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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

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**Council of the
European Union**

**Brussels, 13 June 2019
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NOTE

From:	Austrian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
Subject:	Report on the activities of the Immigration Liaison Officer's (ILO) Network and on the situation in Morocco in matters relating to illegal immigration

Delegations will find enclosed a report on the activities on the Immigration Liaison Officer's (ILO) Network and on the situation in Morocco in matters relating to illegal immigration.

Report on the activities of the Immigration Liaison Officers (ILO) Network in the Kingdom of Morocco

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I. BACKGROUND¹

In accordance with Article 6 (1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 377/2004, Austria, as holder of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) during the second semester of 2018, shall draw up a report on the activities of the Immigration Liaison Officers network (ILO). The report covers the empiric research conducted between January and December 2017 as well as current events and developments until the end of 2018. The report concerns the Kingdom of Morocco for the following main reasons:

- The Kingdom of Morocco has become a destination and transit country for migrants and is therefore eminently affected by irregular migration.
- Considering this, the Kingdom of Morocco has turned into a hot-spot for tens of thousands (50,000 to 60,000) of migrants coming from sub-Saharan Africa, most of them waiting for an opportunity to cross over to the EU, mainly via Spain.
- The “Western Mediterranean migrant route” has become increasingly significant.
- The rising number of Moroccans currently living in the EU (around 2 million)² is a pull factor for migration to the EU, resulting in an increase in Moroccan citizens involved in organised crime.
- As it concerns Moroccans who are not allowed to take up residence in the EU, there is a need to further enhance cooperation between the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco and to facilitate readmission and establish readmission agreements.
- Finally, a Presidency Report on the activities of the ILO network in the Kingdom of Morocco has never been compiled.

The ILO report focuses on the situation of irregular migration in the Kingdom of Morocco as well as on the activities and involvement of the ILO network in the host country. The report is based on facts and figures and has been created with available and reliable sources of information.

II. THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

II.1 General overview

The Kingdom of Morocco is a constitutional monarchy (King Mohammed VI) with an elected parliament. Nevertheless, the King holds vast power (e.g. military and religious affairs). The executive power is exercised by the Government, while legislative power is vested in both the Government and the two chambers of parliament, the Assembly of Representatives and the Assembly of Councillors. In political terms, the Kingdom of Morocco has been relatively stable over the past decades.

¹ EUR-lex, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52018SC0197>, 31 December 2018

² Eurostat, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>, 31 December 2018

The Kingdom of Morocco is located in Northwest Africa. Topographically, a large part of the country is mountainous. The Kingdom is characterised by the Atlas mountain chain in the eastern part and by large territories of desert. The country borders the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Mediterranean Sea to the north. It has borders with Algeria to the east and the Western Sahara to the south. Up north, Spain can be accessed via Gibraltar. At its narrowest point, the Strait of Gibraltar separates Spain from the Kingdom of Morocco by just 14.5 kilometres. Furthermore, Spain protects its two costal exclaves Ceuta and Melilla, which mark Europe's only land border with Africa. With an estimated 33.9 million citizens in 2014, the Kingdom of Morocco has the fortieth largest population on earth.³ The population density is rather high in comparison to other "Middle East and North Africa (MENA) states". The Kingdom of Morocco extends over roughly the size of California. Its capital is Rabat. Morocco claims the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara, formerly known as Spanish Sahara, as its southern Provinces.

The Kingdom's main religion is Islam. Due to its long history of immigration (by Visigoths and Arabs in early medieval times) and colonisation (by France and Spain), the population of the Kingdom of Morocco is ethnically and linguistically diverse. The official languages are Arabic and Berber, but French and Spanish are also widely spoken.

The Kingdom of Morocco is a member of the "Arab League", the "Union for the Mediterranean" and the "African Union" (AU). It has become a major player in African economic affairs. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 109.14 billion US dollars in 2017 makes it the sixth largest economy in Africa.⁴

The main sectors of Morocco's economy are agriculture, tourism, aerospace, phosphates and textiles. The country is also working on enlarging its renewable energy capacity to make green energy a major part of its future electricity output.

However, economic difficulties remain although the unemployment rate in the Kingdom of Morocco decreased to 10.0% in the third quarter of 2018 from 10.6% in the same period a year earlier. The number of unemployed people dropped to 1.172 million.⁵ Despite several measures taken by the government, youth unemployment represents a big problem. Therefore, younger Moroccans search for other economic opportunities abroad.

Education in the Kingdom of Morocco is free and compulsory through primary school. However, the literacy rate of the total population was estimated at 68.5% in 2015. Thus, a reform of the education system and the judiciary, and efforts to increase the competitiveness of the private sector remain central challenges for the government.⁶

³ International Organization for Migration (IOM), Assessing the Evidence of Climate Change, Migration, Environment and Climate Change in Morocco, 2016, Page 5

⁴ The World Bank, World Development Indicators database, <https://data.worldbank.org/country/morocco>, 31 December 2018

⁵ Trading Economics, <https://tradingeconomics.com/morocco/unemployment-rate>, 31 December 2018

⁶ Central Intelligence Agency, The World Fact Book, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/us.html>, 31 December 2018

II.2 Western Sahara conflict

Western Sahara, a territory on the north-west coast of Africa bordering the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Mauritania and Algeria, was administered by Spain until 1976. Following the withdrawal of Spain this devolved into a long-lasting military confrontation between the “Polisario Front” and the Kingdom of Morocco until 1991. Due to the intervention of the United Nations on 6 September 1991, a ceasefire entered into effect. As a consequence, the “United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara” (MINURSO) was installed and it has been in place ever since.

Nowadays the conflict is dominated by unarmed civil campaigns of the “Polisario Front” and their self-proclaimed “Saharan Arab Democratic Republic” (SADR) which strives to achieve total independence for Western Sahara. The Kingdom of Morocco currently controls the western two thirds of the area, all major cities and the largest phosphate deposits of Western Sahara.

The “Polisario Front” controls the hinterland.⁷ No solution has been reached over the years. Nevertheless, in autumn of 2017 United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Horst Köhler, former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, as his “Personal Envoy for Western Sahara.” Since then, he has travelled several times to the crisis area, the Kingdom of Morocco and Algeria in order to mediate between the conflicting parties.⁸

The breakthrough came in Geneva at the United Nations in December 2018 when Morocco and the “Polisario Front” resumed negotiations during a round table with a view to reaching a fair, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution for the people of Western Sahara. In addition, representatives of the two conflicting regional players, Algeria and the Republic of Mauritania, participated in the twoday negotiations. The talks are scheduled to be resumed in the first half of 2019.

II.3 The migrant situation in the Kingdom of Morocco

A considerable increase in the scale of Moroccan emigration took place from 1962 onwards. Moroccans abroad are an important and well-organised workforce who contribute to the development of trade and industry in the Kingdom through regular payments. The Kingdom of Morocco started to sign labour recruitment agreements with several European countries.

Non-European destinations such as Arab Gulf States, Canada, the United States and Israel also seem to appeal to Moroccan emigrants, albeit on a smaller scale. These days, around 4 million Moroccans live outside the Kingdom.⁹

It is unlikely that Moroccan emigration will cease. Even if countries such as France, Italy and Spain continue to face economic hardship, some demand for Moroccan migrant labour in agriculture, construction, the service sector and in the domestic work industry is likely to persist.¹⁰ As Italy changed its reception criteria for refugees and migrants in 2018, the “Western Mediterranean route” has become increasingly significant.

⁷ Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sahara-polisario/timeline-western-sahara-a-50-year-old-dispute-idUSL2163728820080104>, 31 December 2018

⁸ MINURSO, <https://minurso.unmissions.org/>, 31 December 2018

⁹ International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Assessing the Evidence of Climate Change, Migration, Environment and Climate Change in Morocco*, 2016, Page 9

¹⁰ Migration Policy Institute, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/morocco-setting-stage-becoming-migration-transition-country>, 31 December 2018

Compared to 2017, thus far in 2018 the number of sub-Saharan migrants has increased by 184%, and they accounted for around 59% of total apprehensions on the “Western Mediterranean Sea route”.¹¹ This new development and the increasing rate of successful crossings to the Iberian Peninsula have led to sub-Saharan migrants spending shorter periods of time in the Kingdom of Morocco. The irregular migrants usually cross the Strait of Gibraltar or the Atlantic in small fishing boats called “pateras” or try to illegally reach the Spanish exclaves of Ceuta and Melilla.

