

## **The Central Mediterranean - Alleviating the pressure Implementation Plan**

*2016 saw a record-high number of arrivals via the Central Mediterranean route to Italy, 181 000 persons. This year so far, the increase is above 10 %, bringing the number of arrivals to above 86 000.*

*On 6 February 2017, the members of the European Council outlined a number of measures to reduce migratory flows along the Central Mediterranean route and break the business model of smugglers. The measures aim at stepping up cooperation with Libya and its North African and sub-Saharan neighbours and the implementation has started.*

*At the end of June, more than 10 000 migrants arrived in a period of three days, bringing the situation in Italy to its limit of sustainability. Italy's reception capacity of 200 000 persons is at present exceeded. The Commission presented on 4 July 2017 its Action Plan on measures to support Italy, reduce pressure along the Central Mediterranean route and increase solidarity<sup>1</sup>. At the informal meeting of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers on 6 July 2017 in Tallinn, Ministers welcomed and based their discussion on the Action Plan.*

*This document builds on the implementation plan of the Malta declaration<sup>2</sup> and includes the new measures of the Commission's Action Plan to alleviate the immediate pressure on Italy<sup>3</sup>.*

*Monitoring of this Implementation Plan will be ensured via the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) Mechanism with COREPER having a steering role.*

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<sup>1</sup> SEC (2017) 339

<sup>2</sup> in sections A-J

<sup>3</sup> mainly in sections K-N

**A. Training, equipment and support to the Libyan coast guards and other relevant agencies**

*'Training, equipment and support to the Libyan national coast guard and other relevant entities. Complementary EU training programmes must be rapidly stepped up, both in intensity and numbers, starting with those already undertaken by Operation SOPHIA and building on its experience. Funding and planning for these activities needs to be made sustainable and predictable, including through the Seahorse Mediterranean Network'*

- 1) Step-up complementary programmes for training, equipment, including maintenance needs and post-training support for appropriate Libyan agencies performing coast guard functions, under existing EU programmes, including the Seahorse Mediterranean Network, and the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), in complementarity with EUNAVFORMED Operation SOPHIA and ongoing Member States initiatives in this field. Due consideration to be given to ensuring lasting operational capacity to post-training activities, also with the necessary financial support.  
(*p.m.*: Member States' position on Op Sophia mandate to be confirmed before 25 July to allow Council Decision by written procedure not later than 27 July for mandate extension until 31 December 2018.)  
(Action: Commission, ongoing)  
Funding through: Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI/MIGR) for Seahorse; EU Trust Fund for Africa for enhancing the situational awareness and capacity building of the Libyan Coast Guard, Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund - AMIF (for RDPP).
- 2) EUNAVFORMED Operation SOPHIA to step-up training programs for the Libyan coast guards and, as outlined in the strategic review of Operation SOPHIA in July 2017, give consideration to providing more prominence to maritime security activities, including information exchange with Europol/the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA). Replying to a request from EUNAVFORMED Operation SOPHIA, EASO will contribute to the training of its own officials and officers of the Libyan coast guards.  
(Action: EEAS / SOPHIA OHQ/Rome, July 2017 and EASO)  
Funding through: Member States ad hoc and possibly Athena
- 3) Discussions in COREPER and the Athena Special Committee have resolved the funding issue on the payment of per diems for Op Sophia package 2. Funding arrangements for future training activities for the Libyan national coast guard to be undertaken under the EUNAVFORMED Operation Sophia will be considered in late August under a potential new Council Decision.  
(Action: Presidency/EEAS, ongoing)
- 4) Prepare with the Libyan coastguard a sustainable training plan for 2017-18 to ensure efficient and timely selection of trainees and also methods of monitoring the effectiveness of the training delivered.  
(Action: EEAS, COM, EBCGA, Sophia OHQ Rome, ongoing /discussions with the Libyan Committee of Experts continue)
- 5) Assist the Libyan authorities in assessing:
  - a) priorities in terms of equipment and maintenance needs

b) operational needs with a view to matching trained coast guards' personnel with available assets.

