



EUROPEAN UNION

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AOB - EU Statement on the Valletta Summit on Migration

Mr Chairperson, in response to the unprecedented migratory and refugee crisis and the continued migratory flows, the EU has stepped up its engagement and strengthened its cooperation with third countries on migration both at bilateral and multilateral level. These efforts imply deepening cooperation with all concerned actors. Last week, more than 60 African and European Heads of State and Government convened in Valletta to decide on ways to strengthen cooperation and address the current challenges, but also the opportunities of migration.

The Valletta Summit adopted a joint declaration as well as a detailed action plan, which will now be implemented. They recognise the high degree of mutual dependence between Africa and Europe, and that migration is a responsibility shared by countries of origin, of transit and of destination. The Summit underlined that the first priority is to save lives.

Leaders agreed to manage together migration flows in all their aspects, guided by the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility. They have identified five priorities:

- a. address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement;
- b. enhance cooperation on legal migration and mobility;
- c. reinforce the protection of migrants and asylum seekers;
- d. prevent and fight irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings and

- e. work more closely to improve cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration.

They also agreed to a list of 16 concrete actions to be implemented by the end of 2016, in order to respond to challenges of migration and mobility at the appropriate level and with a gender perspective. These include for example the establishment of Regional Development and Protection Programmes in the Horn of Africa and North Africa by mid-2016.

During the Summit, the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa was formally launched, with an initial amount of € 1.8 billion. Its objective will be to foster stability by enhancing opportunities in a wide range of countries across Africa, including the OSCE partner countries Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt. This sum can be supplemented by additional Member State national contributions.

Following the Summit, President Tusk said that we are under no illusion that we can improve the situation overnight. We are however committed to giving people alternatives to risking their lives.

We will, as before, continue to keep you informed of future developments.