Over the years, Spain and Morocco have put in place a broad operational cooperation including coordination of law enforcement activities such as joint patrols of sea, land and air borders and the exchange of liaison officers. The operational cooperation includes the areas surrounding Ceuta and Melilla.¹²

Migrant smuggling is widely documented along the routes connecting Niger and Mali to Libya, Algeria and Morocco. Even those who cross the “Economic Community of West African States” (ECOWAS) in a regular manner often continue their journey to the north irregularly and with the assistance of smugglers. Given the irregular nature and hardship of the journey across the Sahara, it can be assumed that all migrants and refugees using this route rely on the services of smugglers.¹³ Mali is a transit country for migrants heading to Niger or Algeria and, more recently, to Mauritania and from there to Morocco.¹⁴

According to information provided by the “International Organization for Migration” (IOM), the total number of arrivals of irregular migrants (by land and sea) to Spain in 2018 is 59,292 so far, which is 128% higher than in 2017. When only arrivals by sea (53,004 in 2018) are taken into account, this represents an increase of 162% over the same period in the previous year. Considering these facts, Moroccan nationals accounted for 28% of arrivals while most of the other detected irregular migrants originated from sub-Saharan countries and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.¹⁵ The Moroccan Government also needs to cope with the emigration of the country’s own citizens, along with all consequences, such as the readmission pressure from countries requesting to return Moroccan nationals to their home country.

The Kingdom of Morocco is constantly contributing to a reduction of the migration flow. According to information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco, 88,761 illegal immigration attempts to Europe were prevented in 2018. In addition, 229 criminal trafficking networks were dismantled.¹⁶ Although criticised by NGOs, the Moroccan authorities are doing everything they can to arrange a more equitable allocation of migrants and refugees throughout the Kingdom. These measures result in repeated transports of migrants, in particular from the northern part of the Kingdom of Morocco to urban and rural areas in the south.

¹¹ European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), Biweekly Analytical Update, 17 – 30 December 2018 (weeks 51-52), pages 1-5

¹² United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants, 2018, page 154

¹³ United Nations Children’s Fund, “Neither safe nor sound”: Sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse engulfing the lives of children in the camps of Calais and Dunkirk, press release, 16 June 2016

¹⁴ United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants, 2018, page 84

¹⁵ International Organization for Migration, <https://migration.iom.int/europe?type=arrivals>, 31 December 2018

¹⁶ Press statement held by Khalid ZEROUALI, Director of Migration and Border Control, Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco, after the session of the “National Observatory of Migration” on 17 January 2019 in Rabat

II.4 Morocco's focus on combating migration at a national and international level

Until recently, the Kingdom was perceived only as a country of emigration that developed a large diaspora. Even though emigration still governs the public opinion, Morocco has lately become a destination country for migrants.¹⁷ An increasing number of migrants from other African countries travel to the Kingdom of Morocco to pursue studies and embark on professional careers. A small amount of Asians migrate to the Kingdom as domestic servants but a growing presence of Chinese traders in Moroccan cities is notable. In addition, an increasing number of Europeans have settled in the Kingdom as workers, entrepreneurs or retirees. The flow of irregular migrants and refugees of other nationalities that traverse the country en route to Europe is mainly supported by organised crime groups. This poses huge challenges for the country. As a result, programmes have been established for the integration of refugees and migrants for the fight against crime related to irregular migration and for enhanced border protection in close cooperation with countries of the EU and the African Union (AU).

Finally, international co-operation has been increasing. The most recent and remarkable example is the "Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration", which the Kingdom of Morocco hosted in Marrakech on 10 and 11 December 2018.

The purpose of the conference was to adopt the "Global Compact for Migration", which was formally agreed by the Member States of the United Nations in July 2018. This was the largest international conference on migration with over 2,500 participants. Government representatives from 164 countries adopted the compact in Marrakesh. The document, the first negotiated global framework on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions, was then adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations with 152 votes in favour, 12 abstentions and five votes against, namely by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, Poland and the United States of America. 24 Member States were absent during the vote.¹⁸

III. ILO NETWORK

III.1 Improved coordination between ILOs

The deployment of ILOs is ruled by Council Regulation (EC) No 377/2004, which is currently under review and discussion in an effort to better coordinate the almost 500 ILOs currently deployed by the Member States to more than 100 countries. Moreover, as part of the comprehensive EU response to migration, the role of liaison officers in certain fields is planned to be expanded.

¹⁷ International Organization for Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en.pdf, 31 December 2018

¹⁸ UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028941>, 31 December 2018

To respond to this, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation to strengthen the “European network of ILOs” in May 2018. The proposal aims at reinforcing cooperation between the Member States by establishing a formal governance mechanism (“Steering Board”) composed of representatives of the Commission, Member Countries ILOs’ back offices and EU Agencies. Furthermore, funding for activities should be prepared and liaison officers need to be given a bigger role in combatting migrant smuggling and collecting information to support border management at the EU’s external borders. On 14 November 2018, the Council of the EU agreed its negotiating position on the proposal.^{19 20}

III.2 ILO network tasks in the Kingdom of Morocco

ILOs deployed to a non-EU member state maintain direct contacts with the authorities in the Kingdom of Morocco in order to improve cooperation and the exchange of information. The cooperation concerns the flow of irregular migrants originating from or transiting through the host country, the routes followed by these migrants and their modus operandi. Another task is to uncover any criminal organisations involved in smuggling migrants and their methods for falsifying identity documents and travel documents. Finally, the ILO network should assist law enforcement authorities in host countries in preventing immigration flows and in facilitating the return of illegal immigrants to their countries of origin.²¹

In order to verify the practical activities and real challenges of the ILO in the Kingdom of Morocco, an empiric research method has been developed.

IV. QUESTIONNAIRE

In 2005 the European Commission created the format of the ILO report. It should rely on facts and figures and reflect both the activities of the ILO network and the situation in the host state in matters concerning irregular migration.

In compliance with the guidelines proposed by the Commission, Austria developed an electronic questionnaire in close cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Council and the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission. The questionnaire was established with LimeSurvey. It is a leading online survey tool which allows you to develop, publish and collect responses to surveys. The questionnaire was drawn up in English and in French and, following approval at EU level, it was made available via the Council of the European Union to the “ILO back offices” of all EU Member States (**Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom**) and associated countries (**Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland**). In total 32 states.

¹⁹ Council of the European Union, Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the creation of a European network of immigration liaison officers, <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14356-2018-INIT/en/pdf>, 31 December 2018

²⁰ Council of the European Union, Press release, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/11/14/improved-coordination-between-immigration-liaison-officers-council-agrees-its-position/>, 31 December 2018

²¹ European Parliament, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-towards-a-new-policy-on-migration/file-revision-of-the-immigration-liaison-officers-regulation>, 31 December 2018

The response rate was 96.9%, and only Cyprus has not replied. The decisive factor for the high response rate was the support of the European Commission and the Council of the EU. The contacts of the author of the ILO report also proved useful for getting a high response rate.

The countries' replies were managed and processed electronically and subsequently analysed in close cooperation with a scientist of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior using state-of-the art techniques and software. See the paragraphs below for the content of the questionnaire and the summarised final results of the analysis reflecting quantitative data (hard facts and numbers) and qualitative data (information aimed at describing a topic rather than measure it).

