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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HOME AFFAIRS

Public consultation on the Global Approach to Migration: Background document

This document does not represent an official position of the European Commission. It is a tool to explore the views of interested parties. The suggestions contained in this document do not prejudge the form or content of any future proposal by the European Commission.

1. The public consultation process

1.1. Why a consultation on the Global Approach to Migration?

The Global Approach to Migration is the external dimension of the European Union's migration policy.¹ It is a framework for dialogue and cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of migration that was endorsed by the European Council in December 2005.² The 2009 Stockholm Programme³ and the 2010 Stockholm Programme Action Plan⁴ provide for further initiatives on the evaluation and future development of the Global Approach to Migration, on maximising the positive and minimising the negative aspects of migration on development and on the effects of climate change on international migration, including its potential effects on immigration to the European Union.

Following the Commission Legislative and Work Programme for 2011⁵, these three initiatives will be presented as a package by the end of 2011, with a Communication on the Global Approach to Migration as the "*chapeau*" and the other two subject matters probably addressed as Commission Staff Working Papers.

This background document together with a questionnaire serves as the basis of the consultations with stakeholders and the expected contributions will facilitate for the Commission's services to prepare these initiatives. The purpose of the questionnaire is twofold. It serves both as a basis of an evaluation, and as a source for assessing new possible directions and ways to improve the relevance of the Global Approach to Migration.

The aim of the Communication on the Global Approach to Migration is to define the objectives of the Global Approach to Migration more clearly and in more strategic terms. It should spell out how the EU could enter a new, consolidated phase of this policy framework in a more efficient and balanced way. It will propose priorities, principles and concrete measures.

The Global Approach to Migration has emerged gradually with an initial geographic focus on the regions neighbouring to the South and the East of the EU. Subsequently it has been enlarged towards also covering dialogue with Latin America and the Caribbean and some Asian countries. Thematically, the framework has been developed to cover three main areas of policy intervention for cooperation with non-EU countries: a) better organising legal migration; b) reinforcing the prevention and fight against irregular migration; and c) maximising the mutual benefits of migration for development.

There is scope to explore how the objectives of the Global Approach to Migration can be better obtained by further improving the geographic and thematic balance of activities and interventions. This framework could also become more flexible and multilayered, avoiding

¹ All relevant terminology is explained in an Annex to this consultation document.

² Presidency Conclusions of the Brussels European Council (15/16 December 2005), Doc 15914/1/05 REV 1.

³ Stockholm Programme: Council Document 17024/09, approved by the European Council on 1-2 December, 2009: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/intro/policies_intro_en.htm

⁴ Action Plan Implementing the Stockholm Programme, COM(2010)171 final of 20 April 2010: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/intro/policies_intro_en.htm

⁵ Commission Work Programme 2011, COM(2010)623 final of 27 October 2010: http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm

overlaps, and clarifying the added value of action at the EU level in relation to each of the partner countries and regions to which it is applied.

Several challenges remain with the current approach, including with its implementation and funding. The implementation of the Global Approach to Migration should better reflect the strategic objectives of the Union, both external and internal, as regards migration. The complementarities between activities of the EU Member States and the EU level will also need to be analysed as part of the evaluation. The need for stronger leverage to attain EU strategic objectives, coupled with visibility and transparency, could be further considered in relation to the various types of cooperation with non-EU partner countries.

The paper on migration and development will reflect that migration and development is one of the three main themes of the Global Approach to Migration. It will focus on an explicit migrant-centred approach. It will notably address diasporas, remittances, brain drain, circular migration and mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and migrant's rights. A separate consultation on these themes, led together with the Commission's services responsible for development and external cooperation, is currently ongoing.

The paper on migration and climate change will highlight the increasing importance of the inter-linkages between migration and climate change. It will present the rationale for the elaboration of a possible policy in this area. It will also provide clarifications of the concepts used (climate change versus environmentally induced migration, migration as a result of natural catastrophes versus gradual deterioration of the environment), and a summary of research on the impact of climate change on migratory movements. The paper will also include an overview of the relevant existing EU policy and legislative instruments that could be used to respond to environmentally induced migration.

