MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE THEMATIC PROGRAMME "COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE AREAS OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM"

ISSUES PAPER

The current strategy paper for the Thematic Programme "Cooperation with Third Countries in the area of Migration and Asylum" covers the period 2007-2010[1]. The European Commission is carrying out the programme's mid-term review, with the aim of **defining the programme's multi-annual strategy for the period 2011-2013**.

This issues' paper aims at contributing to a reflection on the future orientation of the Thematic Programme, as regards its rationale, scope, strategic objectives and priorities, approach and implementation modalities. The programme's main stakeholders are strongly encouraged to react to this Issues Paper and send in their comments and views on the programme's implementation and perspectives for the future.

1. INTRODUCTION

The significant increase in the absolute number of migrants and refugees in a large number of countries in the last ten years, coupled with the intensification of national debates on the integration of migrants in host communities and the contribution of migration to the development of both host and origin countries, have placed migration high up in the international political agenda, most particularly of receiving countries such as those in the EU.

According to the most recent data, there are currently 214 million international migrants in the world (against 191 million in 2005), representing 3.1 percent of the world's population[2] (while the number of internal migrants is approximately 740 million people[3]). Almost half of these migrants moved from a developing to a developed country. Features of the current migration phenomenon, other than rise in the number of migrants, are a "feminization of migration"[4] (it is estimated that about 49% of migrants are women), the widespread trafficking in human beings, the growth of Diaspora and the strengthening of its ties with people in their country of origin, the diversification of destinations and origins, with the correlated multiplication of migratory routes, as well as the increase of mixed flows, with different types of migrants and refugees/asylum seekers using the same routes and networks. Factors fuelling these trends are the improvement in transport and communication means, coupled with a pervasive disparity in wealth and living conditions between the "North" and the "South", as well as long standing conflicts and humanitarian crisis in regions such as the Horn of Africa, the Middle East, Afghanistan/Pakistan, etc., which continue to generate huge flows of refugees.

The total number of third country nationals in the EU is estimated at 19.5 millions people, representing 3.9% of the total population (497.5 million). The management of migration is a key political priority in the EU for years to come for several reasons. Firstly, the demographic challenges the EU faces in the near future, with considerably low birth rates and ageing of population (it is estimated that, by 2050, 33% of EU population will be over 65 years old, which implies having 2 retirees per every active person)[5]; secondly, the need to integrate migrants in the EU societies, thirdly, the need to develop policies for managing legal migration and curbing irregular migration and trafficking and smuggling

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/migration-asylum/documents/strategy-paper2007-2010.pdf
[2] United Nations' Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision, http://esa.un.org/migration
[3] UNDP, 2009, Human Development Report "Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development", p.1
[4] Ghosh, Jayati, 2009, "Migration and Gender Empowerment: Recent Trends and Emerging Issues", UNDP Human Development Research Paper, 57p.
[5] World Bank, 2009, Shaping the Future, A Long-Term Perspective of People and Job Mobility in the Middle East and North Africa,

networks which prey on migrants' desperation and vulnerability; fourthly, the commitment to maintaining simultaneously an open door policy as regards asylum seekers and persons in need of protection.

As regards recent trends in the different migratory routes and flows towards the EU, the conflict situations in the Horn of Africa and in the Afghanistan/Pakistan contributed to a large influx towards the EU of refugees and asylum seekers. Moreover, the substantial decrease in the flux of migrants and asylum seekers coming through West Africa and the Canary Islands in the last couple of years has been considerably compensated by a rise in the flows through Libya and the East Mediterranean. Finally, the phenomenon of unaccompanied minors arriving in the EU – whether as asylum applicants, illegally-staying migrants or victims of trafficking - is becoming increasingly visible and concerns all Member States, even if at different degrees.

The current economic and financial crisis and the corresponding rise in unemployment imply fewer opportunities for migrants in the EU. Also, some EU Member States adopted stricter admission conditions, with some countries which experienced a very important influx of migrants in the last ten years taking measures to encourage the return of migrants to their countries of origin.

