



Draft Contribution of the LX COSAC

- Amendment proposals from the Portuguese Delegation-

Short explanation: The proposed amendments aim to separate migration from security issues. On the other hand, migration should be addressed in a more comprehensive approach, and not exclusively focused in its illegal dimension.

Therefore, paragraph 1 should be divided in two – the first one containing subparagraphs 1.1., 1.2. and 1.3. of the original draft, and the second one containing subparagraphs 1.4. and 1.5. of the original draft.

As for the heading, the new paragraph 1 should be named «*Migration*» and the new paragraph 2 «*Security*».

The new paragraph 1, subparagraph 1.1. should be amended as follows.

1. ~~*Security and the fight against illegal*~~ Migration

1.1. COSAC recalls the need for a comprehensive EU approach to migration, which ensures coherence between internal and external policies, encompasses all migration routes and is based on the principles and values on which the EU is built. ***Thus, it is necessary to focus on a legal, safe and orderly migration management, with due respect for asylum rights and the non-refoulement principle, as well as*** a long-term and effective response to the human, social and political challenges of irregular migration and forced displacement demands enhanced cooperation with the countries of origin and transit as part of a broader partnership in order to tackle the root causes of these phenomena.

1.2. COSAC considers that greater efforts must be made to protect the EU's external borders, with the goal of preventing irregular entry into the EU, tackling human trafficking and smuggling and preventing loss of life at sea. It also underlines the necessity to significantly step up the effective return of irregular migrants in line with fundamental principles of international and EU law. Existing readmission agreements should be better implemented and new agreements concluded, including by using the necessary leverage consisting of all relevant EU policies, instruments and tools.



1.3. COSAC welcomes the Commission proposals on the Return Directive, the Asylum agency and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency , ensuring the most efficient use of resources and with due respect for the responsibility of the Member States.

2. Security

2.1. COSAC recalls that the EU heads of state or government gathered at an informal meeting in Salzburg on 19-20 September 2018 to discuss important matters of internal security, took stock of progress achieved, and agreed, inter alia, to step up the fight against all forms of cyber-crime, manipulation and disinformation. In this regard, COSAC calls for measures to combat cyber and cyber-enabled illegal and malicious activities and build strong cybersecurity. Work on all recent Commission proposals should be concluded before the end of the legislature.

2.2. COSAC stresses the importance of measures aimed at strengthening the capacity to prevent and respond effectively to radicalisation and terrorism. It supports recent steps to improve the interoperability of information systems and databases as well as to strengthen the Union's crisis management capacity and the coherence and effectiveness of the EU and national crisis response mechanisms.