This public consultation forms part of a reflection process and gives stakeholders the opportunity to present their views to the Commission on how well the Global Approach to Migration meets its objectives, how it is being implemented, and how it can be further improved to meet future needs and bring more added value. This will give the Commission an insight into the concrete experiences of stakeholders and partners who are involved in the implementation or affected by various aspects of the Global Approach to Migration.

1.2. What is covered by the consultation?

The consultation covers both general questions in order to evaluate the Global Approach to Migration and forward-looking questions in order to further develop and improve this framework for dialogue and cooperation with non-EU countries.

1.3. Who can respond to the consultation?

All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute. Contributions are sought from persons, Member States, EU Institutions, local, regional and national authorities, international organisations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, non-EU countries, social partners and civil society.

1.4. How to contribute?

This consultation will be published on the Commission's website 'Your voice in Europe' (<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/>) and on the website of the Commission's Directorate-General for Home Affairs (http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/index_en.htm). The public consultation period lasts from 11 April to 6 June 2011.

Answers to the consultation should normally be completed online. It is not necessary to reply to all the questions. You can reply only to the questions relating to your activities, experience or expertise. However, the consultation must be completed in one session, as it is not possible to save comments and responses entered, and return to them later. Moreover you will be automatically disconnected after 90 minutes of inactivity. Therefore if you would like to take time completing the consultation, it is recommended that you prepare your answers in a working document from which the final version can be copied into the online consultation.

Enquiries about this consultation should be sent by e-mail to HOME-02-GAM-QUESTIONNAIRE@ec.europa.eu or to the following address: European Commission, DG Home Affairs, Unit 02 "International Affairs" LX46 06/16, Rue de Luxembourg 46, 1049 Brussels, Belgium.

1.5. What next?

A report summarising the main outcomes of the public consultation will be made available on the internet on the Commission's website. The results of the consultation will feed into the Commission's preparation of the Communication on the Global Approach to Migration and the two accompanying papers. Publication will be regarded as an acknowledgment of receipt of your contribution by the Commission.

Since the launching of the Register for Interest Representatives⁶ (lobbyists) in June 2008 as part of the European Transparency Initiative, organisations have been invited to use this Register to provide the European Commission and the public at large with information about their objectives, funding and structures. It is Commission policy that submissions from organisations will be considered as individual contributions unless the organisations have registered. If authors object to the publication of their personal data on the grounds that such publication would harm their legitimate interests, contributions may still be published in anonymous form.

⁶ The Register can be found at: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/transparency/regrin/welcome.do>

2. The Global Approach to Migration in the wider political and strategic context and the main issues to be considered

2.1. Role and visibility in EU external relations

The Global Approach to Migration is a framework in which all migration and asylum issues can be addressed in a comprehensive and balanced manner. The underlying principles of the Global Approach have been solidarity, balance and true partnership with non-EU countries, based on the identification of common interests and challenges. The European Council has several times reaffirmed these principles and has underlined the need to implement all measures within the framework of the Global Approach to Migration in a comprehensive manner and evaluate them as decided. The European Council has also repeatedly underlined the need for the European Union's migration policy to be an integral part of EU foreign policy, while recognising that the Global Approach to Migration has proven its relevance as the strategic framework for this purpose⁷.

The current state of play of the Global Approach to Migration has been achieved through a gradual, evolving process. From initially focusing on more restrictive and short-term measures, the EU has steadily incorporated more and more aspects of the migratory phenomenon in its external dialogue and cooperation. The EU has also set out to develop and explore new, innovative policy tools within this framework. These developments are reflected by proposals in four specific Commission Communications since the adoption of the Global Approach to Migration in 2005.⁸ In December 2007, the Global Approach was also the focus of an interim progress report⁹. Several other, broader Communications have also contributed to further develop policy within the main themes of this framework.