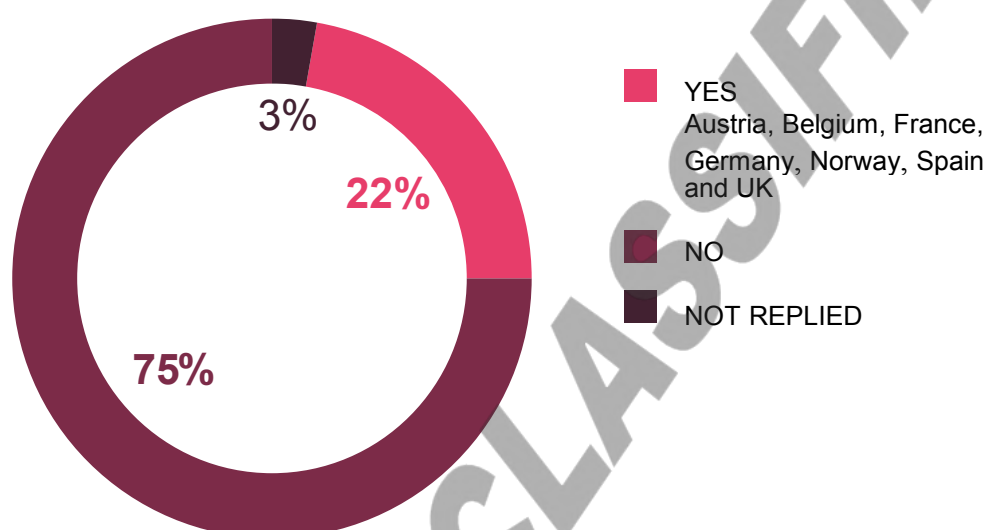
IV.1 Part I – Activities of the ILO network

IV.1.1 ILOs appointed to the Kingdom of Morocco

Question 1: Indicate whether your country has appointed ILOs to Morocco, and indicate the number.

In total, 7 countries (**Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom**), representing 21.9% of 31 respondent countries, have deployed an ILO to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Countries that have appointed ILOs



Question 1.1: If an answer is 'NO', please indicate the reasons.

Bulgaria sees no need for the deployment of a liaison officer to the Kingdom of Morocco because focus is placed on the route of irregular migrants coming from Southeast Europe.

The **Czech Republic** has no international agenda that would require the deployment of an ILO. The requirements of **Czech** law enforcement authorities are completely fulfilled by deploying "Liaison Officers for Migration and Documents" (IPD) to the countries of national concern.

Finland faces no real issue with irregular Moroccan migrants and there are no direct flights between both countries which could be used by irregular migrants.

For **Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania and Slovakia** cooperation with the Kingdom of Morocco is very limited (e.g. very low number of cases, low level of migratory flow, no priority). The **Danish** Police, by contrast, confirm that cooperation with the Moroccan Embassy in Copenhagen works well. If the need arises, **Liechtenstein** requests support from law enforcement authorities of other countries with better ties to the Kingdom of Morocco, such as Switzerland.

Slovakia is neither a transit nor a target country for irregular migrants originating from the Kingdom of Morocco or other African states.

Portugal has deployed a police liaison officer to Morocco who covers migration issues, among other things. However, this officer is not an ILO financed by the EU.

The chief responsibility of the one **Italian** police officer working in the Kingdom of Morocco is the fight against organised crime (e.g. drug offences, terrorism). Nevertheless, this officer deals with migratory cases, too.

The Netherlands has a liaison officer for police issues deployed in the Kingdom of Morocco, but not for migration. **Slovenia** focuses on the Balkan area and has therefore deployed liaison officers to Serbia and **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

Finally, **Sweden** has not deployed any ILO to the Kingdom of Morocco because liaison has been exclusively established in matters pertaining to the identification of irregular migrants and their return.

IV.1.2 Article 4 of the Regulation

Question 2: Has a cooperation network been constituted in accordance with Article 4 of the Regulation?²²

In reply to question 21, 31 countries (65.6%) confirm that no cooperation network has been created, nevertheless, ten countries affirm the contrary.

Austria	YES	Estonia	NO	Iceland	NO	Luxembourg	NO	Romania	NO
Belgium	YES	Finland	YES	Ireland	NO	Malta	NO	Slovakia	NO
Bulgaria	NO	France	YES	Italy	YES	The Netherlands	NO	Slovenia	NO
Croatia	NO	Germany	YES	Latvia	NO	Norway	NO	Spain	YES
Czech Rep.	NO	Greece	NO	Liechtenstein	NO	Poland	NO	Sweden	YES
Denmark	NO	Hungary	NO	Lithuania	NO	Portugal	NO	Switzerland	YES
								The United Kingdom	YES

Question 2.1: If the answer is 'YES', please rate the overall usefulness of the activities carried out within the framework of the network.

Finland and the **United Kingdom** argue that the usefulness of the activities carried out is very low. **Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy** and **Sweden** see it as rather low. On the other hand, France and **Spain** are more positive and **Switzerland** is convinced about the utility and gives it a "very high" rating.

Question 2.2: If the answer is 'NO', please specify the main reasons for not constituting a network.

The Netherlands proposes to evaluate responsibilities of the ILO network (e.g. consular affairs, organised crime, readmission and security). Some ILOs might have no access to important databases (crime registers) due to differences regarding the working methods depending on whether an ILO is a law enforcement officer or a civilian.

Norway faced a challenge because the ILO for the Kingdom of Morocco was deployed to Algeria. However, it is planned to post an ILO to Morocco in 2018.²³

Croatia, Ireland, Malta, Romania, Hungary, Estonia and **Slovakia** do not participate in the network, without mentioning a particular reason for not participating.

Portugal and **Iceland** have nothing to report and the other countries have not replied to this question.

²² Member Country shall ensure that their liaison officers posted to the same third countries or regions constitute local or regional cooperation network among each other. ²³ Norway deploys an ILO since August 2018

IV.1.3 Activities of the ILO network in 2017

Question 2.3: Indicate what kind of activities took place during the reporting period.

Meetings

Out of 21 respondent countries, 11 countries (34.4%) – **Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland** and the **United Kingdom** – report that meetings took place during the reporting period in the framework of the ILO network.

Exchange of information and practical experience

The following countries confirm that ILOs exchanged information and practical experience: **Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland** and the **United Kingdom**.

Coordination of a common position to be adopted in contacts with carriers, joint training and information sessions/training courses for diplomatic and/or consular staff.

Only **Switzerland** emphasises that there were real efforts made related to the coordination of a common position to be adopted in contacts with carriers. As far as joint training activities are concerned, **France** mentions that they happened in the reporting period. Information sessions/training courses for diplomatic and/or consular staff was only part of **Spain's** activity.

Contacts with other stakeholders

Contact with other stakeholders in the Kingdom of Morocco was facilitated by **Austria, France, Germany, Italy** and **Spain**. Remarkably, 15 countries (more than 40%) had no contacts with other stakeholders. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, none of the requested countries specified other undertakings referring to the reporting period.

IV.1.4 Overview of ILO meetings

Question 2.4: How often did the ILOs meet in the reporting period?

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and **Sweden** met monthly. **Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland** and the **United Kingdom** only had one meeting and the other countries apparently none.

Question 2.5: Have other organisations or authorities also been invited to participate in network meetings?

Question 2.6: If so, please elaborate.

Only the **United Kingdom** recalls that other authorities participated in network meetings such as representatives of the **USA**, the **Canadian** Embassy and the **Japanese** Air Defence Force.

IV.1.5 Contact of the ILO network with Moroccan authorities

Question 2.7: As a network, do ILOs have a better position in establishing and maintaining contact with the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Morocco?

Out of 32 countries questioned, only **Switzerland** and **the Netherlands** (6.3%) believe that ILOs are in a better position to establish contacts with Moroccan authorities; five countries (**Estonia, Germany, Romania, Slovakia** and **Spain**) are opposed and 14 believe that there has been no direct impact.

IV.1.6 Efficiency of networking activities

Question 2.8: Did the networking activities facilitate more effective performance of the duties of ILOs?

Only **Belgium** and **Switzerland** answered in the affirmative. **The Netherlands, Spain, Romania, Estonia, Slovakia** and the **United Kingdom** disagreed and the remaining countries either see no direct impact or did not reply.

IV.1.7 Tools and ways to exchange information

Question 3: What appeared to be the most effective way/method of exchanging information within the ILO network and other stakeholders? How would you rate the methods listed below?

Phone call

None of the countries participating in the questionnaire believe that phone calls are the most effective way of exchanging information. **Belgium, France, Italy** and **Sweden** (12.5%) give rather high importance to the use of the telephone. Nine countries indicated “rather low” and seven countries “very low”, which represents exact 50% of the countries questioned in this survey.

Messenger

None of the countries believe in a very high importance of messenger use. Nevertheless, **France, Italy, Romania, Spain** and **Sweden** (15.6%) confirm that the importance is rather high. All other countries describe its importance as rather low (eight) and very low (seven), representing 46.9% of the countries participating in the survey.