In view of all these challenges, **cooperation with third countries is absolutely crucial**. To be effective, such cooperation must encompass all different aspects of the migration phenomenon and not only the prevention and curbing of irregular migration as it was the case a few years ago. In fact, EU cooperation with third countries in this field has a comprehensive approach nowadays, which also includes measures aiming at facilitating labour migration, protecting migrants' rights, fighting organised crime networks active in human trafficking and smuggling, addressing plight of refugees and asylum seekers, and furthering the contribution of migrants to the development of their countries of origin.

2. EU POLICY

This is the approach undertaken by the EU since 2005, with the adoption of an overall policy framework on the external dimension of the European Union's migration policy, referred to as the **Global Approach to Migration**. Such policy, developed in several EU communications/policy papers[6] and formal or informal agreements with third countries, is based on three pillars: facilitation of labour migration, prevention and curbing of irregular migration and fostering the links between migration and the development of migrants' countries of origin. These principles were reaffirmed at the highest political level in October 2008, when EU Heads of State and Government signed the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum[7], and again in December 2009, with the endorsement by the European Council of the Stockholm Programme[8].

First designed in 2005 for the Southern Migratory Route (Sub-Saharan Africa and South Mediterranean), this Global Approach to Migration policy was extended in 2007 to the Eastern Migratory Route (Eastern Europe and Asia). Even if not adopted as regards other regions, this policy presides over EU thinking when it comes to international cooperation with other countries/regions in this field, as it is aimed at a genuine partnership with third countries and at its full integration into the EU's other external policies. For the implementation of such approach the EU uses two types of tools. Firstly, broader instruments such as multilateral or bilateral agreements and financial assistance, in particular through external financing instruments such as the former programme AENEAS and **the Thematic Programme "Cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum"**. Secondly,

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[6] Commission 2002 & 2005 Communications on migration & development
Council Conclusions on Global Approach Dec 2005, first focus on EU-Africa cooperation
Commission Communication on extending the Global Approach to East and South-East, May 2007 (endorsed by the Council in June 2007)
Council Conclusions on Coherence between EU Migration and Development Policies, Nov 2007
Commission Communication on a common immigration policy for Europe, June 2008

[7] Council 13440/08

[8] Council 17024/09

other specific instruments such as Mobility Partnerships, Migration Profiles, Circular Migration Schemes, Cooperation Platforms, Readmission Agreements, Migration Missions, Regional Protection Programmes, etc.

Dialogue with African partners has been particularly active at all levels since 2006. At a continental level and following up on the Tripoli Declaration on Migration and Development of November 2006[9], an EU-Africa Partnership for Migration, Mobility and Employment was adopted by the EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government in Lisbon in December 2007[10]. At regional level, a Cooperation Programme on Migration and Development was adopted in Paris in November 2008[11] focusing on the management of migratory flows along the Western migratory route, as follow up to the Rabat Declaration in 2006[12]. At a national level, **Migration Missions**[13] have been carried out since 2007 in Cape Verde, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya. As a tool to follow up concretely political dialogue, a Cooperation Platform has also been set up in Ethiopia, gathering all migration players on both the EU side and the partner country and providing a forum for discussion on the topic. A similar migration dialogue forum was set up in South Africa.

Bilateral links with partner countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia were strengthened, also as a result of Member States from Central and Eastern Europe joining the EU recently. Cooperation with this region in the area of migration has been reinforced substantially both through the signing of several agreements and through financial support to actions aiming at addressing the different facets of the migration phenomenon. This is the case of a recent initiative entitled 'Building Migration Partnerships'[14], which aims at ensuring that the EU's Global Approach to Migration is also applied in the EU's Neighbourhood (including the Western Balkans, Turkey, Russia, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia), as well as setting up of the Black Sea Cooperation Platform in the Area of Migration and Development[15], which aims at improving regional coordination and dialogue by establishing a common set of objectives and implementing concrete actions. In this region, **Migration Missions** have been carried out since 2007 in Armenia, Georgia and Belarus.

The EU is also developing its dialogue and cooperation on migration related issues with Asia and Latin America, notably in the context of the EU-LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) structured dialogue[16], as well as in the framework of the ASEM Conference of Directors General of Immigration on Management of Migratory Flows.

