



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate B - Decision-making & Collegiality  
SG.B.3 - Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) Secretariat

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Brussels, 20 November 2022

<p><b>GRI of 18 November 2022</b> Item 4.1.1.</p>
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**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GRI**

**Subject:** (new item) '*Plan/ roadmap on the situation in the Central Mediterranean*'  
[Coreper on 23 November 2022: decision on the next steps]

Please find attached a note prepared by DG HOME under the authority of the Cabinet of Commissioner JOHANSSON and in agreement with the Cabinet of Vice-President SCHINAS.

Attachments: 2

**GRI MEETING OF 18 NOVEMBER 2022**

**NOTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRI**

**Subject:** EU ACTION PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

**Ref.:** Coreper II. Justice and Home Affairs Council

This note informs the Commission about the EU Action Plan for the Central Mediterranean that the Commission will present to the Council in view of the Extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council that will take place on the 25 November 2022. The Action Plan responds to the current urgent migratory challenges in the Central Mediterranean through 20 concrete actions and initiatives to be taken forward by the EU and Member States. The Action Plan also reiterates the importance of adopting the New Pact on Migration and Asylum to put in place long term sustainable and structural European solutions to migratory flows.

**1. BACKGROUND**

The arrivals via sea along the Central Mediterranean route of migration have significantly increased in 2022, reaching over 90,000 migrants who have arrived irregularly, particularly in Italy representing an increase of over 50% with respect to 2021. Arrivals following search and rescue events represented more than half of the total (over 49,000).

On 16 November, at COREPER the Commission acknowledged the strong migratory pressure along the Mediterranean route and specifically the Central Mediterranean and agreed on the need for urgent action. The Action Plan aims at addressing the immediate and ongoing challenges along the Central Mediterranean route. The Czech Presidency confirmed that an extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council will take place on 25 November 2022 to discuss migratory challenges including on the Central Mediterranean route and agree on common concrete actions.

The European Parliament is scheduled to debate the search and rescue topic at the November II Plenary session.

**2. MAIN CONTENT OF THE NON-PAPER**

The Action Plan responds to the current urgent migratory challenges in the Central Mediterranean through 20 concrete actions that can be launched in the short term, while the Pact on Migration and Asylum remains the comprehensive framework for structural solutions and ensure the balance between solidarity and responsibility.

The Action Plan sets out 20 actions along three axes, namely:

- I. Strengthened cooperation with partner countries and international organisations;
- II. A more coordinated approach on search and rescue;
- III. Reinforced implementation of the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism and the Joint Roadmap.

The Action Plan stresses that the EU and the Member States will need to work jointly to ensure its effective implementation. The Action Plan finally recalls that the EU remains vigilant about the developments on the other key migratory routes to Europe and that this Action Plan may act as a model to develop similar plans addressing the specificities of other migratory routes.

**3. RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMISSION**

It is suggested that the GRI recommend that the Commission endorse the position set out in this note and take note that the Action Plan will be transmitted to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union as a contribution to the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 25 November 2022.

**4. ANNEX**

EU Action Plan for the Central Mediterranean.

**5. OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE**

