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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Position of the European Union for the 11th meeting of the EU-Egypt  
Association Council (Luxembourg, 15 June 2026)

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Delegations will find attached the European Union's position for the 11th meeting of the EU-Egypt Association Council.

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**11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EU-EGYPT ASSOCIATION COUNCIL**

**(Luxembourg, 15 June 2026)**

**Statement by the European Union**

1. The European Union welcomes the eleventh meeting of the EU-Egypt Association Council. The bilateral relationship with Egypt is framed by the EU-Egypt Association Agreement and the 2021-2027 Partnership Priorities, further strengthened by the EU-Egypt Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership (SCP), signed in Cairo on 17 March 2024. The EU's main objectives are reinforcing cooperation on shared challenges, advancing mutual interests, including through renewed partnership priorities, and promoting long-term stability, sustainable development, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and gender equality. Civil society plays an important role in the implementation of our Association Agreement and partnership.
2. The EU's Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership with Egypt also contributes to the Pact for the Mediterranean, which reflects the strategic ambition to strengthen relations between the EU and its Mediterranean partners. By supporting the creation of a Common Mediterranean Space, the Pact establishes a practical framework of cooperation between the EU and southern Mediterranean partners, address common challenges and move together towards a partnership based on mutual trust and respect, joint responsibility, co-ownership and co-creation, guaranteeing long-term stability. Its comprehensive Action Plan with its subsequent iterations will further contribute to strengthening EU-Egypt cooperation through concrete initiatives and partnerships supporting connectivity, resilience and shared prosperity across the Mediterranean region.

3. The SCP focuses the cooperation across six pillars - political relations, economic stability, trade and investments, migration and mobility, security, demography and human capital – supported by a EUR 7.4 billion financial package for 2024-2027 from the EU. Since its launch, implementation has advanced through high-level engagements, including the first EU-Egypt Leaders’ Summit on 22 October 2025, which deepened bilateral ties. Progress also includes the disbursement of EUR 2 billion under a EUR 5 billion Macro-Financial Assistance programme, the launch of the EU-Egypt Investment Mechanism in June 2025, to accelerate the mobilisation of investments through the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+) guarantees, building on the 2024 first EU-Egypt Investment Conference, High-level event on investment, reforms and innovation, among others. The ongoing combined volume of financial assistance from the EU, its Member States and European Financial Institutions to Egypt in its different forms over the past ten years exceeds EUR 11 billion through a mix of cooperation instruments.
  
4. The EU attaches great importance to its relationship with Egypt as a strategic bilateral partner and regional player, as testified by intense political engagement, Team Europe initiatives, and numerous bilateral visits, including at the highest political level. The EU recognises Egypt's strategic regional role, which is especially important at a time when the country is faced with conflict along all its borders. The bilateral partnership between the EU and Egypt is therefore an important element also for the region, in terms of stability and prosperity of the whole Mediterranean region and the Middle East. Building on this strategic partnership, the EU is committed to reinforcing cooperation with Egypt in foreign policy at the bilateral, regional and international levels, notably in the UN and other multilateral fora, as well as with the League of Arab States (LAS), the African Union and the Union for the Mediterranean.

5. The EU commends Egypt's steadfast role as mediator in the Gaza conflict, which contributed to the ceasefire agreement, endorsed by the Sharm El Sheikh Peace Summit on 13 October 2025, and its unwavering efforts in advancing the Peace Plan for Gaza. The EU reiterates its call for the full implementation by all parties of the ceasefire and all other provisions of UNSCR 2803, in line with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, international political principles, and international law and welcomes Egypt's support to advance towards the stabilisation in Gaza including by hosting the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) and the training of the newly vetted Palestinian police force. As the largest humanitarian donor in Gaza, the EU acknowledges Egyptian efforts, including in supporting medical evacuation from Gaza via the Rafah border crossing, and in coordinating the delivery of essential humanitarian aid from Egypt to Gaza. The EU remains strongly in favour of the reopening of the Rafah border crossing for humanitarian assistance, so that the UN and its agencies, and humanitarian organizations can more effectively, safely and in a timely manner deliver and distribute their crucial aid to people in need in Gaza, in accordance with humanitarian principles, while ensuring such aid is used solely for peaceful uses and not diverted by armed groups. The EU reiterates the importance of facilitating checks and increasing the number of crossings through the Rafah border crossing. The EU's civilian CSDP missions EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah remain key in supporting the Palestinian Authority and for supporting the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire. As the largest donor, the EU will continue to support the Palestinian Authority, including in its reform agenda, necessary so that it can securely and effectively take back control of Gaza. In this context, it is essential that Israel urgently releases withheld clearance revenues necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the Palestinian Authority and the delivery of essential services to the population.