(Action: Commission, EEAS, Operation Sophia, from July 2017 onwards; discussions in June 2017 have allowed to agree immediate priorities in terms of equipment and maintenance needs, and operational needs with a view to matching personnel with available assets have also been assessed and training plans adjusted)

Funding through: Member States ad hoc and possibly Athena

- 6) Equipment (including vessels and technology) to be supplied to the trained Libyan coast guards:

(Action: (1) Adopt and implement the project on sea and land border management in Libya prepared by Italy jointly with the Commission, amount MEUR 46.

(2) Member States to voluntarily contribute additional assets, and release those currently being held, to the trained Libyan coast guards as soon as possible depending on progress in training provided that all conditions are met and appropriate use is ensured.

(Action: (1) EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) Operational Committee, adoption by end of July 2017, (2) Member States as soon as possible)

Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa (on equipment related to training and capacity building activities)

- 7) Assist the Libyan authorities in notifying formally their Search and Rescue (SAR) area and establishing a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) to ensure efficiently coordinated search and rescue operations in line with international obligations and improve operational coordination with Member States.

(Action: Italy to implement ongoing ISF funded feasibility study of the Italian Coast Guard regarding the Libyan SAR capacity. EU budget to provide financial assistance for the follow-up - establishment of the MRCC)

Funding through: ISF (feasibility study) and EU and Italy joint project, ref. A.6.1.

- 8) EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) Libya to support, with other international actors involved, the development of capacity delivery to the Ministry of Interior coastal police (GACS) and engage with the Libyan coastguard on the law enforcement aspects of its activities including in order to pursue a delineation of responsibilities between the coastal police and the Libyan coastguard.

(*p.m.*: EUBAM Libya mandate - extension until 31 December 2018 - adopted at 17 July 2017 FAC )

(Action: EEAS, work ongoing)

## **B. Further efforts to disrupt the business-model of smugglers**

*'Further efforts to disrupt the business model of smugglers through enhanced operational action, within an integrated approach involving Libya and other countries on the route and relevant international partners, engaged Member States, CSDP missions and operations, Europol and the European Border and Coast Guard'*

- 1) EUNAVFORMED Operation Sophia will pursue its efforts, including in cooperation with Libyan national coast guard and the sharing of information with the EBCGA, to

achieve its core mandate, notably breaking the business model of smugglers.

(Action: EEAS/ SOPHIA, ongoing)

Funding through: Member States and Athena common funding

- 2) Step up planning through EUBAM Libya to support Libyan Ministry of Interior (Police training panel) and other law enforcement agencies and EU agencies with capacity to tackle organised crime and associated human smuggling, focusing initially on developing coordination capacities. Study all possibilities to deploy in Libya (phase 2).

(*p.m.*: extension of EUBAM Libya mandate until 31 December 2018, adopted at 17 July 2017 FAC )

(Action: EEAS, work ongoing)

Funding through: tbd

- 3) Reinforcement of the monitoring of departure points in third countries and the identification, detecting and tracking of suspicious vessels (including by using ship reporting systems, satellite and aerial surveillance), via the Eurosur Fusion Services managed by the EBCGA.

(Action: EBCGA together with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency), EFCA (European Fisheries Control Agency), EU Satellite Centre and Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), finalised in June 2017, except for aerial surveillance (ongoing), as well as through EUNAVFORMED Operation Sophia's support)

- 4) Europol's EMSC to focus its activities on the Central Mediterranean route and to produce analytical products and identify investigative opportunities, including those aimed at targeting/disrupting supplies to smugglers, where appropriate through liaison with manufacturers, suppliers, retailers of dinghies and engines, etc. Member States to step up their efforts to provide information in order to improve the intelligence picture on the supply chains. Europol will organise a seminar with Member States to support the implementation of the restrictive measures towards Libya. Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions' and operations' mandate need to be revised to explicitly foresee this information exchange. The posting of Europol liaison officers to key partners for the stimulation of enhanced information exchanges would assist this process.