E-mail

Spain considers the use of e-mails very important. **Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania** and **Sweden** (28.1%) rate its importance rather high. Even though e-mail exchange is of great value nowadays, most of the countries do not attribute real relevance to the use of e-mails.

Mail (official letter)

Romania considers official letters a highly useful means of exchanging information. None of the countries think of it as rather highly useful. For 19 countries, representing 59.4%, the use of official letters is of little relevance.

Face-to-face

Five countries representing 15.6% of the countries questioned recognise the very high importance of using personal contacts. These countries are: **Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland**. Seven countries namely **Belgium, Croatia, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** are convinced that the value of face-to-face is rather high (21.9%). On the flipside, it is rather remarkable that two countries rate the significance of personal contacts as rather low and six countries as very low.

A more profound look into this statistics shows that countries that give low value to face-to-face contacts do not have an ILO deployed to the Kingdom of Morocco and most of them are only marginally affected by irregular migration: **Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Portugal and Slovakia**.

Meeting

Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland (15.6%) confirm the importance as very high. **Belgium, Croatia, France, Italy, Norway, Romania** and the **United Kingdom** rate the importance as rather high. All other countries give meetings less priority.

Question 3.1: Is there any systematic way to collect and share information among ILOs?

Databases and recurrent reporting

Twenty (62.5%) countries advise that there is no systematic way to collect and share information by using databases. Twelve countries did not respond to this question.

Meeting

Eight countries – **Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland** and the **United Kingdom** (28.1%) – believe in the usefulness of the recurrent report. Twelve countries disagree and twelve countries did not reply.

Other

France and **Sweden** are of the opinion that there are other ways to collect and share information. Without providing any particular explanation, **France** and **Sweden** suggest that sharing information and reports via e-mail is relevant.

IV.1.8 Improvement of cooperation and coordination within the ILO network

Question 3.2: Has cooperation and coordination among ILOs posted by Member States improved since the ILO network was established in the Kingdom of Morocco?

Question 3.3: If 'YES', please specify.

Austria, Switzerland, France and **Germany** believe that cooperation has improved. 26 countries (81.3%) believe the contrary. Curiously, amongst these countries are **Belgium, Spain** and the **United Kingdom**, which deploy ILOs to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Austria and **Germany** believe that, thanks to closer cooperation amongst ILOs, the process to identify Moroccan nationals has become more efficient as well as the methods of returning migrants voluntarily or involuntarily from the EU to the Kingdom of Morocco. For Switzerland, regular get-togethers allow better coordination of on-going activities. Moreover, **Switzerland** and **Germany** confirm that the exchange of information has significantly increased. In addition to the increase of communication and to the exchange within the ILO network, **France** underlines the advantage of creating confidence amongst the countries represented.

Question 3.4: If the answer is 'NO', please indicate the reasons.

Croatia, Ireland, Finland and **Romania** report that they have not deployed ILOs to the Kingdom of Morocco and therefore lack experience in this cooperation. Interestingly, however, nothing particular has changed for **Spain** since the establishment of the ILO network. This rather unexpected answer could be premised on the very strong presence of Spain in the Kingdom of Morocco and the long-lasting and efficient (law enforcement) cooperation with the Kingdom.

IV.1.9 ILO network participating in training

Question 4: Did the ILO participate in training sessions during the reporting period?

France (sessions organised by **France** and **Germany**) and the **United Kingdom** (sessions organised by the "World Border Security Congress") participated in training sessions.

Question 4.1: If so, please specify.

ORGANISER	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	SUBJECT
France	30	Border Police
France and Germany	25	Document Fraud
World Border Security Congress	50	THB, Document Fraud and Inter-agency Cooperation

IV.1.10 Training sessions organised by the ILO network

Question 4.2: Did the ILO network organise training?

Only the **United Kingdom** organised training. See the statistics below.

Question 4.3: If so, please specify as indicated in the table below.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	SUBJECT
50	Visa regulations; Document Fraud and Profiling

IV.1.11 ILO network and liaison officers from non-EU member states

Question 5: Did the ILO network set up regular contacts with individual liaison officers posted by non-EU member states?

Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and the **United Kingdom** (21.9%) set up regular contacts.

Question 5.1: If the answer is 'YES', please elaborate.

Austria cooperates with **Switzerland** on routes of irregular migrants as well as on document fraud cases; **France** cooperates with **Canada**, in particular, for the same reason. **Germany** sets up meetings with **Canada** in order to verify and compare modus operandi related to crime cases, and with **Switzerland** and the **USA** over extradition issues. **Sweden** and **Italy** cooperate with the **USA** and **Canada** without specifying the reason. The **United Kingdom** is in touch with the same countries in order to discuss trends and profiles. Italy also liaises with **Japan**.

IV.1.12 Activities at a regional level and involvement of the ILO network

Question 6: Please provide a brief summary of the ILO network activities which have taken place at a regional level in the reported period.

The Netherlands, for instance, has not been involved in any ILO-specific meetings and Sweden's opinion is that there is "no ILO network as such" in the Kingdom of Morocco. However, liaison officers dealing with different portfolios such as migration, anti-fraud, drugs and terrorism meet informally on a quarterly basis.

In the opinion of **Spain**, the ILO network has been improving steadily. It is important to establish confidence amongst law enforcement officers, and arranging regular meetings and other activities between the network members would be helpful.

Austria is not familiar with officially organised activities amongst the ILOs; the same holds true for the **United Kingdom**. Nevertheless, Austria, Italy and the **United Kingdom** and others participated in the "ILO Network Regulation Feedback Meeting" organised by the European Commission in Tunis in February 2018. Among other things, this meeting offered participants an opportunity to meet the "European Migration Liaison Officers" (EMLO) and other stakeholders.

IV.1.13 How to improve the ILO network in the Kingdom of Morocco?

Question 7: Please provide any suggestions which could further improve the ILOs' work as a network in Morocco.

In the opinion of **the Netherlands**, regular meetings should be properly organised in order to streamline goals for the convenience of all participants. **Germany** and **Sweden** even suggest the creation of a coordinating body for the ILO network that sets up regular meetings with an elaborated agenda and also receives consistent updates from the EU. The "European Migration Liaison Officers" (EMLO) could, for instance, take the lead. The same was suggested by Austria and Italy, which additionally emphasise the importance to further boost information sharing and awareness-raising by the EU regarding migration policy. **Spain** even proposes weekly coordination meetings aimed at improving information sharing. The **United Kingdom** agrees that regular ILO network meetings should be announced in advance. Beside the EU – depending on the topic – other countries represented in the Kingdom of Morocco should be involved such as the **USA** and **Canada**.

The Netherlands and the **United Kingdom** propose to make available updated information about ILO deployed to the Kingdom of Morocco (list of ILOs). The **United Kingdom** suggests regular newsletters arranged by the EMLO fed with updated information by the ILO-network and, if necessary, by other stakeholders.

For **Norway** it has been difficult to obtain meaningful statistics from the Moroccan authorities regarding migration and smuggler networks. Support from the EU Member States would be of benefit, in particular to work on a common migratory strategy.

