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WORKING DOCUMENT

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

N° prev. doc.: WK 7048/2024 INIT

Subject: Implementation report - Pakistan

In view of the COREPER meeting of 17 July 2024, delegations will find attached the implementation report of the action file on Pakistan.

11.07.2024

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**Pakistan****Specific objectives**

Make use of the existing migration and mobility dialogue to further enhance a comprehensive and balanced migration partnership with Pakistan in order to:

- prevent irregular migration, by reinforcing border management capacity, countering migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, increasing the use of awareness raising and information campaigns, and by addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement
- ensure effective return cooperation and sustainable reintegration of returnees to Pakistan
- support international protection and sustainable solutions for Afghan refugees in Pakistan in line with the Team Europe initiative on Afghan displacement
- strengthen legal migration frameworks from Pakistan to third countries as well as between interested Member States and Pakistan, notably by developing a Talent Partnership before the end of 2023.

The protection of human rights of all migrants and the full respect of international law are guiding principles for EU engagement.

The first meeting of the migration and mobility dialogue in March 2023, back-to-back with the Joint Readmission Committee and a roundtable on Talent Partnerships, set the scene for the broad engagement on migration with Pakistan.

The implementation of relevant measures under this Action file should also be taken into consideration when Pakistan's cooperation on migration is assessed in line with the flexible incitative approach of NDICI Global Europe. Under NDICI funding adopted or foreseen over the period 2021-2023, Pakistan will benefit from actions linked to migration for an expected amount of EUR 50 million. Pakistan will also benefit from regional and multi-country programmes addressing migration and forced displacement challenges, with an expected total of EUR 68M in the same time span.

Outcome: MOCADEM will assess progress achieved in Q4 2023.

Measures:***Political and technical outreach***

Measure 1: Continue engagement with Pakistan authorities, including in regional fora such as the Budapest Process, to follow up on the first meeting of the migration and mobility dialogue on 16 March, including with the option to use coordinated diplomatic demarches in accordance with the Action files on the Central Mediterranean route and Libya where Pakistan is mentioned among countries of origin.

- **Lead actors:** Commission, EEAS, Member States.

- **Timeframe:**
 - o **23 June:** EU-Pakistan Joint Commission

Completed

- ➔ 9th EU-Pakistan Political Dialogue, led by EEAS, was held on 6 March 2024 in Islamabad, where issues related to migration were also discussed.
- ➔ At the same time a technical mission from the Commission was in Islamabad to prepare the April EU-Pakistan Migration and Mobility Dialogue.
- ➔ The 2nd meeting of the Migration and Mobility Dialogue took place on 25 April 2024, back-to-back with the Joint Readmission Committee on 24 April and the 2nd Talent Partnership Roundtable on 23 April.
- ➔ Pakistan followed up on its participation in the first International Conference on a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling in November 2023 by organising on 26-27 April 2024 (with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the EU Delegation in Pakistan) a regional conference with countries of origin and transit to target migrant smuggling.
- ➔ Interactions with Pakistan, in the framework of the Budapest Process, have continued and involved i.a. the Commission's participation in the Budapest Process Reference Group and Thematic Working Group Meeting on Legal Pathways for Migration, co-chaired by Pakistan, on 7-8 May 2024.

Pending

- ➔ Next EU-Pakistan Joint Commission is foreseen for October 2024 (migration will be on the agenda)
- ➔ Further interactions with Pakistan in the framework of the Budapest Process, including at the Ministerial meeting on 12 November.

Measure 2: Strengthen coordination and information sharing locally, including among liaison officers, or other relevant officials.

- **Lead actors:** EEAS (EU delegation), Commission and Member States (Embassies)
- **Timeframe: Q3 2023:**

- o [REDACTED]

Completed

- ➔ Meeting between the EU Delegation and EU Member States embassies' migration counsellors/consuls took place on 10 May 2024.

Pending

- ➔ Recruitment process for a European Migration Liaison Officer (EMLO) to Pakistan is ongoing.

Migration and border management, including information campaigns

Measure 3: Implement common operational partnership project to strengthen cooperation to prevent and combat migrant smuggling through training programmes, exchange of information and support to investigations, in adherence with international law and human rights.