Mobility Partnerships were signed with Cape Verde and Moldova in 2008 and Georgia in 2009. The possibility of signing Mobility Partnerships with some other third countries will be explored in the near future. Conceived as one of the main tools to implement the Global Approach[17], this instrument takes the form of a non legal biding political declaration between the Commission, interested EU Member States and a partner country through which all parties commit themselves to work actively together to better manage migration flows, including facilitation of mobility and labour migration, prevention and curbing of irregular migration and fostering the links between migration and development. Those commitments must be translated into concrete initiatives.

Also through its external relations financial instruments the EU has been supporting the establishment of enhanced **Migration Profiles** for a series of countries in Eastern Europe and West Africa, and is considering extending its support to other regions like South Mediterranean and Eastern Africa. Such

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[9] http://www.africa-union.org/root/AU/Conferences/Past/2006/November/SA/EU/Aide_Memoire_fr.htm
[10] http://www.eu2007.pt/NR/rdonlyres/B22DBDCA-9425-4696-9B0E-81C5AF814ACC/0/DocumentoemMicrosoftInternetExplorer.pdf
[11] http://www.ue2008.fr/webdav/site/PFUE/shared/import/1125_conference_immigration/Paris_Conference_Migration_Development_Final_statement_EN.pdf
[12] http://www.maec.gov.ma/migration/Doc/RABAT%20DECLARATION_EN.pdf
[13] Council 10340/09
[14] Council 9283/09
[15] Council 7241/1/09
[16] Council 11617/09
[17] Council 13489/09

support should be seen in the framework of an evidence based policy and capacity building activities, as they include the strengthening of third countries capacity to update those Migration Profiles in the future.

Several **Circular Migration** schemes aiming at improving the mobility of seasonal and other temporary workers between EU and third countries have also been supported, even though their results are mainly confined to seasonal work. A few Member States have also taken measures that facilitate circular migration, for instance by introducing multi-entry permits or facilitating re-entry procedures. Other Member States have taken measures that let migrants keep their residence permits after temporary returns to their country of origin.

EU Readmission Agreements, under which third countries commit to readmit persons originating from their respective countries and staying illegally in the EU, are currently in force with the following third countries/territories: Hong-Kong, Macao, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russian Federation, Ukraine, FYROM, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Moldova.

Also **Regional Protection Programmes** aiming at ensuring that asylum-seekers and refugees receive protection, assistance and durable solutions were approved and are being implemented in Eastern Europe and Africa's Great Lakes region.

For the coming years, the challenge at EU level will be to keep the right balance between the three main strands of its global approach to migration, mainly by improving the opportunities for labour migration and mobility for third countries nationals seeking legal employment in the EU, without which the full potential of the different instruments in use can not be exploited. Another challenge would be to move the EU action in this field from a policy that consists basically in the management of current affairs to a more long term, strategic and evidence based policy on migration and asylum.

The recently approved Stockholm Programme, which identifies the EU political priorities in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security for the period 2010-2014, recognises the EU Global Approach to Migration as the strategic framework for an EU external policy on migration and affirms the need to accelerate its balanced implementation through a more strategic use of all its existing instruments and improved coordination.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW

As stipulated in Article 20 of the DCI (Development Cooperation Instrument) Regulation[18], the implementation of the Thematic Programme for the "Cooperation with Third Countries in the area of Migration and Asylum" is based in a strategy paper which sets out, for a given period, the priority areas selected for financing by the EU, specific objectives, expected results and performance indicators, as well as indicative financial allocations, both overall and per priority area. Such strategy paper is subject to a mid-term review, **to assess whether the strategy adopted still reflects adequately the political priorities and is well adapted to the current international context as regards migratory flows**.

The current strategy paper for the Thematic Programme "Cooperation with Third Countries in the area of Migration and Asylum" covers the period 2007-2010[19]. This mid-term review aims at defining the programme's **multi-annual strategy for the period 2011-2013**. Extensive consultation of all the programme's stakeholders, including Member States, European Parliament and civil society, as well as European Commission own research and existing EU policy frameworks underpins this review. As foreseen in the current strategy paper, an external evaluation of the operations supported by this programme provides also input for the mid-term review.

