



European Union

EXTERNAL ACTION



A Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel

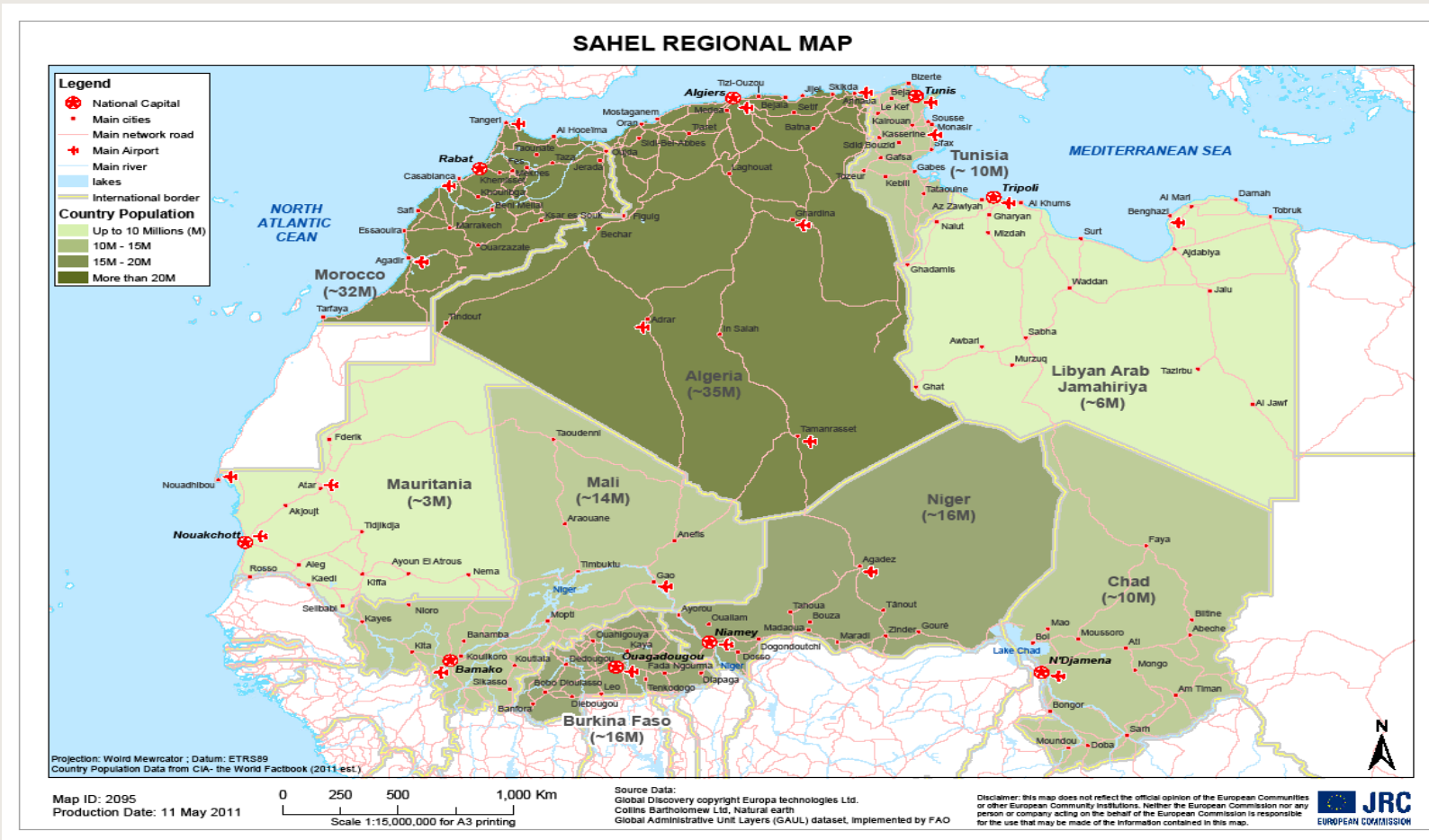
Transatlantic Symposium on Dismantling
Transnational Illicit Networks
Lisbon, 18 May 2011