(Action: Europol in cooperation with the EBCGA, EEAS/CSDP, Member States, EUNAVFORMED Operation Sophia, from February 2017 onwards)

Funding through: Europol, Member States, EBCGA

- 5) Europol to implement the EMSC information clearing house, which will be the analytical cell of JOT MARE 2.0 (see related Europol concept paper) with a view to de-conflicting/promoting information exchange and assessing the added value of involving police forces with military status. EUNAVFORMED to present the outcome of its internal review on ensuring adequate mechanisms to prevent "over-classification" and unnecessary encryption of operational data.

(Action: Europol with MS, EEAS and Interpol, implement recommendations of 10 April 2017)

Funding through: Europol, Member States

- 6) Europol/EMSC to enhance its support to the Operational Action Plan (OAP) "Disrupting the facilitation of illegal immigration" by promoting the use of the Internet Referral Unit, JOT MARE, Joint Action Days (including with Interpol and third countries), Europol platform of experts (also open to third countries). All actors to consider the Central Mediterranean route as the top priority in the drafting of the Multi-annual Strategic Plan of the EU Policy Cycle 2018/2021.  
(Action: Europol, ongoing)  
Funding through: Europol
- 7) Strengthen the cooperation and communication between the EUD security advisors, European Migration Liaison Officers (EMLOs) as well as other networks such as the European Network of Immigration Liaison Officers in North African countries and EU agencies. EEAS to conduct an analysis of EMLO's reports to identify common trends and address information gaps. Member States to enhance their active contribution of strategic information.  
(Action: EEAS, EU Delegations, Commission with agencies, ongoing)
- 8) Enforcing restrictive measures making subject to authorisations the export to Libya of certain products (certain vessels and motors), which may be used to facilitate the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings, as adopted by the Council on 17 July 2017.  
(Action: MS with the support of agencies, ongoing)
- 9) Encourage Member States, and in particular Italy, to submit projects under MPF/ISF-Police strand aiming at partner countries' frameworks and capacities to fight and neutralise criminal networks and organisations active in trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling into the EU, as well as to ensure effective law enforcement cooperation and victims' protection in this regard. These actions can take place both in the EU Member States and partner countries' territories.  
(Action: Member States)  
Funding through: Commission Mobility Partnership Facility

### **C. Supporting where possible the development of local communities in Libya**

*'Supporting where possible the development of local communities in Libya, especially in coastal areas and at the Libyan land borders on the migratory routes, to improve their socio-economic situation and enhance their resilience as host communities'*

Step up and widen EU projects in support to local communities and authorities, including municipalities in coastal areas and along Libya's southern land borders on the migratory route, to improve stabilisation and the socio-economic situation, and enhance the resilience of host and transit communities and the local integration of migrants. Projects to focus on countering local revenues based on smuggling activities.

(Action: ongoing)

Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa, European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)

#### **D. Improving reception capacities and conditions in Libya**

*'Seeking to ensure adequate reception capacities and conditions in Libya for migrants, together with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)'*

- 1) IOM and UNHCR, in cooperation with Libyan authorities, to significantly increase support to projects aimed at improving conditions in disembarkation points and retention centres for migrants and persons falling under the UNHCR's international protection mandate.  
(Action: IOM/UNHCR, with EUTF financial support, ongoing)  
Funding through: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), EU Trust Fund for Africa
- 2) IOM to develop alternatives to detention, such as safe spaces. UNHCR mandate and activities in this area should likewise be strengthened.  
(Action: IOM/UNHCR, ongoing)  
Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa
- 3) Engage in a dialogue on both political and technical levels with the Libyan authorities with a view of ensuring access of external actors (IOM, UNHCR, Red Cross/Crescent) to detention centres  
(Action: EEAS and EU Delegation, ongoing)
- 4) Support, in cooperation with Libyan authorities, UNHCR in addressing the situation of persons in need of international protection, including through the possibility of resettlement; additional support to Member States' resettlement efforts from the region a new resettlement pledging exercise.  
(Action: Commission with UNHCR, from July 2017)  
Funding through: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), EU Trust Fund for Africa

#### **E. Supporting IOM in significantly stepping up assisted voluntary return activities**

*'Supporting IOM in significantly stepping up assisted voluntary return activities'*

