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Subject: Synthesis on Member States' responses to a questionnaire following-up on "EU Action on Migratory Pressures – A Strategic Response" regarding readmission and return

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



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NOTE

from : Presidency
to Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion/Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
on 26 September 2012
Subject : Synthesis on Member States' responses to a questionnaire following-up on "EU Action on Migratory Pressures – A Strategic Response" regarding readmission and return

Synthesis on Member States' responses to a questionnaire following-up on "EU Action on Migratory Pressures – A Strategic Response" regarding readmission and return

I. Background

1. On 26-27 April 2012 the Council adopted the "EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response" (hereinafter EU Action) giving it its full backing to support concrete activities in order to combat migratory pressures at EU level¹.

¹ Doc. 9650/12 MIGR 45 FRONT 67 COSI 25 COMIX 288

In doing so, the Council has endorsed a more strategic and results-orientated way of implementing existing processes and measures agreed at EU level to address the growing phenomenon of illegal immigration and abuse of free movement.

The EU Action contains two strategic priority areas specifically involving readmission and return:

- A) Under the strategic priority area on “Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management”, the EU Action includes four activities intended to operationalise the Council Conclusions of June 2011 defining an EU strategy on readmission (doc 11260/11 MIGR 118)
1. Launching of a substantive discussion based on a Presidency questionnaire to identify new third countries, with which concluding an EU readmission agreement would be of interest to the EU, in particular countries of origin of illegal migration (cf. EU Action I.1.A.i.).
 2. Preparation of a comprehensive overview of EU and Member States relations and agreements with third countries eligible for negotiation of EU readmission agreements (cf. EU Action I.1.A.ii.).
 3. Discussion and consideration of the use and the content of proportional, tailor-made incentives offered to those identified third countries with which EU readmission agreements are to be negotiated, in combination with the principle of conditionality applied in an appropriate manner (cf. EU Action I.1.A.iii.).
 4. Clarification of the Council’s criteria regarding rules on accelerated procedures, transit operations, and obligations to readmit third country nationals and stateless persons, in order to assess how these issues should be taken into account on a case-by-case basis in EU readmission agreements with identified countries (cf. EU Action I.1.A.iv.).

- B) Under the strategic priority area on “Enhancing migration management, including cooperation on return practices”, the EU Action includes ensuring that Member States share best practices on return (both voluntary and forced) and encouraging cooperation between the stakeholders in the field (cf. EU Action VI.2.B.).

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