OUTLINE

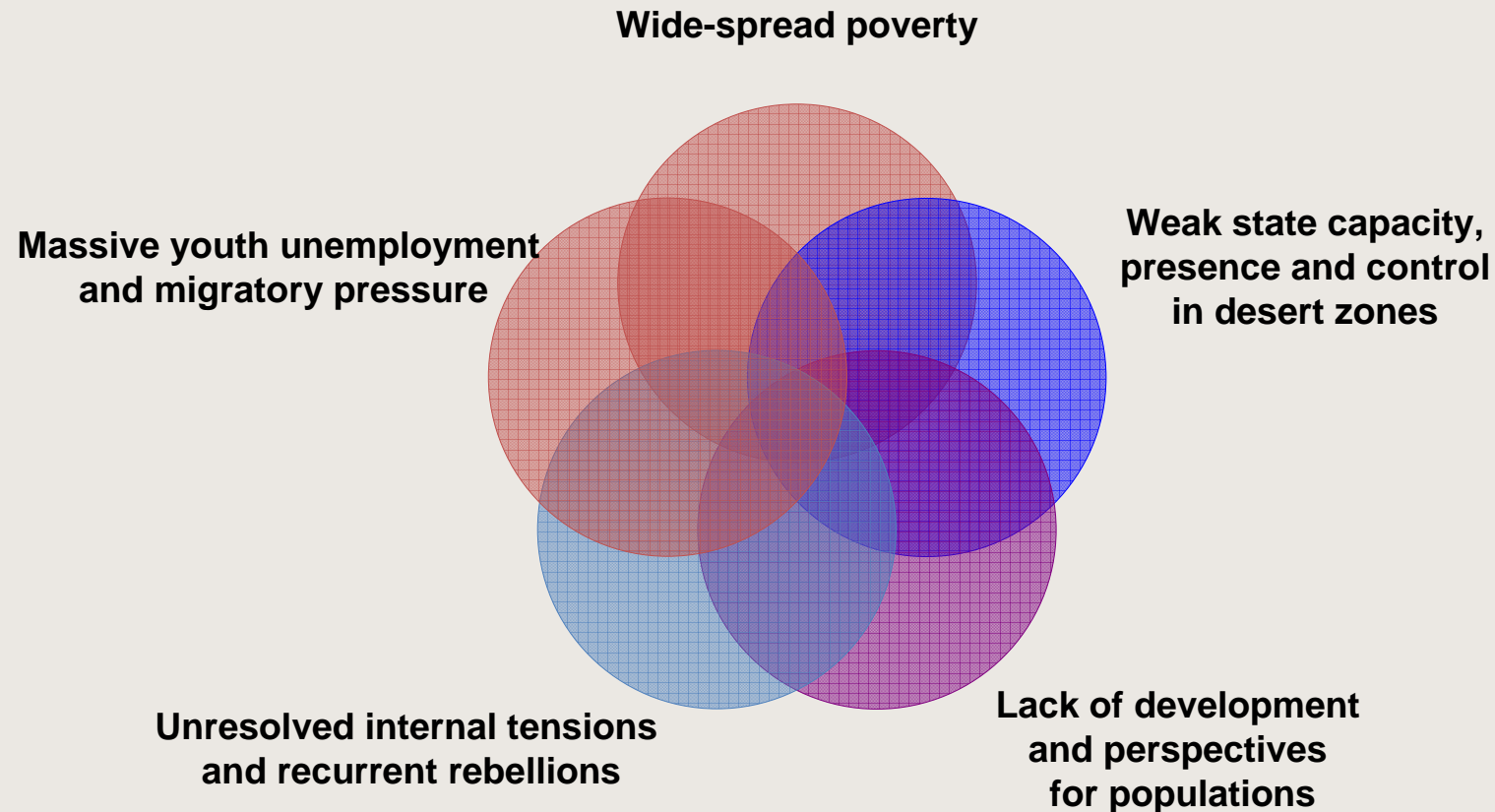
- 0. Map**
- 1. Context - the Sahel region**
- 2. Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel**
 - a. Strategic orientations
 - b. Lines of Action
 - c. Means and ways
- 3. Key considerations**
- 4. Next steps**