- 1) Enable IOM in Libya and Niger to step up voluntary return activities and reintegration with a view to significantly increasing the number of migrants accepting voluntary return to their country of origin with the involvement of local consular authorities. Funding should increase significantly.  
(Action: Commission, Member States, with EUTF financial support, ongoing)  
Funding through: Work ongoing funded by EU Trust Fund for Africa and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)
- 2) Increase of the number of Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) packages offered in-kind to returnees, including reintegration, so to cover the utmost number of returnees (vulnerable groups).  
(Action: Commission with IOM, ongoing)  
Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa

- 3) Establish migration antennas in migration hubs in the southern part of Libya, and along the migratory route, to provide counselling of migrants, including AVR  
(Action: Commission with IOM, planned; this activity faces security-related issues).  
Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa

## **F. Enhancing information campaigns and outreach targeted at migrants**

*'Enhancing information campaigns and outreach addressed at migrants in Libya and countries of origin and transit, in cooperation with local actors and international organisations, particularly to counter the smugglers' business model'*

- 1) Further implement the information strategy called for by the Council in its conclusions of November 2015 as defined by the Migration Information Task Force.  
(Action: targeted information campaigns on the Central Mediterranean Route, including countries of origin and transit. Launch of web site portal on irregular migration took place in May 2017)  
Funding through: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- 2) Conduct through appropriate channels targeted information campaigns and outreach in Libya and other countries of origin and transit on the risk of irregular departures and on the possibility for assisted voluntary returns. In Libya, information campaigns will also target communities hosting migrants to raise awareness on the conditions of migrants and asylum seekers with a view to curbing xenophobia.  
(Action: Commission, in cooperation with local actors and IOM, ongoing. EASO stands ready to build on its experience and on the findings from its social media monitoring project.)  
Funding through: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and EU Trust Fund for Africa
- 3) Continued activation of the IPCR crisis communicators' network to share national experiences in this area.  
(Action: Presidency, ongoing)

## **G. Helping to reduce the pressure on Libya's land borders**

*'Helping to reduce the pressure on Libya's land borders, working both with the Libyan authorities and all neighbours of Libya, including by supporting projects enhancing their border management capacity'*

- 1) Upgrade EU engagement in support of Libyan authorities, and with neighbouring countries, including through enhanced cooperation with G5 Sahel countries and the "Joint Force" to reinstate control of borders in the transit areas of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Projects should include supplying technologies, vehicles, joint patrols and other means, as well as coordination efforts in the context of the Libyan National Team for Security and Border Management (NTSBM).  
(Action: EEAS/Commission, ongoing)

Funding through: support, where possible, under EU Trust Fund for Africa. MEUR 50 funded through African Peace Facility (financed by the European Development Fund).

- 2) At regional level, continue stepping up the support to security cooperation in the Sahel through the expansion of CSDP engagement, in particular through regionalisation of CSDP missions.

(Action: EEAS, work ongoing)

Funding through: CFSP budget

- 3) Step-up work under the Partnership Framework with high-level engagement, including beyond the five current partnerships countries, using positive and negative leverages, also visa leverage as appropriate.

(Action: EEAS/Commission/Member States, ongoing)

- 4) Increase support to the Nigerien authorities to fully exploit progress achieved with Niger under the Partnership Framework to slow down flows. Create alternative local economies in Niger.

(Action: EEAS/Commission services, Member States, especially through the Joint Investigation Teams and information-exchange with Europol and Eurojust, ongoing)

Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (for targeted initiatives at community level and community dialogue to diffuse tensions)

- 5) Promote border cooperation, dialogue and exchange of information between Libya and its Southern neighbours, including the G5 Sahel countries, and using the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community to full potential.

(Action: EEAS/Commission with the EBCGA)

Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa; 11th European Development Fund, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (for targeted dialogue initiatives with cross-border communities)

## **H. Keeping track of alternative routes and possible diversion of smugglers' activities**

*'Keeping track of alternative routes and possible diversion of smugglers' activities, through cooperative efforts with Libya's neighbours and the countries under the Partnership Framework, with the support of Member States and all relevant EU agencies and by making available all necessary surveillance instruments'*

- 1) Identify needs/funding and develop programmes for enhancing situational awareness (using the Eurosur Fusion Services and the Eurosur Common Pre-Frontier Intelligence Picture) and reaction capacity of North African countries authorities on irregular migration flows.