To allow its timely implementation, the new strategy for the period 2011-2013 must be adopted by September/October 2010 the latest.

[18] OJ L 378/41 du 27.12.2006. Cf. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:378:0041:0071:EN:PDF
[19] http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/migration-asylum/documents/strategy-paper2007-2010.pdf

This Issues Paper aims at contributing to a reflection on the future orientation of the Thematic Programme, as regards its rationale, scope, strategic objectives and priorities, approach and implementation modalities.

4. THE THEMATIC PROGRAMME'S OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY 2007-2010

The programme's objectives and framework

The Thematic Programme's main objective, as spelled out in Article 16 of the DCI Regulation, is to support third countries in their efforts to ensure a better management of migratory flows in all their dimensions.

At thematic level, the programme covers the following five major fields of action, corresponding to the essential aspects of the migratory phenomenon:

(a) fostering the links between migration and development, especially by encouraging the contribution of diasporas to the development of their country of origin and increasing the value of migrants' return;

(b) promoting well-managed labour migration, in particular by informing about legal migration and conditions of entry in and stay on the territory of the Member States of the Community;

(c) preventing and curbing illegal immigration and facilitating the readmission of illegal immigrants, and improving capacities in the areas of border, visa and passport management;
(d) protecting migrants against exploitation and exclusion, supporting their integration and non-discrimination and preventing and fighting the smuggling of, and trafficking in, human beings;

(e) promoting asylum and international protection, including through regional protection programmes, in particular by strengthening institutional capacities.

Although this programme does not finance operations designed to address directly the root causes of migration, which are approached through other EC financial instruments and programmes, the actions supported through it must be consistent with the Community efforts to address all those issues.

In geographical terms, all third countries eligible for the ENPI, the DCI and the EDF financial instruments are eligible under the Thematic Programme. That being said, the subject of this Thematic Programme is primarily, although not exclusively, migration to the European Union.

In accordance with the *subsidiarity principle* set out in Article 11 of the DCI Regulation, Thematic Programmes shall be subsidiary to the geographical programmes, encompassing "a specific area of activity of interest to a group of partner countries not determined by geography, or cooperation activities addressed to various regions or groups of partner countries, or an international operation that is not geographically specific", adding value and being additional and coherent with actions funded under those programmes. Therefore, the *financing of migration related activities at country or regional level should continue to be primarily envisaged in the context of the geographic programmes* which allow for the programming of activities focussing primarily on the interests of the beneficiary countries and less depending on the ad hoc submission of projects.

In this context, the Thematic Programme should be particularly adapted to supporting capacity building and to promoting cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination.

The strategy 2007-2010

The current strategy for this Thematic Programme takes into account various factors, in particular:

(i) the international situation marked by the rise in the number of migrants, the changes in migration patterns, the increased migratory pressure on industrialised countries, in parallel to the continuation of

south/south migration; the search for solutions to illegal immigration, an increased attention to the migration and development nexus, and the existence of protracted refugee situations;

(ii) as regards the EU context, the increasing migratory pressure on its Southern and Eastern borders and the emphasis on a more balanced approach to the migratory phenomenon, including the development and labour dimensions, even if much attention remains focussed on illegal immigration, especially from Africa;

(iii) the activities of the other international actors addressing specific aspects of migration according to their own mandates in a field where the need for increased coordination is discussed increasingly;

(iv) and, obviously, the lessons learnt from past experience acquired in particular with former programme AENEAS, through which the EC funded a total of 108 migration related projects for a total amount of approximately 120 million EURO.

Even though the Communication on the Thematic Programme was structured according to various migration related themes, the response strategy opted for a geographic approach, which seems to better correspond to the way migration is envisaged at EU level. Such geographic approach is based on the **concept of "migratory route"**, defining two priority migratory routes[20]:

- **The Southern migratory route** (south/north migration), including flows originating from or transiting through Sub-Saharan African countries and Northern Africa;

- **The Eastern migratory route** (east/west migration): including flows originating from or transiting through Russian Federation, Western NIS, Southern Caucasus and Asia.