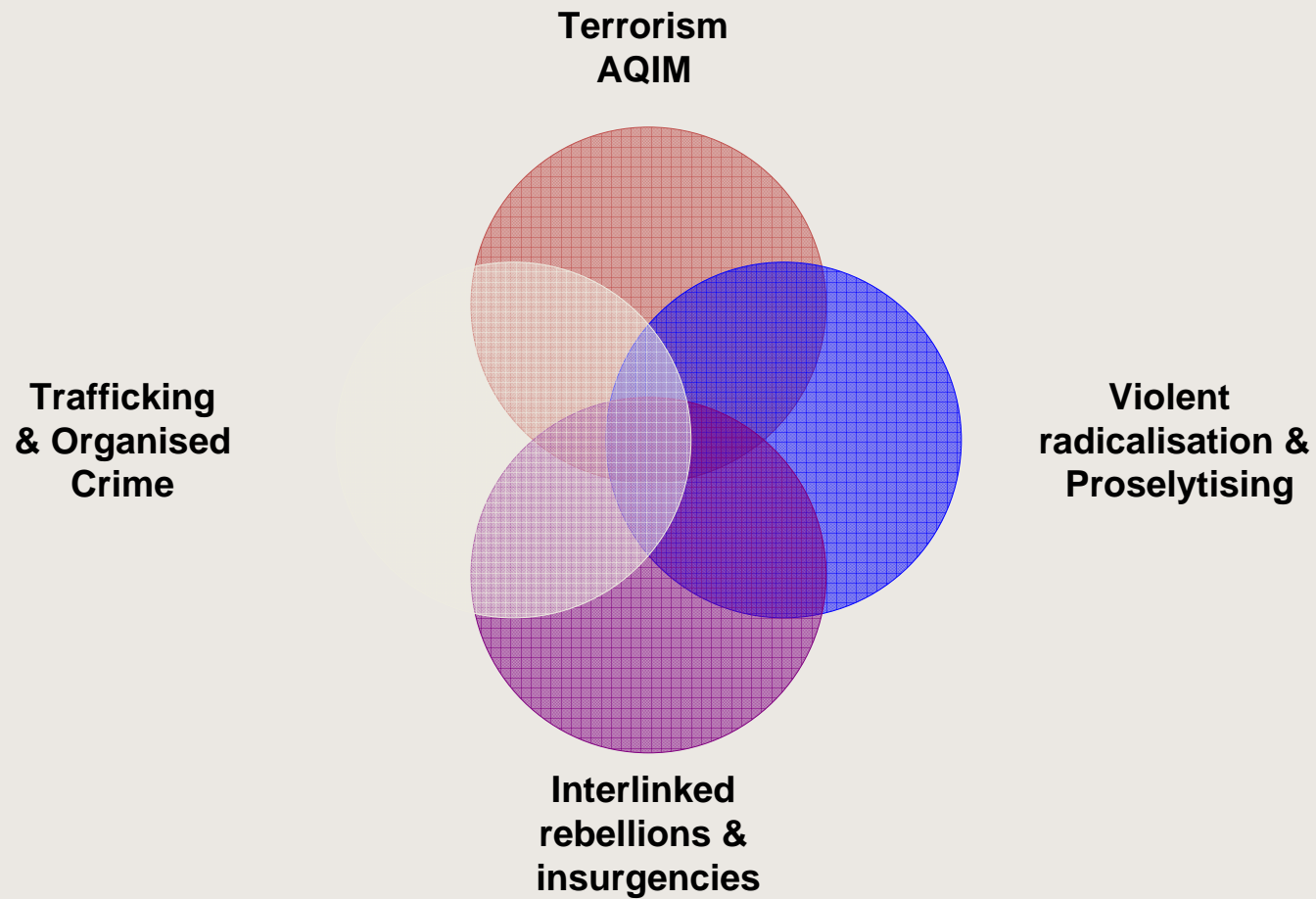
0. MAP OF SAHEL



1. CONTEXT: COMPLEXITY OF CHALLENGES



1. CONTEXT – CROSS-BORDER THREATS



2. STRATEGY FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAHEL

- presented by the High Representative, in association with COM to the Foreign Affairs Council on 21 March.
- the Council recognised the multi-faceted and interlinked challenges faced by the countries in the Sahel region, both individually and regionally
- **the Council welcomed the strategic objectives and invited the HRVP and the Commission to make proposals of steps and actions in order to develop and implement the Strategy.**
- the Council invited the High Representative to take forward consultations with partners in the region, the AU and ECOWAS.

