

Ministerial Conference on

Management of Migratory Flows

High Level Technical Seminar | Lisbon, 10 May

Summary of discussions

In the context of the Ministerial Conference on the Management of Migratory Flows, held in Lisbon, on the 10th and 11th of May 2021, under the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union, African States, Member States, European Commission, EEAS, African Union Commission, EU agencies and International Organizations, gathered in a Technical Seminar, to discuss a number of pivotal ideas.

The Technical Seminar was organised in two panels. The **First Panel** was on the *"The External Dimension: The role of partnerships in defining tailored policies for a win-win approach, concerning the management of irregular migratory flows and for the establishment of return/readmission tools in an integrated/holistic perspective"*, while the **Second Panel** was on *"External Cooperation: fostering legal migration and mobility – promoting legal pathways for migration to the EU"*.

In summary, the key messages were as follows:

- Migration is largely seen as a transnational phenomenon that cannot be fully managed by individual States, but rather by a joint effort of the international community encompassing global solutions;



- Migration management needs to be embedded on a holistic approach based on partnerships that take into account priorities and needs of all countries involved, in order to be effectively a win/win situation;
- The fight against smuggling of people and trafficking in human beings, by tackling the criminal networks business models', is paramount to protect the lives and fundamental rights of migrants;
- Information campaigns, by using all available tools, including social media and the involvement of the Diaspora communities, were also considered a fundamental pillar to prevent irregular migration and guarantee the safety of migrants;
- It is necessary to improve and enhance EU-Africa cooperation, by creating tailor-made partnerships and a roadmap of concrete measures, based on mutual trust, on the respect for fundamental human rights, constant monitoring of the achievements, while proactively identifying the needs requiring further action;
- Solidarity needs to play a central role in the partnership between the EU and Africa and strike a more balanced approach in the development of the framework for cooperation;
- The setting up and enhancing of the asylum reception conditions, play an important role in the capacity of countries to manage mixed migration flows;
- Cooperation between all countries in return, readmission and reintegration is a crucial component of the migration management policy;



- Migration needs to be integrated in the overall cooperation framework by mobilizing relevant policies and instruments, including funding, in order to properly address the root causes of migration;
- Safe, legal and orderly migratory pathways, in due respect for national policies, are important components of the external dimension of migration. In this regard, the initiative of Talent Partnerships', soon to be launched by the European Commission, aims to provide a comprehensive policy framework for labour migration and mobility, assuring mutually beneficial cooperation with partner countries;
- Migratory flows need to be managed well and effectively, in a close cooperation between countries of origin, transit and of destination;
- The need to scale up and implement innovative labour mobility schemes for employment opportunities with partner countries, in order to foster economic development while avoiding brain drain, is of crucial importance;
- The sharing of knowledge and best practices is key to develop more efficient mobility schemes;
- Digital innovation is also a path to explore and a way to share experiences, from building business relations to exchange institutional knowledge, attract talent and incorporate the private sector in the migratory ecosystem.