(Action: a) identify needs and possible sources of funding, Commission/EU Agencies, 2017, b) develop programmes for enhancing situational awareness, Commission/EU Agencies, Q3 2017. EASO, through its social media monitoring (SMM) project, which



could be enhanced to focus on the Northern African route, monitors the activities of smugglers and migrant and asylum discourse in Arabic, Farsi, Dari, and Pashtu. It is on regular contact with Europol and Member States intelligence agencies. EASO also issues weekly and monthly reports on such activities and forms part of the crisis communications IPCR.)

- 2) Explore further SatCen support in connection with Europol/the EBCGA needs in this area. EEAS to present its findings in Q3 2017.

(Action: EEAS, ongoing)

Funding through: Europol, EBCGA

- 3) Deploy EMLOs to the EU delegation in Egypt,

(Action: EEAS/Member States, EU Delegation, )

Funding through: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

- 4) Enhance cooperation between EU presence in Libya's neighbouring countries, the EBCGA, Europol and Interpol, where necessary through liaison officers. Europol to build upon the positive outcome of the two-month temporary deployment to EUBAM Libya, which is underway. JOT MARE 2.0, with its clearing house and possibility to set up JIT or operational task forces, will be key (see point B.5).

(Action: EEAS/EBCGA/Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, ongoing)

Funding through: EBCGA, Europol, Eurojust, Interpol

## **I. Continuing support to efforts and initiatives from individual Member States**

*'Continuing support to efforts and initiatives from individual Member States directly engaged with Libya; in this respect, the EU welcomes and is ready to support Italy in its implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 2 February 2017 by the Italian Authorities and Chairman of the Presidential Council al-Serraj'*

- 1) Member States active in Libya to share information on their bilateral cooperation programmes/activities in this area, and inform of any opportunities for partnership with other Member States.
- 2) EU to provide support, through financial, diplomatic, political action, to relevant activities and programmes set up or planned by Member States in order to assist the Libyan authorities in the field of border security, migration management, combating migrant smuggling, and addressing trafficking in human beings, as appropriate.

(Action: Commission/EEAS, planned joint project with Italy. Other Member States to follow as soon as possible)

Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa

## **J. Deepening dialogue and cooperation on migration with all countries neighbouring Libya**

*'Deepening dialogue and cooperation on migration with all countries neighbouring Libya, including better operational cooperation with Member States and the European Border and Coast Guard on preventing departures and managing returns'*

- 1) EU and Member States to step up their engagement with Niger and Mali to prevent movements towards Libya.  
(Action: EEAS/Commission/Member States, ongoing)
- 2) Maintain and reinforce a consistent dialogue and cooperation with other countries in the region (in particular Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and the G5 Sahel countries), notably to better manage migration in the region in all its different aspects, including departures and returns, and contribute to the stabilisation of migrants' flows, including through addressing root causes of migration, to increase geographic scope of action against smugglers' activities, and to patrol the coastal area.  
(Action: EEAS with Commission and EU Agencies, ongoing)  
Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa
- 3) Enhance cooperation with relevant partners to address trafficking in human beings, in particular between countries of origin, transit for victims of trafficking arriving to Italy through the Central Mediterranean route, to enhance prevention of the crime and prosecution of the traffickers, focusing on the whole trafficking chain, and step up financial investigations, with the support of relevant EU Agencies.  
(Action: Member States in cooperation with concerned third countries with the involvement of the relevant EU Agencies, notably Europol and Eurojust)  
Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa
- 4) Avoid the displacement of migratory routes, while keeping these countries closely associated to any political/security process aiming at re-establishing the stability in Libya.  
(Action: EEAS to step up intensity and frequency of ongoing technical and political contacts with all the capitals concerned)
- 5) Continue efforts to encourage the participation of Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt in the Seahorse Mediterranean Network (ongoing) and ensure that the Seahorse Mediterranean Network is operational to strengthen border authorities of North African countries and develop their capacities to share information and coordinate actions with Member States and Mediterranean Member States. A secure communication network interoperable with Europol's channel SIENA should be set up as a matter of priority with the necessary agreements in place to facilitate such exchanges.  
(Action: Commission, communication network to be set up in 2017).  
Funding through: Initial support foreseen under Development Cooperation Instrument (Seahorse); Further support EU Trust Fund for Africa
- 6) Encourage North African partners, notably Tunisia to formally notify its SAR area and Egypt to ratify the SAR Convention and both to establish their respective MRCCs.  
(Action: Commission/EEAS, as soon as possible)  
Funding of MRCCs: TBD.
- 7) Develop capacity building projects on security in Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt, including to promote the ratification/implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including its Palermo protocols (the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children); the use of