- **Lead actors:** Commission, Member States, Europol
- **Timeframe: Q3 2023**
 - Launch and support the Common Operational Partnership project (EASTEAMS), with EU funding of MEUR 1.7 through the Internal Security Fund.

Completed

- ➔ Kick-off meeting of the EASTEAMS project took place on 26 September 2023, in Athens. Implementation continues.
- ➔ An introductory VTC between Pakistan and Europol was held on 22 April 2024, to explain the work of the Agency and explore the possibilities for enhanced cooperation.
- ➔ The Commission participated in the UNODC regional workshop on migrant smuggling, on 26-27 April in Islamabad, co-organised by EU Delegation in Islamabad and Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency.

Pending

- ➔ Appointment of the Commission's and Pakistan's focal points for exchange of information on migrant smuggling.

Measure 4: Support and conduct awareness raising and information campaigns, including implementation of the information campaign PARIM II, Migrant Resource Centres, and consider further activities in this area.

- **Lead actors:** Commission, Member States
- **Timeframe: Q3-Q4 2023**
 - Signature/launch of the EUR 9M contracts (AAP 2022), with ICMPD and UNODC, of the PROTECT programme supporting Migrant Resource Centres and responses to trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants in Pakistan and Central Asian states – contracting being finalised.
 - Implementation of PARIM II information and awareness raising campaign on the risks of irregular migration and migrant smuggling. The project is financed under AMIF (EU contribution amounts to EUR 990 000), and it is implemented by ICMPD and supported by Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, Finland and Greece.

Completed

- ➔ PROTECT programme was contracted and launched.
- ➔ Implementation of “PARIM II - Awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in Pakistan” and of “SAFER - Safe and legal alternatives for Pakistani potential migrants and migrants on the Route” (was launched on time and) is still ongoing.

Measure 5: Complete the process of deployment of a Frontex liaison officer (FLO) in Pakistan.

- **Lead actors:** Commission, EEAS, Frontex
- **Timeframe: Q3 2023**
 - Formal agreement with Pakistan enabling Frontex to start recruitment process for a FLO.

Completed

- ➔ Formal approval for the deployment of Frontex Liaison Officer to Pakistan was granted by the Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2024.

Pending

- ➔ Next steps towards the actual deployment of the FLO, to be taken by Frontex.

Support measures for return and reintegration

Measure 6: Strengthen the capacities of Pakistan’s authorities for identification and the issuance of travel documents, ensure functioning of the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) tool.

- **Lead actors:** Commission, Member States
- **Timeframe :** Ongoing
 - New Service Level Agreement to be signed with Pakistani authorities for maintenance and technical developments of current RCMS and technical developments of future eRCMS.

Completed

- ➔ The EU and Pakistan held the 15th Joint Readmission Committee meeting on 24 April 2024 to discuss the cooperation on return and readmission.
- ➔ On 24 April 2024, the Commission and Pakistan, with participation of International Organisation for Migration (IOM), held technical exchanges on the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS), to take stock of recent changes implemented by Pakistan and agree on a way forward with RCMS.

Pending

- ➔ Conclusion of a New Service Level agreement

- ➔ [REDACTED]

Measure 7: Support programmes for the sustainable reintegration of returnees.

- **Lead actors:** Commission, Member States, Frontex
- **Timeframe:** Ongoing
 - MEUR 7 project in support of sustainable reintegration of returnees in preparation, to be adopted by end 2023.
 - Frontex JRS to support returnees from participating Member States arriving by charter flights (New charter package support for returnees since 1 April 2023).

Completed

- ➔ MEUR 7 project in support of sustainable reintegration of returnees was adopted by the Commission in November 2023.
- ➔ Sustainable Reintegration Pakistan: Swedish Migration Agency/Return and Reintegration Facility project 2023-24.

Pending

- ➔ EUR 7M project in support of sustainable reintegration of returnees in the process of being contracted.
- ➔ Post-arrival assistance under the EU Reintegration Programme (formerly known as JRS) is not yet available for returnees returning to Pakistan by charter flights. Ongoing discussions with implementing partners on future modalities for coverage.