6. Egypt has an indispensable role in the Middle East Peace Process, and the EU will continue to engage closely with Egypt to discuss every aspect of the crisis, included the deep concerns on the deteriorating situation in the West Bank. The EU reiterates the importance of free access and the preservation of the Status Quo of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem. It is essential to restore a political horizon for a just, lasting and sustainable peace, based on a two-state solution, in which both Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in peace and security within secure and recognised borders. The EU acknowledges Egypt's active participation in the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution and the Ad hoc Liaison Committee that the EU recently hosted and co-chaired in Brussels. The EU calls for the permanent disarmament of Hamas and other non-state armed groups, the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the deployment of the temporary International Stabilisation Force (ISF), as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict.
  
7. Over four years after the start of Russia's full-scale, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, grossly violating international law including the principles of the UN Charter and undermining global security and stability and inflicting unspeakable suffering on the Ukrainian population, the EU stands firmly and unwaveringly by Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and by its people. The EU reaffirms its commitment to ensuring full accountability for war crimes and the other most serious crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The EU looks forward to Egypt's assistance and concrete efforts to prevent the circumvention of EU restrictive measures adopted in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, including curbing Russia's shadow fleet operations and welcomes recent exchanges on these matters. The EU acknowledges Egypt's support to upholding the principles of the UN Charter in condemning Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, as reflected in its votes in favour of the UN General Assembly Resolution of 25 February 2025 and, more recently, the one of 24 February 2026. The EU calls on Egypt to sustain a principled position and continue to vote in favour of relevant United Nations Resolutions in support of Ukraine and achieving a just and lasting peace, based on international law including the UN Charter.

8. The EU commends Egypt's mediation efforts between the US and Iran, together with Pakistan and other partners, to contribute to de-escalation and political solutions. The EU and Egypt share the conviction that diplomacy is the only path towards lasting peace and stability in the Middle East and key to resolving all issues linked with Iran and guarantee a sustainable and comprehensive regional solution. In this context, the EU condemns the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and reiterates its call on all parties to fully respect the ceasefire, ensure freedom of navigation as well as free and safe and toll-free passage through the Strait of Hormuz, in line with international law, as reflected in UNCLOS. The EU recalls that the right of transit passage through straits used for international navigation must, remain continuously unhampered and cannot be suspended. The EU condemns Iran's attacks on neighbouring countries and stands in solidarity with the Gulf states and all other affected countries, and stands ready to consider contributing to regional diplomatic and security initiatives, including via its EU maritime defensive operations EUNAVFOR ASPIDES and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA.
  
9. The EU shares Egypt's commitment to the stability in Lebanon and calls on all parties to fully implement UNSCR 1701 and to respect and implement the terms of the ceasefire agreement. The EU expresses its strong support for the direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon that started in Washington in April. There will be no peace unless Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and right to exercise a monopoly of force, as well as Israel's security are respected. The people of Lebanon and Israel have the right to live in peace and security. The EU recognises the fundamental role played by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and condemns the attacks against UN peacekeepers.

