



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

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To: Delegations

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Subject: Council Conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 17/2021 entitled "EU readmission cooperation with third countries: relevant actions yielded limited results"

– *Council Conclusions (9 December 2021)*

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 17/2021 entitled "EU readmission cooperation with third countries: relevant actions yielded limited results", approved by the Council (Justice and Home Affairs) at its 3837th meeting held on 9 December 2021.

**European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 17/2021 entitled
"EU readmission cooperation with third countries: relevant actions yielded limited results"**

- Council conclusions -

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. THANKS the European Court of Auditors for the Special Report No 17/2021 "EU readmission cooperation with third countries: relevant actions yielded limited results";
2. CONCURS that the difficulty and complexity of cooperating with migrants' countries of origin and transit is one of the reasons for low returns of irregular migrants and therefore CONSIDERS the Special Report a useful contribution to reflections on how to improve readmission cooperation with third countries;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Report, which examines readmission cooperation during the 2015-2020 period with 10 third countries with the highest absolute numbers of non-returned irregular migrants¹;
4. TAKES good note of the advantages of pursuing, where appropriate, a more flexible approach especially when negotiating readmission agreements.
5. AGREES that synergies between the European Union and the Member States should be created for facilitation of readmission negotiations;

¹ Calculation based on the period between 2014 and 2018

6. SHARES the Court's opinion on the crucial importance of a Team Europe approach and speaking with one voice to third countries;
7. RECOGNISES the importance of creating and applying the necessary positive and negative incentives and leverages for third countries to cooperate on readmission, and the relevance of engaging a wide range of policies and tools after careful consideration and in full respect of national competences.
8. TAKES GOOD NOTE of the importance of safe and dignified returns and sustainable reintegration and of capacity-building support for the countries of origin, ensuring their active involvement.
9. AGREES that the quality and comparability of data on return and readmission should be improved across Member States;
10. INVITES the European Court of Auditors to keep the Council informed of future audit reports on the same or other return-related issues.