Protection and sustainable solutions for displaced Afghans in Pakistan

Measure 8: Promote the Team Europe initiative on Afghan displacement to coordinate and highlight European support in the area and continue engagement in the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) platform, while ensuring sufficient EU coordination.

- **Lead actors:** Commission, EEAS, Member States, EUAA
- **Timeframe: Q3 2023**
 - Coordination meeting among TEI Members in July to compare plans for funding in the region.
 - Implementation of the NDICI regional action “Support to Afghan refugees and displaced people in Pakistan, Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan” adopted in 2021 (EUR 50M) ongoing.
 - Implementation of the NDICI regional action “Displacement Tracking and Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy in Asia (DATA), adopted in 2022 (EUR 9M) ongoing.
 - NL to co-chair the SSAR platform together with Qatar in 2023.

Completed

- ➔ A high-level coordination meeting of the regional TEI on the Afghan displacement situation took place on 27 February 2024.
- ➔ Work of the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA) Expert Platform on Safe Pathways for Afghans continues. The last meeting was held on 20 March 2024.
- ➔ The situation of Afghans and international protection issues in Pakistan are regularly addressed with Pakistan and were raised at the EU-Pakistan Migration and Mobility Dialogue on 25 April 2024.
- ➔ The Commission continues engaging with international like-minded partners within other fora, like the Resettlement Diplomacy Network, with a view to strengthening collaboration on resettlement and other available pathways for Afghans at risk.
- ➔ The most recent meeting of the SSAR core group took place on 30 April 2024 with Commission and EEAS participation.

Legal migration and mobility

Measure 9: Develop a Talent Partnership with Pakistan before the end of 2023, increasing the number of participating Member States.

- **Lead actors:** Commission, Member States
 - **Timeframe:**
 - **Q3 2023** – technical follow-up meeting to the March Talent Partnership Roundtable.
 - **Q4 2023** – second roundtable on the development of the Talent Partnership.
 - NDICI programme to support the Talent Partnership in Pakistan in preparation, to be adopted by the end of 2023 (EUR 3M).

Completed

- ➔ The financing decision for the EUR 3M support programme was adopted by the Commission in November 2023.
- ➔ The second Talent Partnership roundtable with Pakistan took place on 23 April 2024, building on regular exchanges.
- ➔ Two EU-funded projects, implemented by ANOLF Piemonte and the City of Turku, were approved and launched and will be complementary to the Talent Partnership programme.

Pending

- ➔ Talent Partnership support programme (EUR 3M) to be contracted.

ANNEX: Draft common messages

- Welcome the continuation of the comprehensive migration and mobility dialogue and the constructive exchanges held for the second time, this time in Brussels, in April 2024, which took place back-to-back with technical workshop on the 2nd talent partnership roundtable and the latest Joint Readmission Committee meeting. The broad agenda of the dialogue reflects the EU's comprehensive approach to fostering a balanced and mutually beneficial migration partnership with Pakistan.
- Emphasize that the EU will continue supporting Pakistan to address challenges related to migration, including migrant smuggling and human trafficking, Afghan displacement and the sustainable reintegration of returnees from the EU.
- Stress the importance of adhering to human rights principles, respecting the principle of non-refoulement and of protecting vulnerable groups of Afghan refugees and displaced people in Pakistan, in particular women and children, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Recall Frontex' interest in cooperating with Pakistan, including via a Working Arrangement, and welcome the approval of the deployment of a Frontex liaison officer in Islamabad.
- Stress that the number of irregular arrivals of Pakistani nationals to the EU is an issue of great concern, in particular migrants arriving over the Central Mediterranean route.
- Underline the importance for the EU of an effective implementation of the EU-Pakistan Readmission Agreement to ensure the well-functioning return of Pakistani nationals without the right to stay from the European Union.
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Underline that legal migration can offer opportunities both to countries of origin and destination and is an integral element of the EU's comprehensive approach to migration, while fully respecting national competences of EU Member States. Highlight the potential of the Talent Partnership and the ambition to foster legal migration in a mutually beneficial way.