

The European Union and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region on Legal Migration

**Launch Seminar on the Mediterranean Edition of the
Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration
Policies, Rabat, 12-13 December 2007**



European Commission

Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security

Kristof Tamas, European Commission



European Union legal migration cooperation **Contents**

- **Global Approach**
- **Implementation of Rabat Action Plan and Tripoli Declaration**
- **Policy Plan on Legal Migration**
- **Circular Migration**
- **Conclusions**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Global Approach to Migration



➤ Global Approach to Migration: Objectives

- **Comprehensive and coherent policy to address the broad range of migration-related issues, bringing together justice and home affairs, development and external relations to enhance dialogue and cooperation on migration in partnership with third countries.**
- **Comprises the whole migration agenda, incl. legal and illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, protection for refugees, migrant rights, and links between migration and development.**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Global Approach to Migration



➤ **Global Approach to Migration: History**

- **Tampere 1999, Hague Programme 2004**
- **Commission's 2002 and 2005 Communications on migration and development**
- **Council Conclusions on Global Approach Dec 2005, first focus on EU-Africa cooperation**
- **Global Approach to East and South-East, May 2007**
- **Council Conclusions on Coherence between EU Migration and Development Policies, Nov 2007**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Global Approach to Migration



➤ **Global Approach: Policy Context**

- **Need to integrate migration into external relations**
- **Improving migration management one of the top political priorities for EU and EUROMED partners**
- **Developmental, demographic and democratic disparities: strong demographic pressure from Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **Clear understanding that migration can benefit development and vice versa**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Global Approach to Migration



➤ Global Approach: Promoting Dialogue

- **Bilateral level: individual African states**
- **Regional level: Rabat conference; EU-ECOWAS working group on migration; Dialogue with Mediterranean countries based on Association Agreements and Action Plans under the ENP. First Euromed Ministerial Conference on migration, Portugal, Nov 2007 → Euromed Employment Workshop, Brussels, Dec 2007**
- **Continental level: Tripoli conference, African Union**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Global Approach to Migration

➤ Rabat implementation

- Rabat Action Plan
- Meeting of Senior Officials, Madrid, June 2007
- Second Ministerial Conference during French EU-Presidency, Paris, Oct 2008
- AENEAS-funded project recently selected.
Spanish organisation FIIAP to help Rabat process stakeholders continue and deepen dialogue and implement both the process and initiatives identified by the Action Plan



European Union legal migration cooperation

Global Approach to Migration



➤ Tripoli implementation

- Tripoli Declaration
- Discussed at regular Commission-Commission joint taskforce meetings, and EU-Africa Ministerial Troika meetings
- Roadmap to take forward the Tripoli Declaration
- Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment adopted as part of the EU-Africa Strategy at the EU-Africa Summit, Lisbon, 8-9 December 2007





European Union legal migration cooperation

Global Approach to Migration



➤ **Global Approach: Policy Tools and Projects**

- **Country and Regional Strategy Papers**
- **Migration Profiles**
- **Cooperation Platforms**
- **Mobility Partnerships**
- **Circular Migration**
- **Projects on the protection of migrants' rights, integration**
- **MEDA and AENEAS funded projects to improve capacity to manage labour migration, to promote cooperation in matching labour supply and demand, and to carry out information campaigns.**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Sanctions against irregular migration

➤ Sanctions against irregular migration

- Integrated management of external borders
- Visa policies and Community readmission agreements
- Fight against smuggling and trafficking of human beings
- Draft Directive on sanctions for employers of persons who do not comply with immigration rules
- Addressing regularisation (study and possible initiatives)
- Return policy



European Union legal migration cooperation

Policy Plan on Legal Migration

- **Launched Dec 2005, one general Framework Directive and four specific directives 2007-2009**
- **draft Directive on the admission of highly skilled immigrants, Oct 2007**
- **draft Directive on a single application procedure and common set of rights, Oct 2007**
- **proposals on seasonal workers, remunerated trainees and intra-corporate transferees to be presented in 2008**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Policy Plan on Legal Migration

➤ **Draft Directive on the admission of highly skilled immigrants**

- **Objective to increase EU competitiveness and provide MS and EU companies with additional "tools" to recruit, retain and better allocate workers**
- **Since labour market needs differ from MS to MS, the proposed common system combines harmonisation with flexibility – the EU Blue Card:**
 - ✓ **Fast-track procedure for the admission of highly qualified third-country workers based on common criteria: a work contract, qualifications and a minimum salary level at least three times the level of existing national minimum wages**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Policy Plan on Legal Migration

➤ **Draft Directive on a single application procedure and common set of rights**

- **a "one-stop-shop" system for third-country nationals to reside in an MS for purposes of work**
- **Single application procedure to simplify, shorten and accelerate the procedure**
- **Basic socio-economic rights on equal footing with own nationals, incl. working conditions (pay and dismissal), health and safety at workplace, education, vocational training, recognition of qualifications, social security (incl. health care), export of paid pensions, access to goods and services and tax benefits**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Circular Migration



➤ Circular migration

- **Enhancing the Global Approach**
- **Communication May 2007**
- **Council Conclusions June 2007**
- **Consultations with relevant stakeholders**
- **Council Conclusions Dec 2007**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Circular Migration

➤ Council Conclusions Dec 2007

- **Circular migration can be useful in promoting the development of countries of origin or mitigating the adverse effect of brain drain**
- **When meeting identified labour needs of countries of origin and destination, it can be beneficial to all involved and contribute to co-development**
- **Incentive-based mobility of third country nationals taking up legal employment in the EU or persons settled in the EU going to their country of origin**
- **Safeguards to prevent overstaying and ensure return**





European Union legal migration cooperation

Circular Migration

➤ Circular Migration: Further Steps

- **Commission and MS to ensure that Community legislation on legal migration does not impede circular migration**
- **Commission to regularly report back to Council on projects and national legislation that facilitate circular migration, identifying good practices and further develop policies**



European Union legal migration cooperation

Conclusions

- **Global Approach firmly part of EU cooperation framework with third country partners**
- **Implementation of Rabat Action Plan and Tripoli Declaration on track**
- **Policy Plan on Legal Migration first draft directives presented, more to come in 2008**
- **Circular Migration a new concept, but already existing projects: concrete steps to be taken soon based on Dec 2007 Council Conclusions**



European Union legal migration cooperation
More information



Thank you!

Useful link:

**Web-site of the EU Commission, Area of
freedom, security and justice**

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/intro/fsj_intro_en.htm

**Towards a common European Union
immigration policy**

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/immigration/fsj_immigration_intro_en.htm