10. The EU and Egypt share a common interest in promoting unity, national stability, sovereignty and prosperity in Libya. The EU reiterates its firm commitment to a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned sustainable political solution in line with the UN Roadmap towards the holding of peaceful national elections. The EU reiterates the important contribution of the EU CSDP missions EUBAM Libya and EUNAVFOR OP IRINI to the country's peace and stability.
11. The EU and Egypt share a common interest in a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Sudan and in preserving the country's unity. In this regard, the EU has taken positive note of Egypt's efforts, as a member of the Quad, and in coordination with relevant regional and international tracks, to protect civilians, uphold international law and support an immediate humanitarian truce, followed by a sustained ceasefire and an inclusive civilian-led political process in Sudan.
12. The EU is conscious of the importance that Egypt places on finding an agreement on the operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and continues to strongly encourage a mutually agreed solution between all parties on the operation of the GERD. The EU stands ready to play a more active role, if deemed useful and desirable by all parties, utilising its rich experience in the equitable management of shared water resources, in accordance with international law.
13. The EU and Egypt cooperate in advancing socio-economic goals set out in Egypt's "Sustainable Development Strategy – Vision 2030" with a view to strengthening Egypt's ability to withstand and recover quickly from economic shocks, address climate change mitigation and adaptation, build prosperity and realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conflicts in the region, with ensuing protracted and deepening humanitarian crises, increase in numbers of refugees, notably from Sudan, along with previous shocks like COVID-19 and the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine that affected in particular wheat imports, further strained the Egyptian economy, necessitating additional exceptional monetary and fiscal measures and socio-economic support.

14. The EU and Egypt continue to cooperate closely on strengthening macro-economic fundamentals, reinforcing Egypt's socio-economic resilience, notably through the ongoing MFA operation. The MFA reforms complement and reinforce the reform requirements outlined in the IMF programme, ensuring coherence and maximising the impact of economic transformation efforts. This builds around the implementation of key structural reforms in Egypt to support its growth potential, sustainable and inclusive economic development and prosperity, notably through the green and digital transitions, support to social cohesion, and the development of a modern and democratic state, in accordance with the shared commitments as stated in Decision (EU) 2025/1267. Furthermore, the EU supports Egypt's continued progress in its reform agenda, including trade and investment facilitation and private sector development for improved competitiveness and enhanced business environment, investment and job creation, and underlines the importance of the effective and sustained implementation of these economic and political reforms.
15. In 2024 and 2025, the EU remained Egypt's first trading partner in terms of both imports and exports and one of the biggest investors in Egypt. The EU is committed to working with Egypt on modernising bilateral trade and investment relations. Work has progressed on investment facilitation standards: firstly, Egypt joined the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement and secondly, Egypt and the EU engaged in technical discussions towards launching negotiations for a bilateral Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement (SIFA) with a view to strengthening bilateral investment relations. The EU continues to support Egypt in increasing its trade and investment opportunities, enhancing its competitiveness through compliance with internationally agreed standards and supporting the creation of a conducive business environment. In doing so the EU promotes a transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory regulatory framework, including equal treatment of domestic and foreign investors, and encourages Egypt to reduce the significant state footprint in the economy, including state-owned enterprises, by implementing its "State Ownership Policy". The EU continues to support Egypt in exploring ways of promoting the mobilisation of sustainable investments, including through EFSD+, building on the success of the EU-Egypt Investment Conference held in June 2024 to further these efforts. The EU pledges to continue ensuring effective implementation of the Association Agreement in force since 2004 and avoid unnecessary trade barriers.

