



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 23 September 2020**

**WK 9998/2020 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC (19.11.2020)**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum

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Subject: Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum  
- presentations

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Delegations will find enclosed the presentations given during the informal videoconference of the members of the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum held on 22 September 2020.



# WELCOME

22 September

Strategic Committee on  
Immigration, Frontiers and  
Asylum

# Agenda

**10.15 - ca. 11.30**

Western-Balkans-Initiative and “Operational Platform Eastern Mediterranean Route”  
- short break -

**ca. 11.45 – 13.00**

Migration Cooperation with African Partners: Operationalising anti-smuggling and border Management cooperation with African Partners of 13 July 2020

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will be chairing the SCIFA today.



22 September

Strategic Committee on  
Immigration, Frontiers and  
Asylum - **is about to start**



SCIFA, 22 September

## Western-Balkans-Initiative and “Operational Platform Eastern Mediterranean Route”



## Background

- **Broad agreement at SCIFA on 15-16 July 2020 on:** need for structured needs assessment and joint coordination of tailor-made support measures in the areas of
  - integrated border management
  - return and readmission
  - the fight against organized crime and smuggling of migrants for each Western Balkan partner
- **Conference of Heads of the European Border Agencies and the European agencies Frontex and Europol on 12 and 13 August:** need for targeted coordination and allocation of assistance and operational cooperation with the Western Balkans
- **Ministerial Conference on 22 and 23 July in Austria:** Vienna-Declaration and concrete proposal for the implementation of operational approach and structured dialogue



Establishing the **Operational Platform Eastern Mediterranean Route**

## Operational Platform Eastern Mediterranean Route (OP-EMR)

### ▪ Objectives:

- Better coordination of measures among member states and partners
- Ensuring coherent use of resources / no duplication
- Areas: border management, return and readmission, fighting human smuggling and asylum

### ▪ Possible Tasks:

- Structured dialogue
- Gap and needs analysis
- Networking of actors and stakeholders (supporters and users)
- Contribute to implementation of measures



No interference in existing mandates of EU agencies

 **Emergency action in Bosnia and Herzegovina**



## Question

**How can Member States provide concrete support on OP EMR and on a common co-ordinated approach to a Bosnia-Herzegovina emergency action?**



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SCIFA, 22 September

Migration Cooperation with African Partners:  
Operationalising anti-smuggling and border Management  
cooperation with African Partners of 13 July 2020

## Context of the Operational Mediterranean Initiative

- Addressing all routes of arrival in a holistic way
- **Rising number of arrivals** on the Central Mediterranean and Atlantic Route.
- **Start of the initiative: Conference of 13 July** on anti-smuggling and border management with five African Partners (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Mauritania) chaired by Italy in close cooperation with European Commission.

Migration Cooperation with African Partners: Operationalising anti-smuggling and border Management cooperation with African Partners of 13 July 2020



## Comprehensive Approach to Migration Cooperation with African Partners

- **Our aim:** Joint and concerted operational measures and initiatives, as part of tailor-made and mutually beneficial partnerships between European and African partner countries.
- **1st step:** joint operational efforts to counter migrant smuggling, including in relation to border management.
- **2nd step:** extension of the efforts to other aspects of migration management in close consultation with the involved Member States and North African Partners

## Way ahead

- **„Team Europe approach“**: Commission in the lead, supported by EEAS, representatives of the Council Secretariat and involved one or more driver Member States, supported by EU delegations and agencies
- **Comprehensive overview of ongoing activities** and available funds, to be carried out by COM
- **Starting a dialogue** with the five African Partners by using existing national and international coordination structures
- **Involvement of Member States** through SCIFA and HLGW

## Immediate Action

- starting a process with Tunisia, as model for the other African Partners



## Questions

- 1. Do you have additional ideas for the type and scope of this exercise?**
- 2. Do Member States agree on the proposed immediate action measures?**
- 3. What additional projects or initiatives can Member States propose to counter migrant smuggling and enhance border management in any of the five African Partners?**



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