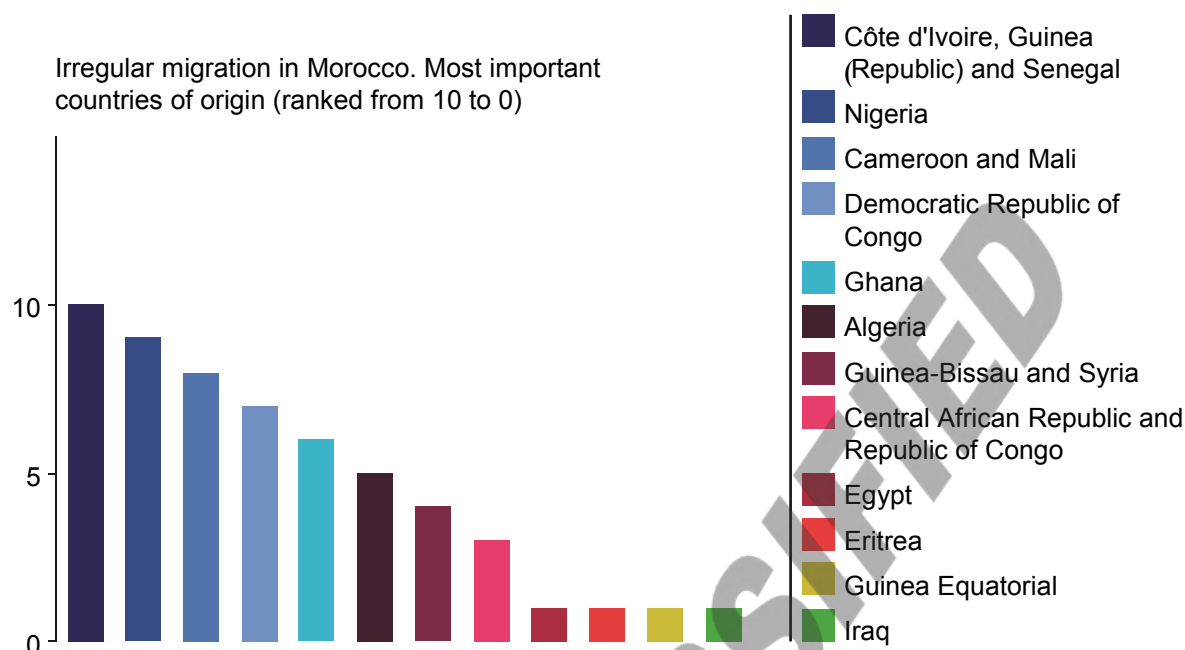
IV.2 Part II – Situation in the Kingdom of Morocco

Part II focuses in particular on the apprehension of irregular migrants, migration management and on border control.

IV.2.1 Origin of irregular migrants arriving in the Kingdom of Morocco

Question 1: Regarding irregular migrants encountered in Morocco, please choose the 10 most important countries of origin.

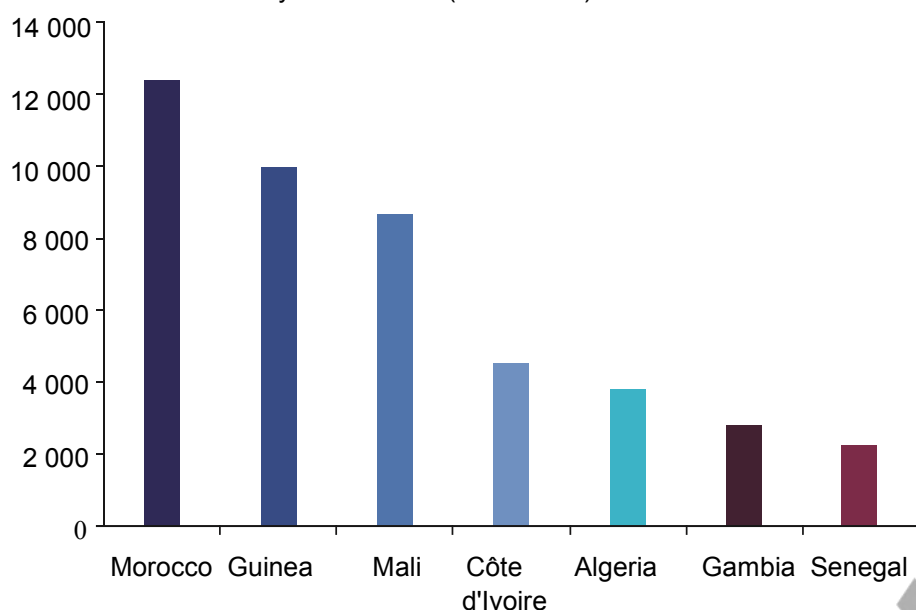
The most important countries of origin related to irregular immigration in the Kingdom of Morocco are **Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea (Republic) and Senegal**, followed by **Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. Only two non-African states were mentioned: **Syria and Iraq**.



In this case it is interesting to compare the FRONTEX statistics below with the number of nationalities of migrants that entered Spain in 2018.²³

²³ European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), Biweekly Analytical Update, 17 - 30 December 2018 (weeks 51-52), page 1

The number of irregular migrants entering Spain broken down by nationalities (FRONTEX)



The statistics on migration flows to Morocco and the statistics on migration flows to Europe correlate in that Guinea, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire take the top spots.

Only Gambia, which appears in the FRONTEX statistics, finds no mention in the statistics of the ILOs.

IV.2.2 Migratory routes from the perspective of the ILO network

Question 1.1: Please distinguish between the main and secondary migratory routes and provide details about the migrants' modus operandi.

In the view of **the Netherlands** and **Italy**, the city of Oujda in the northeast of the Kingdom (located next to the Algerian border) is a major transit hub for migrants from **Cameroon, Nigeria, Guinea, Mali** and the **Central African Republic**. These people mostly come from the Algerian border. In addition to this, a steady stream of migrants is trickling into the Kingdom of Morocco every day through the Republic of Mauritania.

Austria, France and **Germany** observe that land access routes through the exclaves of Ceuta and Melilla remain active. Migrants manage to cross the border by climbing up walls and fences while others use fraudulent documents to get into the exclaves. Numerous migrants are smuggled through border checkpoints in vehicles.

The sea route across the Strait of Gibraltar or via the Mediterranean Sea to the southern coast of Spain or to Spanish islands is also considered important. Secondary routes lead along the Atlantic Ocean to the Canary Islands or **Spanish** mainland, but also, as observed by **Austria, Germany** and **France**, through international **Moroccan** airports, mainly Casablanca, with migrants using falsified, stolen or even borrowed travel documents.

To **France**, the Kingdom of Morocco is not only a transit state but also a country of origin for migration. In 2017 Moroccans represented the largest nationality among irregular migrants on Spanish territory. Nevertheless, sub-Saharan irregular migrants, in particular from **Senegal, Niger, Mali, Cameroon, Guinea** and **Côte d'Ivoire**, tend to prefer the Kingdom of Morocco for transit to Europe.

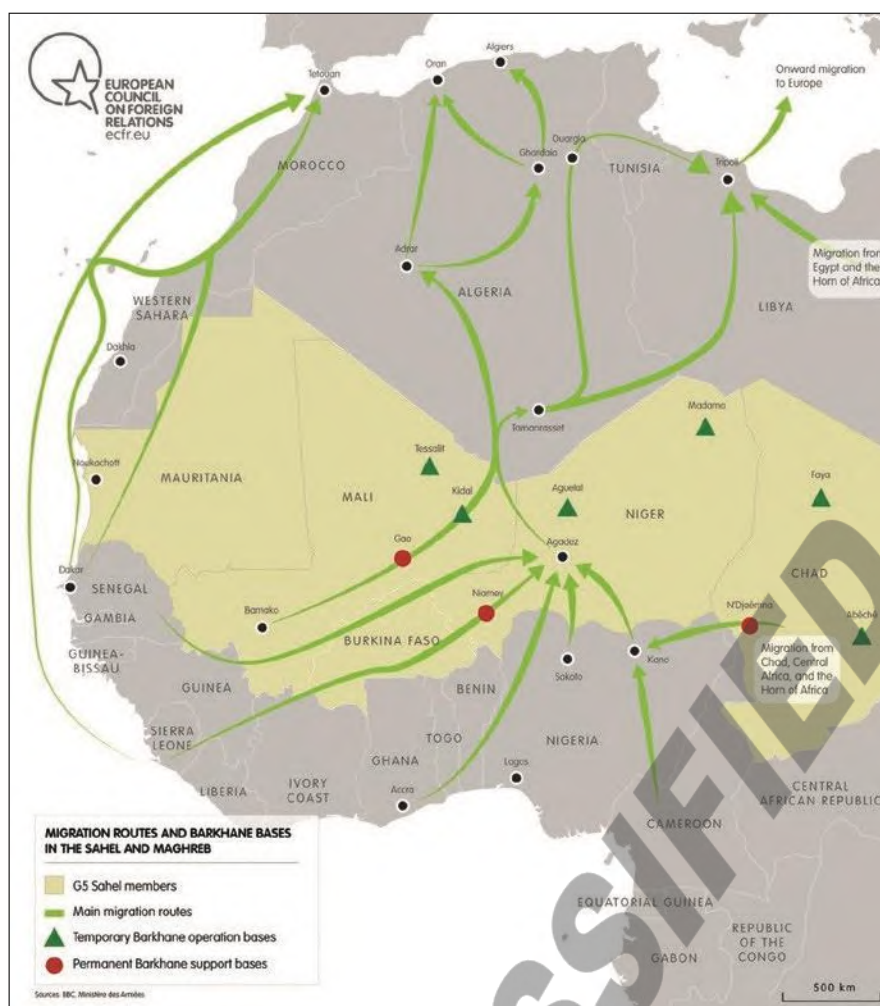
The sub-Saharan irregular migrants use two main routes for entering the Kingdom of Morocco from Algeria:

- **Arrivals from Mali** travel via Gao to the north towards Algeria as well as to northern Mauritania and head for the Western Sahara close to F'derik.
- **Arrivals from Niger** travel via Agadez to the Algerian border in In Guezzam, passing the town of Tamanrasset to the north.²⁴

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²⁴

European Council on Foreign Relations,
<https://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/MIGRATION-IN-CENTRAL-AFRICA1146.jpg?v=1500463965129>, 26 January 2019



While **Moroccans** tend to embark on boats from the northwest, sub-Saharanans try to reach Europe from Tangier, Al Hoceima and Nador using dinghies, also known as “pateras”. The Atlantic coast of the Kingdom of Morocco between Larache and Kenitra is generally a starting point for Moroccan migrants supported by a local network of smugglers who are connected with organised crime groups in the northern part of the Kingdom. **France** states that the fees charged for illegal trafficking vary from €180 to €600.

Sweden observes that sub-Saharan Africans account for most people smuggled to Europe. According to **Spain**, the irregular migrants arrive in the Kingdom of Morocco after a long journey by land and stay there until they find the right moment to move to Europe, mainly by using sea transport. **Norway** writes that most of the migrants come from the Moroccan west coast and others from the Republic of Mauritania, and only a few move from the Sahel through Algeria.

There are eight airports offering direct flights between the **United Kingdom** and the Kingdom of Morocco. In 2017 law enforcement authorities noticed 66 passengers who attempted to travel to the **United Kingdom** using false visas or travel documents. However, it is difficult for the **United Kingdom** to determine the real number of irregular migrants who reach the country via the Schengen area.

IV.2.3 Dimensions of risks and threats at Morocco's borders

Question 2: Please rate the dimensions of risks and threats faced by authorities at Morocco's borders.

Infrastructure, equipment

Out of 32 countries participating in the questionnaire only **Switzerland** states that infrastructure and equipment at Morocco's borders pose a very high risk and threat. Four countries – **Croatia, France, Spain** and the **United Kingdom** – estimate risk to be rather high. As a result, 15.6% of the countries questioned

actually believe that infrastructure and equipment need to be further enhanced. Fifteen countries consider risk to be lower and 12 countries did not reply to this question.

Personnel (staff)

As far as personnel are concerned, **Switzerland** recognises recent improvements. **Belgium, Croatia, Norway, Spain** and the **United Kingdom** (19.7%) rate the risk and threats as rather high.

Migration

Concerning migration, **the Netherlands** and **Switzerland** estimate the risk and threats as very high. **Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** express deep concerns. All mentioned countries represent 37.6% of the countries questioned.

Organised Crime and Terrorism

It turns out that the organised crime risk and threats at the Moroccan borders are to some extent considered higher than the risk of terrorism.

Five countries (**Austria, France, Italy, the Netherlands** and **Switzerland**) report a very high risk related to organised crime. A rather high risk is seen by **Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom**. The other countries indicate a rather low (three) and very low (five) risk. As far as terrorism is concerned, the reply is similar, however, few countries, especially **France** and **Switzerland**, mention a very high risk.

IV.2.4 Morocco's strategy and measures to combat irregular migration

Question 3: Describe the efficiency of Moroccan national strategies and measures used to combat irregular migration:

Investigation

In the view of **Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Romania** and the **United Kingdom** (18.8%), Morocco is very efficient in combatting irregular migration. On the flipside, **Belgium, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia** and **Switzerland** (28.1%) mention that the Kingdom's efforts in this regard are very low. Ten countries consider investigation efficiency to be average.

Cooperation and Operations

In terms of the efficiency of Morocco's national strategies and measures to combat irregular migration, **Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania** and **Spain** (18.8%) confirm strong efforts. However, out of these countries only **Spain** regards cooperation as very high. In addition to the above-mentioned countries, **Sweden** and **France** also appreciate such **operations**.

IV.2.5 Standards: Return and integration of migrants

Question 4: Describe the standards of Morocco's authorities in the repatriation of migrants.

Infrastructure, equipment and staff

Only **Romania** believes that Morocco's infrastructure and equipment is very suitable for the return of migrants. Eighteen countries answer that the standard is rather low and seven out of these 18 even argue it is very low – these are **Finland, Hungary, Norway, Iceland, Portugal, Slovakia** and **Switzerland**. The replies regarding staff are nearly the same, with only **Norway, Spain** and **Romania** attesting to a rather high standard.

Legal, financial (budget) and human aspects

Approximately 50% of the countries questioned rate the significance of these aspects as rather low or very low. However, **Austria, France, Germany** and **Romania** report that Moroccan authorities appropriately respect human rights standards for returning migrants.

Question 4.1: Considering the current efforts made by Moroccan law enforcement entities to integrate migrants, please rate the current standard.

Infrastructure, equipment and staff

Around 50% of the replies paint a rather negative picture of infrastructure, equipment and staff used to arrange integration of migrants in Morocco. Some countries differ from this opinion, namely **Croatia** and **Romania**, which believe that infrastructure, equipment and personnel correspond to the targets that have been set. **France** and **Italy** perceive the staff situation as rather good.

Legal, human and financial (budget) aspects

Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Romania and **Sweden** (25.1%) recognise a positive development regarding the legal situation and human rights aspects. However, 34.4% of the countries involved in this questionnaire consider this situation negative and around 40% abstained from a reply. Only **Croatia** and **Romania** consider the financial aspects positive.

IV.2.6 Voluntary return programme

Question 4.2: Has Morocco established any voluntary return programme?

Eleven countries out of 32 questioned reply that there is no voluntary return programme. But as a matter of fact, the "Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme" (AVRR) conducted by the "International Organisation for Migration" (IOM) has been established in close cooperation with the Moroccan authorities. The AVRR aims to assist vulnerable or at-risk migrants who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

IV.2.7 Relation between the ILO network and law enforcement authorities in Morocco

Question 5: Describe the level of cooperation between the ILO network and (law enforcement) authorities in Morocco.

Royal Moroccan Gendarmerie

Only **Austria, Belgium, France** and **Italy** confirm that the cooperation with the Gendarmerie is very good, although **Belgium** does not have an ILO deployed to Morocco. It is remarkable that the other countries which have deployed an ILO, namely **Germany, Sweden** and **Switzerland**, did not reply to this question and the **United Kingdom** considers contact with the Gendarmerie as rather low.

General Directorate for National Security (Police and Border Police)

Switzerland confirms, beside **Austria, Belgium, France** and **Italy**, that the level of cooperation between the ILO network and the General Directorate for National Security is positive. All other countries that replied consider it mediocre or even weak.

General Directorate for Studies and Documentation and Moroccan Auxiliary Forces

None of the countries which have replied recognise a positive impact. Cooperation with the “General Directorate for Studies and Documentation” seems to be very challenging. It is important to realise that 25 out of 32 countries selected for the questionnaire (78.1%) did not reply to this question! Almost the same applies to the “Moroccan Auxiliary Forces”, with only France entering a productive cooperation with this entity.

General Directorate for Territorial Surveillance and Royal Army

Austria and **Belgium** cooperate very well with this General Directorate. No significant cooperation has been established between the ILOs and the Royal Army.

Other

In addition to cooperation with the law enforcement entities mentioned above, the ILO of Switzerland reports some overlapping cooperation with the “Directorate of Consular and Social Affairs.”

IV.2.8 Interception of people smugglers

Question 6: How many smugglers (related to irregular migration) have been intercepted during the reporting period?

The **United Kingdom**: one smuggler; **France** 120 and **Italy** 305. Furthermore, **Italy** confirms that 2,213 suspects were arrested in 2017 because of the use of forged documents related to irregular migration.