16. In the area of human development, with a growing population and significant numbers of vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, Egypt's education and health systems are in need of support and investment. The EU will continue to assist Egypt's efforts towards providing protection to those most in need, including by working on enhancing access and quality of basic services, and to provide skills to the youth in line with labour market and economic transformation requirements. It will continue supporting sustainable demographic growth, social inclusion in less advantaged urban areas through the provision of basic socio-economic services and infrastructure, promoting sustainable rural development while supporting the provision of basic services and social protection measures.
17. Egypt has a strategic role to play in driving a just and inclusive green transition required to limit global warming. The EU is committed to the delivery of the agreed ambition expressed in the first global stocktake (GST) outcome, including the 'transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating efforts in this critical decade'. The EU urges Egypt to take substantive steps to reduce emissions and put forward a more ambitious, economy-wide NDC covering all greenhouse gases; aligning with the 1.5°C goal, as set out in the Paris Agreement, while strengthening resilience to the impacts of climate change for its people. The inclusion of economy-wide targets and the provision of unconditional commitments could represent an important blueprint for engagement and support.
18. The EU welcomes the significant policy developments and investments addressing sustainable development, blue economy and climate change in Egypt, which demonstrate the growing importance given to green growth and sustainable energy transition. It will be essential that this transcends all sectors as to ensure a sustainable and resource efficient economy.

19. The EU remains committed to supporting Egypt's clean transition, sustainability, and emissions reduction efforts through targeted cooperation on regulatory frameworks, standards and investments – helping attract both private and public investments for climate action. In parallel to the progressive introduction of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the EU also stands ready to accompany Egypt in its transition to a low carbon economy, including the adoption of a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system in line with EU Methane regulation and developing options for a carbon pricing framework, as a constructive way forward to, enhance climate action and provide revenue for the transition. In this context, the EU has recently launched the Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy and Clean-Tech Cooperation Initiative (T-MED), a flagship initiative under the Pact for the Mediterranean and the EU's Global Gateway strategy.
20. On energy security and energy transition, considering the geopolitical and energy market reality since the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the current crisis in the Gulf region, the EU recognises Egypt's efforts to safeguard its energy security, including through decisive measures to stabilise domestic supply, while advancing its ambition to become a regional energy hub by leveraging its LNG infrastructure and strengthening regional partnerships. In addition, the EU stands ready to further scale up support for Egypt's energy transition, including through strategic investments in electricity grids, energy efficiency and clean technologies, building on flagship cooperation with European financial institutions, including grid modernisation and system optimisation projects. In this context, GREGY project serves as one of the flagship projects to advance cross-border electricity interconnection. Cooperation on renewable and low carbon hydrogen and low-carbon value chains offers additional potential to deepen our partnership and create mutual economic opportunities. Progress on agreed energy reforms remains essential, including in the context of the EU's Macro-Financial Assistance support, to ensure a stable, sustainable and investment-friendly energy sector.

21. In the environmental sector, the EU and Egypt have identified several common priority areas for cooperation. On biodiversity, the EU is committed to working with Egypt for the implementation of the goals and targets under the Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at COP15 in December 2022. In 2025, Egypt hosted COP24 of the Barcelona Convention in Cairo whose Ministerial declaration hailed the commitment to protect 30% of the Mediterranean by 2030 and eliminating harmful single-use plastics. The EU will continue to advance the ongoing work on an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. Opportunities for cooperation on the environment, including on waste management and resource efficiency, and sustainable blue economy will continue to be explored, in view of common regional objectives under the UfM. <sup>1</sup>
22. In relation to water, building on the 2023 Joint Declaration on Water Partnership, the EU–Egypt Water Partnership Work Programme 2025–2027 supports Egypt’s regional and South–South cooperation for knowledge sharing on sustainable management of water resources alongside the EU Green Facility capacity building package.
23. The EU is ready to deepen cooperation, consultations and exchange of experience in crisis management and prevention, reinforcing cooperation on civil protection and disaster risk management.
24. In the field of transport, EU investment programmes to support the upgrade and extension of public transport such as metro, tram and railway systems are being implemented, as well as the promotion of transport standards and an integrated multimodal network for a sustainable, secure, safe, efficient and connected transport system.

