



EUROPEAN UNION

NIGER

ACTION AND PROGRESS UNDER THE MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

JUNE 2016 - MARCH 2017

The EU cooperates with Niger in a wide range of areas, from security and the fight against terrorism, to investment in youth and food security. The EU is Niger's main development partner and important political interlocutor, including in the G5 Sahel format. Niger is an important partner of the European Union in tackling irregular migration, since it is a key country of transit for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa to the Mediterranean. It cooperates constructively with the EU and its Member States in this regard. Cooperation has been reinforced through the new Partnership Framework, with Niger being a priority country. Work is focused on setting up comprehensive action plans taking into account all relevant dimensions of migration. Niger is also an important interlocutor concerning cooperation regarding the southern borders of Libya and can play an important role in follow up of the Joint Communication on the Central Mediterranean route.



HIGH LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

2017

February >> Visit of the French Minister of Family and of the State Secretary for cooperation and the Minister of Defence.

2016

December >> Visit of the President of Niger to Brussels, EU- Niger Joint conclusions.

>> Visit of the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs.

>> Visit of EU and MS senior officials, with attendance of high level EU officials.

November >> Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

>> Visit of the Minister of Interior to France.

>> Meeting between President of Niger and Commissioner Mimica in the margins of the summit of the International Organisation of La Francophonie and in the margins of the Summit of the African Union.

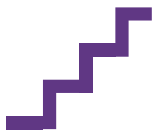
October >> Visit of Chancellor of Germany.

September >> United Nations General Assembly bilateral meetings, several EU Member States, HR/VP Mogherini and Commissioner Avramopoulos Joint migration declaration.

August >> Visit of Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

July >> Visit of Commissioner Stylianides.

June >> HR/VP Mogherini meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs at EU G5 Ministerial.



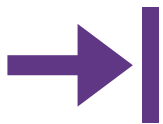
KEY PROGRESS BY NIGERIEN AUTHORITIES

- >> Effective action against smuggling in Agadez region continued (seizure of equipment and arrest of smugglers).
- >> **Flow** of irregular migrants transiting through Niger further reduced.
- >> Medium term Action Plan being drafted, to address gaps in the current approach.
- >> National strategy on migration being finalised.



EU SUPPORT

- >> Support for enforcement of anti-migrant smuggling legislation.
- >> European Migration Liaison Officer deployed to the EU Delegation in Niamey on 1 February 2017.
- >> European Border and Coast Guard Agency liaison officer to be deployed in the near future.
- >> Meeting of the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community held at the beginning of March.
- >> New projects adopted under the EU Trust Fund for Africa in December 2016, to assist migrants, facilitate return and raise awareness, provide land, accommodation and access to drinkable water, and create jobs.
- >> Contract signed with the High Authority for Consolidation for Peace to provide short term employment opportunities for youth in the Agadez region.
- >> Field missions conducted to assess alternative routes and identify projects to create economic alternatives in local communities.
- >> Support provided to the G5 Sahel.



NEXT STEPS

- >> Swift signing of contracts on all actions now agreed under the EU Trust Fund to ensure concrete implementation and provide alternative income opportunities to substitute the smuggling economy.
- >> Intensified action to fight smuggling and trafficking, including support to a joint investigation team.
- >> Intensified monitoring of possible alternative routes and preparation of support to appropriate action in response, modelled on the approach taken in the Agadez region.
- >> Provide feedback to a medium term Action Plan developed by Niger, expected by the end of March, focusing on gaps to be addressed.
- >> Establishment of a working arrangement between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and Nigerien authorities and deployment of a liaison officer to the EU Delegation.
- >> Full operationalisation of the EU antenna in Agadez, including for training.
- >> Follow-up on the meeting of the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community and prepare to launch the Risk Analysis Cell.