The growing body of EU legislation in the area of migration and asylum has also bearing on cooperation with non-EU countries. The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon¹⁰ is increasingly enabling the Union to speak with one voice in its external relations on matters of shared competence and EU competence. Moreover, the external dimension of the EU's migration policy should also be seen in the context of the reorganisation of EU external relations, in particular the role of the High Representative/Vice-President Ashton in the overall political coordination of EU external action and the setting up of the European External Action Service (EEAS).

⁷ See e.g. Council Conclusions on enhancing the Global Approach to Migration, General Affairs Council meeting, Luxembourg, 16 June 2008; Council Conclusions on the evaluation of the Global Approach to Migration and on the partnership with countries of origin and transit, General Affairs Council meeting, Brussels, 8 December 2008; Draft Council Conclusions on Mobility Partnerships as a tool of the Global Approach to Migration, 12 November 2009 (Doc 15811/09); Stockholm Programme: Council Doc. 17024/09, approved by the European Council on 1-2 December, 2009.

⁸ Priority actions for responding to the challenges of migration: First follow-up to Hampton Court - COM(2005) 621; The Global Approach to Migration one year on: Towards a comprehensive European migration policy - COM(2006) 735; Applying the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighbouring the European Union - COM(2007) 247; Strengthening the Global Approach to Migration: Increasing Coordination, Coherence and Synergies –COM(2008) 611.

⁹ Interim progress report on the Global Approach to Migration, COM(2007) 780 final.

¹⁰ Treaty of Lisbon, Official Journal of the European Union, 2008/C115 of 9 May 2008: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:SOM:en:HTML>

The growing significance and importance over the last years of the Global Approach to Migration has also been confirmed by the Stockholm Programme and the Action Plan Implementing the Stockholm Programme. The implementation of the objectives set out in these documents is a strategic priority for the next five years. The Stockholm Programme also underlined that successful implementation of the Global Approach to Migration depends on regular evaluations, as well as improved commitment, capacity and flexibility of the available financial instruments in this policy area, both at the level of the Union and at the level of the Member States.

The Global Approach to Migration will be further pursued and implemented in accordance with these provisions, which form a concrete point of departure. Nevertheless, as the first five years of this policy framework to a large extent has taken the shape of a pilot phase, there is now scope for a new, more consolidated and consistent second phase. The Global Approach to Migration thus needs to be thoroughly examined, evaluated and reshaped into a policy framework that can efficiently respond to current and future challenges in genuine partnership with non-EU countries and other relevant stakeholders.

A first issue would therefore concern what added value action at the EU level in the external dimension of migration policy can bring in relation to action at the level of EU Member States. This question also relates to the role of EU action as a way to balance the various geographic priorities of its Member States. Action by the whole of the EU or jointly by several EU Member States may in many cases be more effective than action by a single Member State, and it may also save scarce resources for Member States as well as for the EU at large.

The recent dramatic events in the Southern Mediterranean illustrate the importance of an EU that is prepared and able to respond quickly and resolutely, as well as offering its support, in crisis and emergency situations that involve sudden influxes of migrants to EU Member States.

At the same time, it is increasingly felt that the Global Approach to Migration also needs to develop into a more strategic, long-term policy framework for the European Union in view of its internal as well as external priorities. One major such internal priority is the EU 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and social inclusion, responding to the challenges of globalization, a changing world order and the demographic ageing of Europe.

Also the external dimension of the EU migration policy needs to reflect the process whereby the EU creates conditions for modernising its labour markets in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy. By promoting a forward-looking and comprehensive labour migration policy, the EU will be able to respond in a flexible way to the priorities and needs of the EU economy. Increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 in the EU from the current 69% to at least 75% by 2020, should be encouraged including through a better integration of migrants in the work force. With that aim in mind, it would be relevant to reflect upon how potential migrants already in the country of origin could better prepare for successful labour market integration in the EU.