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<sup>1</sup> In line with the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy  
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02/Declaration-UfM-Blue-Economy-EN-1.pdf>

25. In line with the Summit Joint Statement, the EU is committed to strengthening cooperation in digital transformation with Egypt, with a focus on mobilising investments in trusted and secure digital connectivity and data infrastructure, such as the MEDUSA sub-marine fibre inter-connection. In particular, the EU and Egypt want to deepen their exchanges on the security and resilience of subsea cables and capabilities needed, including on the important role of the Suez Canal as a global subsea cable hub. The EU aims to advance collaboration in key areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), the digital economy, talent development and digital skills. The EU aims also to foster collaboration between EU and Egyptian AI research and innovation ecosystems and will continue to exchange on AI governance and innovation as well as to explore ways to promote secure, trustworthy and inclusive AI. The EU further intends to deepen cooperation on digital solutions that address societal challenges, support sustainable development, and enhance competitiveness.
26. The EU appreciates and continues to support Egypt's reforms to deliver high quality technical education in line with labour market needs, to increase employability of the youth, through increased contribution of the private sector. The EU is providing extensive support to the modernisation and high quality Technical and Vocational Education and Training to better align skills to labour market demand - including internationalisation - and contribute to the digital and green transition, societal resilience and empowerment of youth and women, and welcomes the initiatives of several Member States. The EU welcomes the membership of Egypt in the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. Egypt also participates in EU programmes to promote international cooperation among students, higher education institutions and researchers. Egypt is encouraged to take greater advantage of the opportunities offered by the international dimension of Erasmus+ and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions within Horizon Europe for the training, career development and mobility of researchers.

27. In the area of research and innovation, the EU welcomes Egypt's participation in projects under Horizon Europe (2021-2025) and the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) projects (2018-2025), addressing several areas including migration, culture, health, water management, agri-food value chains and water, energy, food Nexus. As a result of Egypt's association to Horizon Europe, effective as of 12 February 2026, Egyptian entities now have access to all parts of the Horizon Europe programme on similar terms with EU Member States. The association also ensures Egypt's continued participation in PRIMA. This cooperation positions Egypt as a solid partner in science diplomacy.
28. In line with the Association Agreement, the Partnership Priorities and the SCP, the EU and Egypt are committed to respecting effective democratic mechanisms, rule of law, guaranteeing full respect of human rights, and promoting the empowerment of all women and girls with a view to achieving gender equality. These commitments are a cornerstone of EU-Egypt relations, contribute to the advancement of the partnership and to Egypt's sustainable development and stability and underpin the EU's Macrofinancial Assistance operations. The increased, regular and constructive engagement between the EU and Egypt since the latest Association Council has opened the path to a more meaningful dialogue on human rights related issues.
29. The EU took note of the National Human Rights Strategy (NSHR) 2020-2026 and its implementation reports published in December 2024 and October 2025. Since the current NSHR will end in the Summer of 2026, the EU takes positive note of the preparation of the second National Strategy for Human Rights for 2026-2031 and continues to strongly encourage the participation in this process of diverse civil society and UN actors in an effort to improve, inter alia, the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in line with Egypt's obligations under international law as well as other commitments.

30. The EU welcomes that Egypt has strengthened its compliance with UN reporting requirements in recent years, by submitting long-overdue reports to treaty bodies. Egypt has also undergone its fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2025. The EU welcomes Egypt's election to the UN Human Rights Council (2026–2028), which was supported by voluntary pledges to tackle discrimination and uphold refugees' rights. The EU encourages Egypt to take forward action on these pledges, and to continue to demonstrate its commitment to engaging with multilateral human rights mechanisms. The EU notes that a number of requests for visits by UN Special Procedures is still pending and calls on Egypt to issue a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.
31. The EU expresses its determination to continue engaging in constructive and regular dialogue with Egypt in the field of human rights. At the same time, the EU remains concerned about pressure against Egyptian human rights defenders as well as restrictions on civic space, the freedoms of expression and opinion, peaceful assembly and association. The EU acknowledges the adoption of a new Criminal Procedures Code, which introduces measures to limit prolonged pre-trial detention as well as alternatives to it and encourages the release of those who have exceeded the pre-trial detention time of the current maximum period of two years, pending its entry into force. The EU also reiterates its call to release human rights defenders, journalists and all others in detention for exercising their legitimate rights. The EU notes Egypt's national efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, to fight Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, in particular against women and girls. The EU encourages Egypt to continue strengthening these initiatives and to further advance equality and non-discrimination of all individuals, including LGBTI persons. The EU calls on Egypt to adhere fully to its international human rights obligations, including in the context of arrest, interrogation and detention. In full respect of the independence of the judiciary, the EU underlines the importance of access for trial observation and of respecting the right to a fair trial.