The strategy also takes into consideration important **migratory flows** to the EU coming from outside of the above routes, i.e. those coming from the Middle East, Southern and Eastern Asia and the Pacific region, Latin America and the Caribbean.

For each one of these migratory routes, or flows, the strategy and respective multi-annual indicative programme establishes an indicative financial envelope and defines a certain number of priorities. Roughly half of the funds should finance activities that directly benefit ENPI countries.

Complementary to this geographical approach, the strategy identifies also some global or multi-regional issues addressing several dimensions of the migratory phenomenon, like "migration and development", asylum, labour migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and prevention and management of illegal immigration. An indicative amount is given for each one of these global initiatives.

5. IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE

Since its inception in 2007, approximately 64 projects have been approved for funding under the Thematic Programme, for a total amount of 102.3million €[21]. 56 of these projects (for a total amount of 61.6 million€) have been selected through a call for proposals published in 2007 (from a total of 335 concept notes submitted of which 194 were pre-selected), while 8 have been funded through a direct agreement (for a total amount of approximately 40.7 million€).

All the five main objectives of the Thematic Programme (migration and development, promoting well-managed labour migration, fighting irregular migration, protecting migrants against exclusion and exploitation and promoting asylum and international protection) are well represented in the mix of projects financed under the Thematic Programme. The distribution of projects across thematic areas is relatively well balanced with, from a financial point of view, illegal or irregular migration accounting

[20] http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/migration_en.htm

[21] Please consult list of funded projects at: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/migration-asylum/index_en.htm

for 31 percent of the total, migration and development 28 percent, labour migration 17 percent, asylum and protection 15 percent and protection of migrants against exclusion and exploitation 9 percent.

In geographical terms the Southern Migratory Route represents approximately 43 percent of the financial support provided so far, with the Eastern Migratory Route representing 29 percent, the Middle East and Gulf 4 percent, Asia 14.5 percent and Latin America and the Caribbean around 10 percent.

As regards the type of beneficiary, 41 percent of the projects are co-funded with international organisations, 27 percent with non-governmental organisations (NGO), 17 percent with national administrations and state agencies, 10 percent with foundations and research institutes/universities and 3 percent with local authorities. It is clearly that the main objective of the project reflects also on the type of beneficiary: national administrations and agencies are the preferred choice of implementer in projects dealing with irregular migration and border management, while NGO have a strong presence in projects in the area of migration and development and specialised international organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with its specific mandate on protection of refugees and persons in need of asylum, have a clear comparative advantage in areas related to promotion of asylum and international protection.

Most of these projects have strong capacity building and training features, which bodes well for their sustainability. However, as almost all of them are still ongoing or have just started, it is too early to ascertain their concrete results and impact.

6. ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE MID-TERM REVIEW

An assessment of the Thematic Programme should be set against current EU and Member States migration political debates, priorities and needs, as well as the broader international agenda on migration and asylum. The issues to address concern the added value of the programme and its role in the framework of EU cooperation with third countries in the area of migration and asylum. It must also be assessed to what extent the modalities chosen for the implementation of the programme are the most adequate to fulfil its objectives and priorities. In this framework, a number of indicative and non-exhaustive questions are proposed below.

Mid-Term Review questions

1. In fostering cooperation with third countries[22], the current strategy for the Thematic Programme[23] has five OBJECTIVES: encouraging labour migration, preventing irregular migration; fostering synergies between migration and development; protecting migrants against exploitation and trafficking; and strengthening asylum systems and protection of refugees[24]. In your opinion, *to what extent has the Strategy fulfilled these various objectives? Considering the diverse objectives of the programme, how BALANCED has been its implementation? Do you feel some of the objectives should feature more prominently in the future?*

2. *How does the programme's strategy fit into the EXTERNAL DIMENSION of the EU migration and asylum policies, as well as the EU's external policy in general, including how well it fits into policies and agendas such as the European Pact on Asylum and Migration, the Lisbon Agenda, Hague and Stockholm programmes, the European Consensus for Development, etc.? How consistent is this strategy with other EU policies such as employment and social policies, trade, etc.? To what extent are the EU policy priorities reflected in the projects funded through the programme?*