The Europe 2020 Strategy also calls on the EU to make full use of its external policy instruments to foster European growth through participation in world trade and by building strategic relationships with emerging economies to discuss issues of common concern and promote co-operation. In this context, it is relevant to further reflect upon the role of the Global Approach to Migration. The aim to make this framework more consistent with both

internal and external policy objectives, thus raises questions about its relation to employment policy and education policy, as well as foreign policy, trade policy and development cooperation. It could also be relevant to address more and more important policy areas such as climate change within this policy framework.

2.2. Geographic balance and priorities

The Global Approach to Migration has evolved from an initial focus on promoting dialogue and cooperation with countries to the South (the Southern Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa), to include a similar emphasis on interaction with the East and South East of the European Union. More recently, activities have also been expanded to cover Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Central Asian and Asian countries. Initiatives have ranged from bilateral, sub-regional to continental dialogue and cooperation. There is by now a broad range of regional processes, including notably the so called Rabat/Paris-process, the Prague process (Building Migration Partnerships), the EU-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) within the EU-Africa Strategy, and the EU-LAC structured dialogue on migration. Moreover, migration is included in broader cooperation frameworks such as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the Eastern Partnership, the Cotonou Agreement (with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries) and is also increasingly covered under Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs).

Some dialogue processes become permanent, although they might have been established in response to developments which are no longer relevant. In order to avoid parallel and overlapping work, a few of the regional processes might need to be adapted, merged with or better integrated into other more overarching processes. Dialogue and cooperation with non-EU countries might also be more relevant if there is a clearer differentiation between various types of partnerships ranging from basic dialogue to more advanced and committed cooperation. Furthermore, the EU needs to reflect upon with which countries it would be relevant to initiate sustainable, long-term partnerships in the area of migration. It might also be relevant to devote more attention to South-South migration, also exploring its relation with migration to the EU, and how cooperation could take into account such inter-linkages.

2.3. Thematic balance and priorities

The Global Approach to Migration has evolved into focusing on three main themes, namely how to better organise legal migration, how to prevent and fight irregular migration in an efficient yet humane way, and how to improve the positive synergies between migration and development. In addition, strengthening international protection systems and the external dimension of asylum, and the respect of the rights and dignity of migrants has to some extent been regarded as cross-cutting and horizontal parts of this policy framework. It would also be relevant to further consider the comprehensiveness of action within these themes, as well as to reflect upon the relative importance of each theme for the Global Approach to Migration.

Regarding legal migration, EU initiatives have covered the topics of providing information to potential migrants on opportunities, rights and obligations in EU destinations; pre-departure skills upgrading; labour matching; recognition of foreign qualifications; preparation of return and labour market reintegration.

Regarding irregular migration, measures have included readmission and return; fight against smuggling and trafficking in human beings; capacity building for border management; and the dispersal of Immigration Liaison Officers in EU Member State Embassies.

Regarding the links between migration and development, traditional topics have included remittances; diasporas; brain drain; but increasingly also such as portability of pension rights, circular migration, and the social aspects of migration.

All these areas of EU action would need to be reviewed, considering where there is scope to add other topics to be covered, or further deepen already ongoing activities. For instance, more attention might be needed to the role of migrant entrepreneurs, the private sector and the recruitment industry in international migration, or the downside effects and social costs of migration for the migrant, the household or the communities involved. The Commission's services are interested in innovative ways to work in these areas, including best practice from other parts of the world, and involving a broad range of actors – governments, local authorities, international organisations, migrant and diaspora associations, academic experts, nongovernmental organisations and civil society.

2.4. Efficiency and flexibility

When reviewing the functioning of the Global Approach to Migration, an issue to assess is also how efficiently the European Union attains its strategic policy objectives. The means of leverage include measures in the area of visa policy, offering opportunities for mobility, or making available funding. Neither of these instruments has been used in a systematic way, but might be considered in order to enhance mobility in a secure environment to the benefit of both the EU and its partners.

Dialogue and cooperation also to a large part depend on the extent to which the EU and its Member States can find common ground with their partners. By inviting non-EU countries at an early stage to identify their concerns and interests, the EU might be more likely to establish and maintain sustainable and mutually rewarding cooperation. In the case of priority partner countries, it might be relevant to consider offering a mechanism for a step-wise deepening of cooperation of mutual interest.