32. The EU reiterates its strong and principled opposition to the death penalty in all cases and all circumstances. The EU regrets the high number of executions in Egypt and encourages Egypt to implement its own commitment to reduce the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty. The EU takes note of the new provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code aimed at reducing the application of the death penalty and further calls for the suspension of executions as a first step and to establish a formal moratorium with a view to its abolition.
33. Amidst regional conflicts and instability, the EU recognises Egypt's efforts in peace mediation and de-escalation of violence and sees value in enhanced cooperation in this field. Geopolitical developments in the Middle East and on the African continent have changed the security landscape, where, among others, terrorism, transnational organised crime and cyber threats pose significant challenges both to the EU and Egypt. The EU and Egypt will continue to work together to address these challenges and threats, enhancing their cooperation on peace, security and defence in line with international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law. In March 2026, the EU and Egypt held their first Security and Defence Dialogue. The EU supports the Egyptian Armed Forces' capacities through the European Peace Facility (EPF), to enhance the **national security and stability** of Egypt amidst a highly volatile regional context, as well as to enhance the **protection of civilians**.
34. The EU underlines the importance of freedom of navigation emphasizing the stabilising role of EUNAVFOR ASPIDES in the Red Sea and encourages fostering maritime security cooperation, including on countering the operations of the Russian Shadow Fleet, in particular concerning falsely flagged vessels. The EU and Egypt are strategic partners in safeguarding the Red Sea as a secure and open maritime artery, vital for regional stability, global trade and energy security.

35. In the field of preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, the EU and Egypt are successfully implementing a global agenda while co-chairing the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). In this joint multilateral effort, the EU and Egypt will continue to expand the Forum's membership and work strand, promoting a whole-of-society and rule-of-law based approach, including a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming dimension across the Forum's activities. The EU and Egypt agreed to continue working within the GCTF framework towards a more relevant, action-oriented and resilient Forum, focusing on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in Africa, given the persistent and resilient terrorist threat level in the continent.
36. Bilaterally, in January 2026, the EU and Egypt held their second meeting of their Dialogue on Counterterrorism, where they shared their understanding of the shifting global terrorist threat landscape; and, agreed to operationalise policy cooperation through a bilateral project focusing on prevention and community resilience. The EU and Egypt will continue to exchange on policy initiatives, as well as to enhance practical cooperation through regional programming in the fields of preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism online radicalisation, misuse of new technologies and AI applications, the nexus between terrorism and organised crime and countering terrorist financing.
37. The EU and Egypt took concrete steps in enhancing operational cooperation in the broader security/law enforcement domain. Institutional annual senior official's meetings on security take place. Egypt has made progress in developing partnerships with EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies.
38. The EU and Egypt have a strong and long-standing cooperation on migration and mobility embedded in the Partnership Priorities, the SCP and deepened with the joint statement of the first EU-Egypt Leaders' Summit in October 2025.