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[22] http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/migration-asylum/index_en.htm
[23] http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/migration_en.htm
[24] EC, *Thematic Strategy Paper for the Thematic Programme of cooperation with third countries in the areas of Migration and Asylum and Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2007-2010*, pp. 6-7.
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/documents/eidhr/strategy-paper2007-2010.pdf

3. To achieve its objectives, the current Strategy uses the notion of MIGRATORY ROUTES and has identified two priority migratory routes (the Southern route, covering Africa, and the Eastern route, covering Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia)[25]. *Is the "migratory route" an adequate notion to guide the definition of the geographical priorities of the Thematic Programme? Is the current geographical focus of the programme in line with its objectives?*

4. In financing migration and asylum issues, the Thematic Programme is intended to be SUBSIDIARY to the efforts launched under the so-called "geographical instruments" for cooperation, that is, the funds that exist for EU external assistance at country and regional level, the priorities for which are defined in Country and Regional Strategy Papers (CSPs and RSPs). *For what types of intervention do you consider the Thematic Programme better suited than the CSPs and the RSPs to support EU cooperation efforts on migration and asylum? Do you deem projects funded from the Thematic Programme to be sufficiently complementary with those funded from geographical instruments and coherent with the overall EU strategies for the countries and regions concerned? Does the Thematic Programme complement adequately these and other instruments, geographical and thematic, internal or external?*

5. With the increased importance paid to issues such as the fight against human trafficking, support to unaccompanied minors, remittances, circular migration schemes or readmission and reintegration measures, and the emergence of new concerns such as the impact of climate change on migration, the implication of the financial crisis to migratory flows, the effect of gender-based on migration issues, *should the strategy better define the THEMATIC PRIORITIES and funding reserved for such priorities? Should the strategy also better target support to instruments such as Mobility Partnerships, Regional Protection Programmes, Readmission Agreements or Regional Cooperation Platforms, or specific actors such as local CSOs, Local Authorities or Diaspora organisations? Should the future Strategy further concentrate on a limited number of topics or instruments?*

6. Most of the projects supported by the Thematic Programme for Migration and Asylum are selected through CALL FOR PROPOSALS. The balance of funding is devoted to supporting initiatives in the form of so-called "targeted projects" addressing very specific priorities through DIRECT AGREEMENTS with specialized international organizations or national administrations or state agencies (see above under paragraph 4). *Is the balance between "targeted projects" and projects awarded under Calls for* Proposals adequate*? Are the results of the Calls for Proposals satisfactory? Has the choice of projects and partners through direct agreements (targeted projects) been coherent and appropriate to achieve the programme's objectives?*

7. Bearing in mind EU commitment to the principles of Aid Effectiveness, Donor Coordination and Division of Labour, *has the extent and quality of CONSULTATIONS and CO-ORDINATION with Member States and other donors, including the main international organisations active in this field, been satisfactory? Were synergies with the EU MS bilateral cooperation with non-EU countries adequately developed? Is there enough alignment between this instrument and the beneficiary country priorities?*

8. There have been concerns that the VISIBILITY of EU action in addressing the objectives of the strategy has been insufficient. *To what extent did the programme's strategy contribute to raise the awareness of European policy makers, civil society and citizens in general to the complexity and different facets of the migration phenomena? To what extent is the programme's visibility adequate and are its objectives and results known to the wider public?*

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[25] *Ibid*, p.5.

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We would like to have your views and comments on these issues, as well as any others you might find relevant in the context of this Mid-Term Review (MTR).

The programme's main stakeholders, particularly national administrations and state agencies, international organisations, civil society organisations, local authorities, universities and research institutes are strongly encouraged to send us their comments and views on the programme's implementation so far and its new strategy for the period 2011-2013.

Please send your reactions to this external consultation by the 31 March 2010 the latest. Your contributions must focus on the issues raised above and should not, in any case, exceed a MAXIMUM OF 5 PAGES.

Replies must be send to the following mailbox: RELEX-JLS-MIGRA-ASYL-MTR@ec.europa.eu