2A. STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS

- **Security and development** are interlinked and need to be handled together.
- Regional and **comprehensive response** to the challenges in the Sahel is necessary, encompassing diplomatic, security and development elements.
- **Geographic focus**: primary focus on Mauritania, Mali and Niger, placed in a larger regional context reaching out towards Maghreb and West Africa

2B. STRATEGIC LINES OF ACTION

- 1. Development, good governance, internal conflict resolution**
- 2. Political and diplomatic**
- 3. Security and the rule of law**
- 4. Prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation**

LOA 1: DEVELOPMENT, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- Activities:

- economic development
- social services
- governance and administrative state presence
- home-grown solutions to social, political and ethnic tensions

- Outcomes:

- contested regions unlocked through infrastructure development;
- employment and economic opportunities sufficiently enhanced to counterweigh economic alternatives generated by AQIM and criminal economy;
- the State re-establishment is effective and benefits from the consent of the concerned populations;
- decentralised governments provide governance, law enforcement, justice and social services to populations;

LOA 2: DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL

- Activities:

- Within EEAS: **Senior Sahel Coordinator**, assisted by a dedicated Sahel desk officer, to lead the political and diplomatic work to:
 - promote a common vision and a regional strategy of the Sahel countries
 - engage with partners (concerned States, Maghreb countries, AU, ECOWAS, and wider international community).

- Outcomes:

- joint strategy on security threats adopted by the concerned countries, with highest level political endorsement;
- specific regional structures established or strengthened to deal with transnational security threats;
- comprehensive and balanced national strategies and actions plans on rule of law /security /justice prepared and adopted.

LOA 3: SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW

- Activities:

- Supporting the capacities of security and the rule of law sectors (including in the area of dismantling illicit trafficking networks):
 - controlling and policing; fighting more efficiently against organised crime and domestic banditry;
 - law enforcement/judicial approach to terrorism and organised crime;
 - supporting the re-deployment of the state in under-governed zones, including improving border management capacities;
 - encouraging/supporting the development of regional operational cooperation in the field of security and the rule of law.

- Outcomes:

- safe and secure environment in the Sahel region is gradually achieved;
- Sahel States redeploy effectively in the contested regions;
- law enforcement and justice system in place and capable of operating effectively against terrorism and criminal activities;
- regional operational tools developed.

LOA 4 : PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

- **Activities:**
 - helping enhance the resilience of societies to counter violent extremism by:
 - supporting civil society,
 - prevention programmes;
 - working with competent organisations promoting tolerance and non-violence.
- **Outcomes:**
 - civil society develops a strong counter-narrative capable of countering radicalisation;
 - conditions leading to radicalisation are effectively addressed;
 - best practices in the region have been identified.

2C. MEANS AND WAYS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- **LOA 1:** financial instruments: EDF, Instrument for Stability, Thematic Programmes and Budget Lines
- **LOA 2:** diplomatic visits to Sahel and Maghreb countries and international partners to present the Strategy, dialogue on its implementation
- **LOA 3:** possible means: CSDP action, strengthening of EU Delegations, creation of a Sahel Security College
- **LOA 4:** linking activities under EU internal and external policies to effectively prevent extremism and radicalisation

Available resources:

- already ongoing and programmed activities : €650 million (€450 million for Sahel and €200 million for Maghreb)
- possible additional envelope of €150 million

3. KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- **Political will, ownership and leadership by Sahel counterparts and African organisations (AU, ECOWAS).**
- **EU's role is to support the Sahel countries and their initiatives and not to substitute them.**
- **EU builds on its existing engagement in the region.**
- **The Strategy will provide a framework for coherence and coordination of ongoing and future actions of EU and its MSs and possibly for international partners.**

4. NEXT STEPS

- **Proposals of steps and actions to further develop and implement the strategy under preparation**
- **The Strategy shared with the Sahel countries and EU's bilateral and multilateral partners**
- **Implementation phase**
- **EU Member States and non-EU partners will be encouraged to mobilise resources around the objectives of the Strategy**

Thank you for your attention!