39. The EU commends Egypt's effective management of its sea borders and encourages further efforts to ensure the effective management of its land borders, in particular the enhanced handling of irregular migratory flows of both transiting migrants and its own nationals. The EU commends Egypt's hosting of refugees and asylum seekers, amidst conflicts in the region and economic strain. Underlining the importance of a comprehensive and whole-of-route approach to migration governance, the EU will continue to support and build on Egypt's efforts in these areas, notably tackling root causes of irregular migration, providing protection support to migrants, refugees, as well as host communities, combatting migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, while ensuring a human rights-based approach, including the identification, protection and referral of victims of trafficking, notably through strengthening border management and search and rescue capacities, including enhanced cooperation on document security, identity management and the detection of fraudulent travel documents, enhancing cooperation in the effective management of irregular migrants transiting through or originating from Egypt, including through the implementation of transit visas, and legal migration pathways labour mobilities and skills development in line with national competences in this regard, while enhancing and ensuring safe, dignified, and sustainable return and reintegration of migrants to their countries of origin. Particular emphasis should be placed on enhanced cooperation with EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies. The EU welcomes Egypt's participation in the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling and its endorsement of the Joint Declaration adopted at the Alliance's second ministerial conference in December 2025 and looks forward to this positive engagement translating into operational cooperation with the EU, EU agencies and EU Member States in countering migrant smuggling.

40. Between 2021 and 2025, Egypt benefited from comprehensive migration-related programmes under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation - Global Europe Instrument (NDICI-GE), addressing all aspects of migration cooperation including voluntary return and reintegration, legal migration and labour mobility in line with Member States' competences, protection of refugees, child protection, fighting smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings including through strengthened law enforcement and judicial cooperation, capacity building for specialised anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking units and closer cooperation with EMPACT priorities and border management. Additional support under NDICI for migration-related actions in Egypt has been envisaged under the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership. In a spirit of solidarity and considering development cooperation has a potential to address root causes of migration, structural vulnerabilities of societies and communities, building their long-term capacity to withstand and respond to crises, the EU will continue to provide comprehensive support to Egypt in this area. This includes supporting Egypt in initiatives aiming at strengthening the protection environment and fostering inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants into national systems and policies. EU support aims to enhance their access to essential services, notably health and education, complementing ongoing support provided through the EU humanitarian assistance targeting the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers through a 'one refugee approach', with particular attention to unaccompanied minors, women and children at risk of exploitation and trafficking.

41. The EU appreciates Egypt's efforts in hosting a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers. In this context, the EU will continue to support the Egyptian government's transition to a nationally owned and managed asylum system following the adoption of the National Asylum Law in December 2024, and calls for its compliance with the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees and to that effect encourages Egypt to continue working with the UNHCR and the European Asylum Agency on its implementation. The EU further encourages continued alignment with international legal obligations and standards, including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons. In the transition phase, the EU calls on Egypt to respect the fundamental rights of every migrant, asylum seeker and refugee, including the right to *non-refoulement*, legal representation, and registration. The EU expresses its concern about a surge of reports of arbitrary arrests, detention and deportations of migrants and refugees, and wishes to reaffirm the importance of protecting their rights, and enhancing their access to essential services.
42. The EU requests a more effective, uniform and predictable cooperation on return and readmission between Egypt and the EU Member States, including timely identification procedures and the swift issuance of travel documents. The EU calls for improving the return rate significantly in particular in view of the high number of arrivals of Egyptians to the EU, including the high number of unfounded asylum applications lodged by them and the upcoming application of the Border procedure. On this basis, the EU and Egypt will continue to strengthen cooperation on legal migration, in line with EU and national competences, with programmes that aim at upskilling of the Egyptian labour force and to create more structured and regular mobility pathways towards the EU. The EU encourages strengthening operational cooperation in the field of migration with Frontex and EU Member States. The EU looks forward to discussing issues related to cooperation on migration during the 5<sup>th</sup> Migration Dialogue (SOM) intended to take place in the second semester of 2026.

43. The EU looks forward to continuing to strengthen its Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership with Egypt and mark yet further progress in the interest of both sides. The EU-Egypt partnership will benefit from further deepening our political dialogue in a spirit of mutual trust and openness. The participation of civil society, youth and women, as well as the private sector, including small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in the implementation of the Partnership Priorities and the SCP in a free and diverse manner is crucial. Regular and constructive engagement regarding the progress made, through the various mechanisms foreseen in the Association Agreement through regular political dialogue will allow us to continue to maintain this positive momentum, in the interest of our people and regions.

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