IV.2.9 Moroccan law enforcement entities combating irregular migration

Question 7: Please indicate which Moroccan law enforcement entities are involved in combating irregular migration.

Royal Moroccan Gendarmerie and General Directorate for National Security (Police and Border Police)			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	8	25.0
	YES	11	34.4
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

General Directorate for Studies and Documentation			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	14	43.8
	YES	5	15.6
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

Moroccan Auxiliary Forces and General Directorate for Territorial Surveillance			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	12	37.5
	YES	7	21.9
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

Royal Army			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	13	37.5
	YES	6	18.8
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

In summary, the “Royal Moroccan Gendarmerie” and the “General Directorate for National Security” (Police and Border Police) are the most involved law enforcement bodies in combating irregular migration.

IV.2.10 Smuggling of human beings – Morocco’s involvement

Question 7.1: Please indicate which Moroccan law enforcement entities are involved in combating smuggling of human beings.

Royal Moroccan Gendarmerie and General Directorate for National Security (Police and Border Police)			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	8	25.0
	YES	11	34.4
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

General Directorate for Studies and Documentation			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	15	25.0
	YES	3	9.4
Missing answers		14	43.7
Countries requested		32	100.0

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Moroccan Auxiliary Forces			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	14	43.8
	YES	5	15.6
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

General Directorate for Territorial Surveillance			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	11	34.4
	YES	8	25.0
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

Royal Army			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	12	37.5
	YES	7	21.9
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

The “Royal Moroccan Gendarmerie”, the “General Directorate for National Security” (Police and Border Police), the “General Directorate for Territorial Surveillance” and the “Royal Army” are the most important law enforcement entities in the fight against smuggling of human beings.

IV.2.11 Police cooperation with Moroccan law enforcement

Question 7.2: Which law enforcement entities are the main partners in international police cooperation?
Only regular involvement is to be indicated.

Royal Moroccan Gendarmerie and General Directorate for National Security (Police and Border Police)			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	8	25.0
	YES	11	34.4
Missing answers		13	40.6
Countries requested		32	100.0

General Directorate for Studies and Documentation			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	17	53.1
	YES	1	3.1
Missing answers		14	43.8
Countries requested		32	100.0

Moroccan Auxiliary Forces			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	16	50.0
	YES	2	6.3
Missing answers		14	43.7
Countries requested		32	100.0

General Directorate for Territorial Surveillance			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	11	34.4
	YES	7	21.9
Missing answers		14	43.7
Countries requested		32	100.0

Royal Army			
		Number	Per cent
Valid answers	NO	16	50.0
	YES	2	6.3
Missing answers		14	43.7
Countries requested		32	100.0

Even though the “General Directorate for Studies and Documentation” and the “Moroccan Auxiliary Forces” are known to be internationally connected, it turns out that the link to the ILO network is very weak or almost non-existent.

IV.2.12 Cooperation between the ILO network and international stakeholders

Question 7.3: As appropriate, please rate the cooperation between ILOs and international organisations, EU agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders.

INTERPOL

None of the countries requested regard cooperation between the ILO network and INTERPOL (the world’s largest international police organisation) as important or very important. **Austria, Italy, Norway, Spain** and the **United Kingdom** think there is rather little cooperation with INTERPOL. **France, Germany, the Netherlands** and **Sweden** write that the exchange of information with INTERPOL is even very low. 27 countries (nearly 72%) did not reply to this question.

This negative assessment could be owing to the insufficient contact between the ILO network and the “INTERPOL National Central Bureau” (NCB) in Rabat. In recent years, Moroccan law enforcement authorities have restricted this contact. Therefore the entire flow of police intelligence (including INTERPOL) is managed by a single point of contact for the ILO network within the “General Directorate for National Security.”

EUROPOL

The **United Kingdom**, as the only country out of 32, rates the importance of cooperation with EUROPOL as rather high. By contrast, **Italy, Norway** and **Spain** consider it rather low and **Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands** and **Sweden** view it as very low.

FRONTEX

Norway and **Spain** consider the cooperation with FRONTEX useful. On the flipside, **Austria, Italy, Norway** and the **United Kingdom** rate the contact with the “European Border and Coast Guard Agency” as below-average. Surprisingly enough, **France, Germany** and **Sweden** recognise the importance of the cooperation as very low, even though border security in relation to the migrant flow from West Africa towards Europe has become eminently important for the EU.

Other EU agencies

The Netherlands prioritises cooperation with other EU agencies (rating: rather high). **Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** give a rather low rating and, finally, **Austria** and **Germany** maintain very low contacts with other EU agencies.

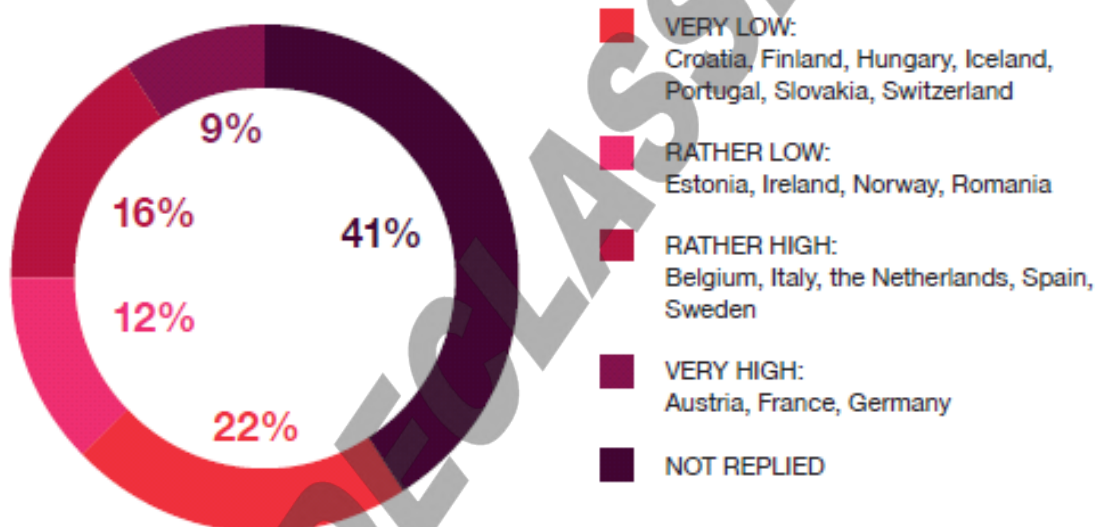
NGOs

Austria, Germany and **the Netherlands** show an increased interest in cooperating with NGOs.

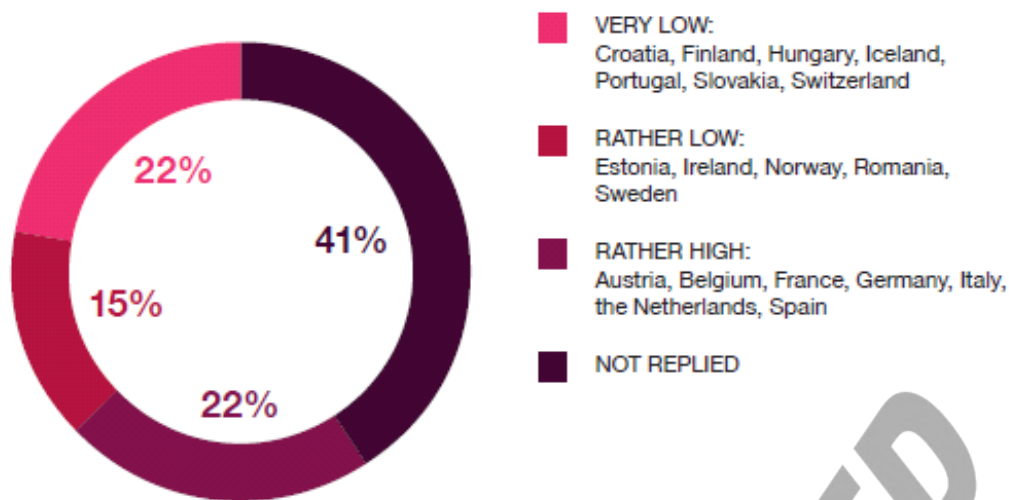
IV.2.13 Data collection capabilities for investigation

Question 8: Rate Morocco's law enforcement capability for data collection for investigation.