Efficiency of the Global Approach to Migration also relies on the degree of coordinating and pooling of the resources of interested Member States in relation to priority non-EU countries. A mechanism to facilitate such solidarity action might be relevant to consider.

Finally, the current EU financial assistance to carry out initiatives under the Global Approach to Migration is provided through a range of external instruments, both geographic and thematic, with different programming and management cycles. In this regard, the Commission services are interested in stakeholders' views on the current functioning of these instruments as well as in proposals for how to use them more effectively for the implementation of the Global Approach to Migration.

2.5. The tools for the Global Approach to Migration

Under the framework of the Global Approach to Migration, the EU has developed a number of specific tools. These have been utilized in order to increase the general knowledge about migration patterns and their links to development and as a way to improve the evidence-base of migration policies (migration profiles); as a way to establish initial contacts between the EU and a specific non-EU country where this has been felt lacking and needed as a step towards establishing a dialogue (migration missions); in order to bring together all relevant stakeholders to intensify dialogue and explore cooperation (cooperation platforms); and as a more sophisticated framework for operational cooperation based on mutual offers of project initiatives and commitments (mobility partnerships).

These tools have been developed gradually and are still to be consolidated, and possibly put under a more systematic hierarchy of measures ranging from knowledge mapping and exchange of information, through enhanced stages of dialogue, towards more operational cooperation. Each of these tools will need to be assessed separately and their role in the overall policy framework could be further specified. The Commission's services are therefore interested in stakeholders' experiences and views in regard of the current functioning of these tools, as well as in proposals for how to make further improvements in their design and application.

2.6. Information exchange and coordination

Sufficient and regular information exchange between the EU level and the Member State level on external cooperation and funding is imperative for the success of a coherent and consistent external migration policy. There may be scope to make further improvements in this regard.

Regular information exchange between the Member States and the Commission might be improved by setting up mechanisms for information exchange, for instance by establishing focal points in Member States, Commission services, the European External Action Service, EU delegations and Member State embassies. EU Agencies and Member State authorities might also to a larger extent be involved in such information exchange, since they are often responsible for the management and implementation of projects.

Furthermore, there is also a likely need for improving local coordination in non-EU countries involving EU delegations and Member States' embassies in order to ensure consistent and efficient implementation of the Global Approach to Migration.

More information about the Global Approach to Migration can be found on the pages of Directorate-General Home Affairs on the Europa website:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/index_en.htm

GLOSSARY

Migration-related concepts	
Brain Circulation	The possibility for developing countries to draw on the skills, know-how and other forms of experience gained by their migrants – whether they have returned (to their country of origin) or not – and members of their diaspora abroad.
Brain Drain	The loss in human capital suffered by a country of origin as a result of the emigration of a highly qualified person.
Brain Gain	The benefit in human capital to a country as a result of the immigration of a highly qualified person.
Brain Waste	The non-recognition of the skills (and qualifications) acquired by migrants outside of their country of residence, which prevents them from fully using their potential.
Circular migration	Circular migration can involve third-country nationals settled in the EU, who repeatedly engage in an activity (business, professional, voluntary or other) in their country of origin while retaining their main residence in one of the Member States. Circular migration can also involve persons residing in a non-EU country temporarily moving to the EU for work, study or training, and then returning to the country of origin. Circularity can be enhanced by giving migrants the possibility to retain some form of facilitated or privileged mobility, for example in the form of simplified admission/re-entry procedures.
Cooperation platform	Cooperation platforms aim to bring together representatives of the country or countries concerned with EU Member States, the Commission and international organisations. The idea is to bring together all relevant migration and development actors to exchange information and coordinate some activities in order to avoid overlaps and thus manage migration more effectively.
EU Blue Card Directive	This directive, adopted by the European Council on 25 May 2009, establishes more attractive conditions for third-country workers to take up highly qualified employment in the EU Member States by creating a fast-track procedure for issuing a special residence and work permit called the “EU Blue Card”. It facilitates access to the labour market to their holders and entitles them to a series of socio-economic rights and favourable conditions for family reunification and movement across the EU.
European Agency for the Management of External Borders (Frontex)	This EU agency based in Warsaw, was created on the basis of a Regulation from 2004 as a specialised and independent body tasked to coordinate the operational cooperation between Member States in the field of border security. Frontex complements and provides particular added value to the national border management systems of the Member States.
European Asylum Support Office (EASO)	Based on a Regulation from 19 May 2010, this EU agency with its seat in Malta, will be fully operational by 19 June 2011 and will contribute to the creation of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The mandate of the EASO is to strengthen Member States’ practical cooperation on asylum, to support Member States whose asylum systems are under particular

