



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 15 April 2016
(OR. en)

13614/15
EXT 1

FRONT 232
COSI 138
ASIM 145
COMIX 538

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	13614/15 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED
dated:	13 November 2015
new status:	Public

Subject:	Report on the activities of the Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO) Networks and on the situation in Egypt in matters relating to illegal immigration
----------	---

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



Brussels, 13 November 2015
(OR. en)

13614/15

RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

**FRONT 232
COSI 138
ASIM 145
COMIX 538**

NOTE

From: Italian delegation

To: Working Party on Frontiers / Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)

Subject: Report on the activities of the Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO) Networks and on the situation in Egypt in matters relating to illegal immigration

Delegations will find enclosed a report on the activities of Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO) Networks and on the situation in Egypt in matters relating to illegal migration.

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 377/2004 of 19 February 2004 on the creation of an immigration liaison officers network (hereinafter: the Regulation) "The Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union or, if this Member State is not represented in the country or region, the Member State serving as acting Presidency shall draw up by the end of each semester a report on the activities of immigration liaison officers networks in which it has a representative, as well as on the situation in the host country, in matters relating to illegal immigration to the Council and the Commission."

For the purpose of this report, the Italian Presidency of the Council in the second half of 2014 decided to focus on and launch procedures for the preparation of the ILOs Network Report on Egypt.

SELECTION OF THE COUNTRY

Economic and political turmoil in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa has opened a corridor for smugglers to ferry migrants to Italy, often with tragic outcomes as hundreds perish at sea.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

In this context, Egypt has to be considered as a stable country with solid political and judiciary powers in force, capable to cope with illegal immigration and border control issues.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

It is obvious that Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) is considered to be a vulnerable area mainly used as an origin/transit region by migrants and their facilitators. Therefore the greatest efforts have to be committed for enhancing an effective collaboration between EU Member States and local reliable authorities. The activity of the ILOs network in Egypt is consequently of the utmost importance to improve such cooperation and to evaluate the best practices to be developed in fighting illegal immigration along with the Egyptian authorities.

METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED FOR DRAFTING THE REPORT

The report has been drawn up in accordance with the model established by Commission Decision 687/2005 on a scheme indicated by the Regulation with specific guidelines in the form of a questionnaire.

Such questionnaire contains two parts:

(I) Activities of the ILO Network: whose objective is to assess the work carried out by the Liaison Officers Network in the region and to indicate proposals aiming at improving the activity of the Network;

(II) Situation in the host Country in matters relating to illegal immigration: whose objective is to provide with a general overview of migration and border control management carried out by the Egyptian authorities, to evaluate the cooperation with the host Country in the field of fight against illegal immigration and to recommend ways to assist Egypt in preventing and countering illegal migratory flows.

An Immigration Attaché acting as Immigration Liaison Officer has been detached by Italy at the Italian Embassy in Cairo. In February 2015, the Italian ILO coordinated a meeting regarding the drafting of the report and invited the European Union ILOs and LOs dealing with immigration matter as part of their duties seconded to Egypt, that is France, Germany, Hungary, Spain, United Kingdom and Norway. Representatives of Spain, U.K. and Norway did not participate in because abroad and were met and contacted separately on a bilateral level.

The ILOs questionnaire was distributed in advance to all EU Liaison Officers posted in Egypt and presented again, as a basis of the discussion, during the meeting. The collaboration provided by the ILOs was really effective and fruitful and the meeting was also the occasion to deepen bi/multilateral aspects of the police cooperation with Egypt.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

It has also to be underlined that Hungary presented a report on the activity of the ILO networks and on the situation in Egypt in 2011, after its EU presidency in the first semester of that year. The report was very accurate and provided a lot in-depth and correct information about the illegal immigration phenomenon in the region. Therefore, the current report is also intended as an update and integration of the previous one, also in the light of the socio-political events occurred in the meanwhile, such as the Syrian conflict, the exacerbation of the Libyan civil war and the stabilization of the political situation in Egypt.

REPORT

On the activities of Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO) Networks and on the situation in the Arab Republic of Egypt in matters relating to illegal migration

Host country:	Egypt
Reporting member state:	Italy
Reporting period:	1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014

NOT DECLASSIFIED FROM THIS POINT UNTIL THE END OF THE DOCUMENT

(page 46)
