged in building genuine and tailor-made partnerships, to support partner countries to strengthen their capacities in the area of migration. Bilateral, regional and multilateral dialogues have intensified and encompass issues such as saving lives at sea, protecting the human rights of migrants, developing evidence-based migration governance systems, tackling migrant smuggling and human trafficking, enhancing border management, visa facilitation, promoting legal and circular migration and mobility, return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, as well as addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.
- In particular, partnership with African countries is being further strengthened, building also on the implementation of actions under the five pillars of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (2015), co-operation within the Khartoum and Rabat processes, and in the context of the cooperation with the African Union on migration. Migration and mobility are also part of the new 2020 EU Communication "Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa" and of the next cycle of EU-ACP relations.
- A close, strategic partnership has been put in place with UN agencies in the context of the trilateral African Union-European Union-United Nations (AU-EU-UN) Task Force to address the situation of migrants and refugees

stranded in Libya. Thanks to the work of the Task Force and with support of the Trust Fund, around 53,000 voluntary humanitarian returns have taken place since 2017; assistance is being provided at disembarkation points, at detention centres when access is possible, and to support host communities, as well as promoting alternatives to detention.

- Building on this comprehensive approach and the activities briefly outlined, on 23 September 2020 the European Commission published a New Pact on Migration and Asylum, as a “fresh start” on migration for the EU. Discussions on the proposed Pact with EU Member States in the Council and in the European Parliament were launched.
- The proposed Pact addresses both the internal and external dimension of the EU’s migration policy. Externally, the new Pact proposes to consolidate and reinforce cooperation with third countries, based on the approach of tailor-made and mutually beneficial partnerships with countries and regions, as well as in international organisations and at multilateral level, and ensuring ownership on all sides of all dimensions of our cooperation on migration.
- Supporting our partners in developing effective migration management capacity and governance is an example of the mutually beneficial partnerships we seek to develop. The EU stands ready to help with expertise and capacity building. Depending on the specific situation and needs of a third country, the support can include capacity building of the border and coast guards, including strengthening search and rescue capacities, support in the elaboration of national migration and asylum legislation and strategies, creating asylum and reception capacities, protecting migrants’ rights by combatting discrimination and labour exploitation, or stepping up the fight against migrant smuggling.
- And as the last point allow to underline the need for improving cooperation on return and readmission combined with support for sustainable reintegration, altogether our important element of renewed partnerships with third countries.
- Thank you for your attention