	pressure and to enhance the implementation of the CEAS.
European Training Foundation (ETF)	This EU agency is based in Turin, Italy, and aims to contribute to the development of the education and training systems of the EU partner countries. It helps transition and developing countries to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems in the context of the EU's external relations policy.
Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO)	A representative of one of the EU Member States, posted abroad by the immigration service or other competent authorities, in order to establish and maintain contacts with the authorities of the host country with a view to contribute to the prevention and fight of irregular migration, the return of irregular immigrants and the management of legal migration.
International protection	<p>The 1951 Geneva Convention defines the main elements constituting the scope of protection in the country of asylum, and specifies the standards of treatment, and the status of a refugee (rights and obligations). The Convention also provides the basis for the three 'durable solutions' for persons in need of protection: voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement to a non-EU country if a person can neither go back home, nor remain in the country of asylum.</p> <p>In addition to refugee status, there are also other forms of protection (e.g. subsidiary or complementary forms of protection). The grounds for this protection, as well as its content, lie outside the scope of the Geneva Convention but can be found in different international human rights instruments.</p>
Migration missions	Migration missions aim to develop a dialogue on migration with non-EU country authorities and facilitate a closer cooperation between Member States and the Commission at the local level, and a concrete cooperation with the authorities of this non-EU country. So far, the European Union (Commission, Presidency and interested Member States) has conducted 11 migration missions to sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Cameroon) and four to Eastern Europe (Armenia, Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine).
Mobility partnerships	On the basis of political declarations, these cooperation arrangements aim to provide the overall framework for dialogue and practical cooperation between a non-EU country and a number of Member States on a voluntary basis. Cooperation usually covers the main themes of legal migration, irregular migration, migration and development. The first mobility partnerships have been set up in 2008 with Moldova, Cape Verde and in 2009 with Georgia.
Migration profiles	Migration profiles are reports on the migration situation of a country for the purpose of increasing the evidence-base for a country's own policy development as well as for dialogue with partners. They contain data and analysis on current migration patterns, labour market trends, remittance flows, information on diasporas and other development-related data. They are also intended to be a basis for more coherent migration and development policies.
Regional Protection Programmes	Regional Protection Programmes are a policy tool designed to implement international protection framework and enhance the protection capacity of the regions involved - either being regions of origin, transit or destination.

