Council of the European Union

Brussels, 3 November 2026
(OR. en)

12948/26

Interinstitutional File:
2026/0187(NLE)

LIMITE

JAI 1112
MIGR 248
RELEX 1136
COAFR 271

PUBLIC

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the signing of the Agreement between the European Union and the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the return and readmission of persons who do not, or who no longer, fulfil the conditions for entry, presence or residence in the territory of either Party

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/…

of …

on the signing of the Agreement
between the European Union and the Federal Republic of Nigeria
on the return and readmission of persons
who do not, or who no longer, fulfil the conditions
for entry, presence or residence in the territory of either Party

PUBLIC

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 79(3), in conjunction with Article 218(5), thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) On 12 September 2016, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the Federal Republic of Nigeria for an agreement between the European Union and the Federal Republic of Nigeria on readmission. The negotiations were successfully concluded with the initialling of the Agreement between the European Union and the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the return and readmission of persons who do not, or who no longer, fulfil the conditions for entry, presence or residence in the territory of either Party (the 'Agreement').

(2) The purpose of the Agreement is to establish rapid and effective procedures for the identification and return of persons who do not, or who no longer, fulfil the conditions for entry into, presence in, or residence on the territory of a Member State or of Nigeria.

(3) In accordance with Article 3 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union ('TEU') and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU'), Ireland has notified, by letter of 8 October 2026, its wish to take part in the adoption and application of this Decision.

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(4) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the TEU and to the TFEU, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

(5) Therefore, the Agreement should be signed and the Joint Declarations should be made,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

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Article 1

The signing of the Agreement between the European Union and the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the return and readmission of persons who do not, or who no longer, fulfil the conditions for entry, presence or residence in the territory of either Party is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of that Agreement[1].

Article 2

The Joint Declarations attached to the Agreement are hereby approved[2+].

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at …, …

For the Council
The President

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1 The text of the Agreement will be published together with the decision on its conclusion.
2 The Joint Declarations are published in OJ L, …, ELI …
\+ OJ: please insert OJ reference to the Agreement contained in document ST 12944/26.

PUBLIC