biometrics, Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) and digital evidence, and financial investigation in compliance with international standards on protection of personal data.

(Action: Commission and Member States together with Europol/CEPOL/Interpol through EUTF, implementation to start by Q4 2017)

Funding through: EU Trust Fund for Africa

- 8) Coordinate return-related activities of the Member States, including voluntary departures, acquisition of travel documents and carrying out joint return operations, with the participation of relevant authorities of third countries.

(Action: the EBCGA, ongoing)

Funding through: EBCGA

#### **K. Better coordination of SAR activities along the Central Mediterranean route**

- 1) Italy to draft, in consultation with the Commission, and on the basis of a dialogue with the NGOs, a Code of Conduct for NGOs involved in SAR activities.

(Action: Italy and Commission; ongoing)

- 2) Cooperation between the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) and neighbouring MRCCs of Member States to be continued. Cooperation between the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) and neighbouring MRCCs of third countries to be enhanced where established or other kinds of operational cooperation to ensure timely and effective intervention.

(Action: relevant Member States and third countries, as soon as possible)

- 3) The EBCGA to examine Italy's proposals regarding Joint Operation Triton.

(Action: EBCGA; immediately)

#### **L. Achieve real progress in the return of irregular migrants**

- 1) With the full support of Member States, put in place well-functioning EU readmission agreements and practical arrangements with third countries, using all leverages.

(Action: Commission/Council; immediately)

- 2) Fully mobilise capabilities of Member States and the EBCGA, at the request of Italy, to support the return of irregular migrants, notably through the deployment of European return intervention teams from the available pools and the organisation of return operations, covering both charter and commercial flights.

(Action: Italy to request EBCGA intervention, Member States/EBCGA have declared themselves ready to mobilise, EBCGA/Italy to prepare a joint needs and feasibility assessment; as soon as possible)

Funding through: EBCGA

- 3) Italy to consider to apply expedited return procedures, where foreseen by relevant EU or bilateral readmission agreements and arrangements, issue return decisions together with final negative asylum decisions. Italy to increase the use of AVR, in cooperation with IOM.

(Action: Italy and all parties that provide AVR-services in Italy, including IOM, without further delay: Italy to utilise to the maximum the possibilities of direct and indirect support available through EU programmes on return, including ERIN.)

Funding through: AMIF Italy National Programme.

**M. Deliver in full existing relocation commitments**

- 1) Member States to step up relocation from Italy, in line with the recommendations in the Action Plan, by providing sufficient pledges and speed up the relocation procedure (acceptance of requests, flexibility and acceleration of transfers).

(Action: Member States; immediately)

- 2) Italy to:

a) cooperate with EASO on the implementation of the reach-out campaign;

b) mainstream procedures for relocation of Eritreans, unaccompanied minors and security checks, in line with the recommendations in the Action Plan;

c) continue its efforts to centralise relocation applicants in fewer dedicated relocation hubs.

(Action: Italy, immediately)

Funding through: AMIF MS national programmes

**N. Actions to improve the implementation of EU migration policy in Italy**

- 1) Increase capacity in terms of stationary hotspots, reception and detention centres

(Action: Italy, as a matter of urgency)

- 2) Speed up examination of asylum applications.

(Action: Italy, immediately)

- 3) Italy to consider requesting EASO support for actions 1)-2)

(Action: Italy and EASO, immediately)

- 4) EU to step up funding for migration management in Italy, the 'Minniti reforms'.

(Action: Commission, immediately)

Funding: Italy to request additional funding through ISF Borders (EMAS; EUR 35 million available)

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