Regional dialogue and cooperation frameworks	
The 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean	The Cooperation Process in the Western Mediterranean known as the "Dialogue 5+5" was launched during the first ministerial meeting held in Rome in 1990. This Process involves five Maghreb countries and five European countries with the aim to promote an effective dialogue on questions of common concern. Foreign Ministers from these countries meet regularly.
Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)	An informal dialogue and cooperation process bringing together the EU Member States and the European Commission with 16 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions. Areas of common interest include the management of migration flows.
The Budapest process	The Budapest Process is a consultative forum of more than fifty Governments and ten international organisations, aiming at developing comprehensive and sustainable systems for orderly migration. A main objective is the exchange of information and experiences in dealing with related topics: regular and irregular migration, asylum, visa, border management, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, readmission and return.
The Brdo-process	This is an informal cooperation process intended to strengthen relations between the countries of the Western Balkans that were once part of former Yugoslavia with a view to increasing both political and economic stability in the region.
The Eastern Partnership	The Eastern Partnership was initiated by the European Union in May 2009. It provides an institutionalised forum for cooperation with the EU's Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Dialogue is conducted with a view towards new association agreements, including comprehensive free trade agreements with those countries willing and able to enter into a deeper engagement and gradual integration in the EU economy. It would also allow for easier travel to the EU through gradual visa liberalisation, accompanied by measures to tackle irregular migration. The Partnership also promotes democracy and good governance (including migration policy and border management) and supports economic and social development in order to reduce socio-economic imbalances and increase stability.
The EU-ACP dialogue on migration, in the framework of Art 13 Cotonou Agreement	The Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States on the one part and the European Community and its Member States on the other, was signed in 2000 in Cotonou, Bénin and became known as the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement or "Cotonou Agreement". It contains specific provisions on cooperation on migration, including in the prevention and combating of irregular migration. Based on a Joint Declaration, the parties have also agreed to strengthen and deepen their dialogue and cooperation in the area of migration and development, legal migration, and irregular migration.
The EU-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME)	This was launched during the 2 nd Africa-EU Summit in December 2007, Lisbon, Portugal. The MME Partnership aims to provide holistic responses to issues of migration, mobility and employment in the

within the EU-Africa Strategy	interest of both partners, with the particular objectives to create more and better jobs for Africa and to better manage migration flows. The partnership also aims to ensure implementation of relevant international agreements and declarations, in particular the Tripoli Declaration on Migration and Development and the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action for Promotion of Employment and Poverty Alleviation.
EU-LAC structured dialogue on migration	The Structured and Comprehensive bi-regional Dialogue on Migration between the European Union and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was formally launched in June 2009. The objectives of the dialogue include identification of common challenges and areas for mutual cooperation as well as building a stronger evidence-base for EU-LAC migration in order to better understand its realities.
The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)	The European Neighbourhood Policy was developed in 2004, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all. The ENP framework is proposed to 16 of EU's closest neighbours – Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. The ENP, which is chiefly a bilateral policy between the EU and each partner country, is further enriched with regional and multilateral co-operation initiatives (the Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean/the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership).
The Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue (MTM)	This dialogue process involves a number of Arab partner states on the southern and eastern side of the Mediterranean and states on its Northern shores, including EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, and a number of EU agencies and international organisations.
The Prague process/Building Migration Partnerships	Based on a ministerial conference in Prague in April 2009, at the initiative of the Czech Republic in conjunction with Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Romania, this is a process of cooperation on migration between the EU and 19 partner countries to the East (the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Turkey, Russia, Central Asia and Southern Caucasus). Its activities extend across five areas: (1) combating irregular migration, (2) readmission, voluntary repatriation and reintegration, (3) legal immigration, (4) integration, and (5) migration and development.
The Rabat/Paris-process	The Euro-African Migration and Development process, starting with a ministerial conference in Rabat in 2006, brings together the European Union Member States and the West African states focusing on regional cooperation in the field of migration between countries of origin, transit and destination along current migration routes. The Paris Conference in 2008 further reinforced this process within the framework of addressing both legal migration, irregular migration and the links between migration and development.
The Söderköping process	The Söderköping Process was launched during the Swedish EU Presidency in 2001 as a proactive initiative to respond to the challenges of EU enlargement eastwards, and to promote better cooperation on asylum and migration related issues among the countries situated along the eastern borders of EU Member States. Since 2004, it has focused on sharing of best practices and lessons learned in reforming national asylum and migration management systems.

<p>The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)</p>	<p>The Union for the Mediterranean promotes economic integration and democratic reform across 16 neighbours to the EU's south in North Africa and the Middle East. Formerly known as the Barcelona Process, cooperation agreements were re-launched in 2008 as the Union for the Mediterranean. Along with the 27 EU member states, 16 Southern Mediterranean, African and Middle Eastern countries are members of the UfM: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.</p>
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Note: Most of the explained terminology is based on the definitions in the Glossary developed by the European Migration Network (EMN) (<http://emn.intrasoft-intl.com/Glossary/index.do#B>).