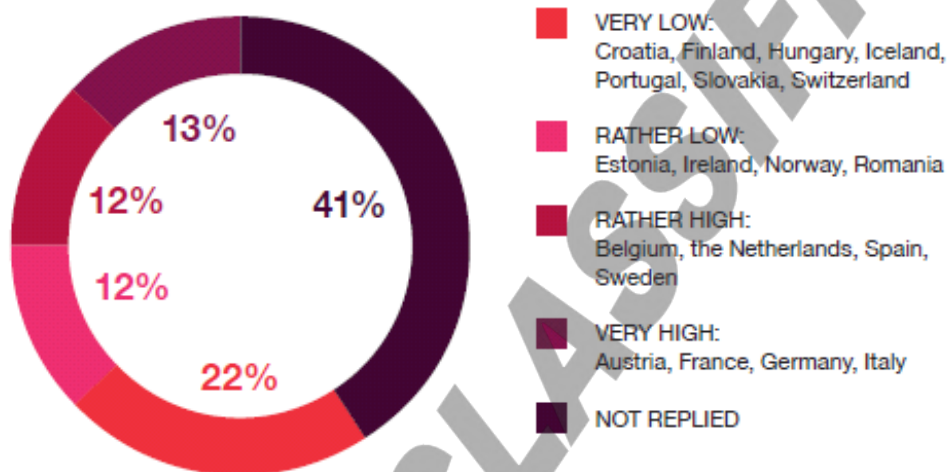
Nominal data



Documents (breeder, travel, etc.)



Fingerprints



The countries provided a rather negative feedback on **DNA databases** and **facial recognition** facilities. These tools are obviously in need of improvement. Information tools related to vehicles, including number plates, are seen positively by **Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain** and **Sweden**, representing 21.9% of the 32 countries questioned.

IV.2.14 Proposals by the ILO network for preventing irregular migration and THB

Question 9: Kindly share your ideas concerning ways and means to assist Morocco in preventing irregular migration flows originating from or transiting through its territory.

Austria, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain think it is important to further enhance capacity building and training for entities involved in the fight against irregular migration. The Netherlands suggests forensics training. **Belgium** and **Norway** believe in awareness-raising; however, **Norway** would rather focus on the use of equipment and proposes to establish police exchange programmes.

Luxembourg has similar ideas, plus the proposal to strengthen the legal framework for migration and asylum in Morocco – first and foremost to improve the integration of people who have obtained a residence title. **Luxembourg** also identifies the need to invest in socially deprived areas.

Austria's and **Germany's** opinion is to provide immediate and considerable financial support, especially from the EU, in order to enhance border surveillance and control. **Spain** mentions economic aid and technical support.

For **the Netherlands** information sharing with Moroccan authorities is the key to keeping abreast of the latest development of irregular migration flows. The **United Kingdom** would even consider the establishment of an MoU with the Moroccan authorities to foster data sharing.

France would like to see more outside contribution to reinforce the surveillance of Morocco's terrestrial and maritime borders in terms of personnel as well as equipment. Specifically, this would mean that specialised teams (supported by the EU) assist the Moroccan authorities in detecting document fraud at the main ports and international airports more efficiently. These teams could train first- and second-line border officers to procure and use equipment, among other things. Moreover, **France** places utmost importance on further enhancing the implementation of biometric tools for checking the identity of travellers. **Italy** would even consider arranging the provision of technical tools such as radar devices and drones for the Royal Marine.

Question 9.1: Kindly share your ideas on ways and means to assist Morocco in preventing trafficking in human beings.

Austria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Norway refer to the answers provided above.

Sweden proposes the use of technical hardware and building of capacities to detect false and fraudulent documents and to progress border surveillance.

Belgium and **Spain** would like to set up a special training course in order to improve investigation capabilities using an "investigation protocol". The improvement of cooperation at an international level is of high importance to **Spain**.

Belgium suggests training on indicators of human trafficking to help identify potential victims, as well as the organisation of awareness campaigns, the installation of a national THB hotline and the support of a national action plan to combat this crime and dismantle organised crime groups.

The **United Kingdom** proposes the introduction of a “National Referral Mechanism”²⁵ – whereby ILOs could refer irregular migrants, who are found to be involved in organised irregular migration to the authorities concerned. The United Kingdom also considers a coordinated “upstream” disruption in the Sahel. Finally, a designated contact or even the implementation of a “Central Unit” for referrals and enquiries could be of advantage.

France encourages the establishment of a “National Commission for the Co-ordination of Measures to Combat and Prevent Human Trafficking” as provided in “Moroccan Law No. 27-14 on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.”²⁶

Italy proposes to strengthen and facilitate the exchange of information between European and Moroccan law enforcement entities. There is a need to make the Moroccan administration aware of this subject, in particular in the fields of justice, law enforcement and civil society. The Moroccan authorities should proactively support the voluntary return programme facilitated by IOM.

V. CONCLUSION

The pattern of migration in the wider Mediterranean area and in particular in the Kingdom of Morocco is complex and constantly changing. Morocco, which had long been a source country and more recently a transit country, has lately emerged as a destination country as well.

Various push and pull factors have propelled irregular migration. Thousands of people undertake hazardous journeys towards the Iberian Peninsula in search of personal safety and better lives. Recently the “Western Mediterranean migratory route” has become increasingly important and has consequently put the Kingdom of Morocco at the centre of attention of international migration politics. Moroccan authorities have been encouraged to strengthen national migration policies, implement human rights and facilitate the integration of migrants.

At a political and operational level, the EU will be instrumental in providing assistance to the Kingdom with a view to better handling the European and African migration system. When future negotiations on migration are held between the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco, both partners should be on an equal footing. An honest dialogue based on mutual respect needs to be developed so as to facilitate a safe and orderly migration. Furthermore, there is a need to create motivation profiles in order to understand the real drivers of migration and to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking networks more efficiently.

The EU’s operational outreach is crucial and should be expanded by increasingly involving EU agencies, the EU Delegation in Rabat as well as the liaison officers on the field, in particular, the ILO network. However, in comparison to the current migration problem and the associated workload, the number of ILOs in the country is too low.

In addition, it seems that ILOs work in isolation most of the time and lack a true coordinating body that would organise cooperation amongst them. There is a need to set up regular working and coordination meetings with an elaborate agenda that would receive constant updates from the EU. The “European Migration Liaison Officers” (EMLO) or an ILO from the ILOs present in Morocco could, for instance, take the lead in coordinating the ILO network.

²⁵ The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

²⁶ Organisation Internationale du Travail, http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=fr&p_isn=103357&p_count=3&p_classification=03, 31 December 2018

The coordinator of the ILOs could also be responsible for the flow of information between the ILO network and the EU. This role could also serve as contact point for important issues in connection with the Moroccan entities and institutions. Reports, analyses and statistics could be drawn up together and made available to all. This approach would avoid duplicate efforts and would combine knowledge and expertise. It could even result in a mechanism to centralise data, especially migration data.

Spain is located about 14 kilometres off the Moroccan coast at the Strait of Gibraltar's narrowest point, and the Spanish exclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on the northern Moroccan coast literally represent "Europe in Africa". The ILO network completes important tasks for the respective national administrations. In order to fight irregular migration even more efficiently, there is a need to get all ILOs on board because this group is designed for quick information gathering and efficient and non-bureaucratic international police cooperation.

The migration problem will weigh on the EU and other parts of the world for an indefinite time. It is therefore absolutely crucial to further optimise the existing ILO network. The recent European Commission proposal for a new regulation to strengthen the ILO network as well as the outcome of the Report the ILO network will hopefully make a positive impact.

As emphasised in the beginning of this report, the Kingdom of Morocco has become a destination and transit country and is therefore itself eminently affected by irregular migration. The reduction of the irregular migratory flow through the "Central Mediterranean route" has already caused a bottleneck in Africa and, as a consequence, a shift of the migrant flow. As a consequence, the majority of migrants and refugees have been using the "Western Mediterranean route" to reach Europe after having been trafficked by criminal groups. Studies project that this trend will persist and, in the final analysis, the Kingdom of Morocco will play an even greater role in combatting irregular migration together with Europe.

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