

**Contribution by the EEAS / European Commission services to the
International Migration Review Forum of the Global Compact for Safe,
Orderly and Regular Migration (17-20 May 2022)**

The global challenges we face in today's world require **effective multilateral approaches**, based on solidarity, human rights and a rules-based international order. The EU is fully committed to the Agenda 2030 and the Strategic Developments Goals, including on

The Commission sought to help Member States to **minimise the impact of the pandemic**. This included guidance,¹ practical support from EU agencies and sharing of best practices in areas such as conducting interviews remotely and undertaking procedures online². Funding rules were also changed and funding was directed at particular needs in Member States.

The experience of the pandemic underlined once more the importance of building up a more **modern and coherent approach in migration management**. Timely information sharing proved essential, with the newly created **EU Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint**³ shown to be a valuable platform to exchange about the response to the pandemic.

Saving lives remains the number one priority of the EU. The continued high number of deaths on migratory routes towards the EU calls us for further action. Cross-border operational cooperation

Expanding pathways for **legal migration**, including labour migration and the mobility of entrepreneurs, students and researchers is an important element of our comprehensive approach to migration. It offers significant benefits for countries of origin and destination alike. Around 3 million migrants come to the EU legally each year, and we have worked to improving EU rules, in full respect of national competences of our Member States, to make things easier for migrants wishing to come to the EU.

For instance, the EU modernised its rules establishing conditions for highly qualified workers coming to live and work in the EU (so called EU Blue Card Directive⁵).

The Commission has also conducted an assessment on relevant EU rules⁶ and is currently working on a '**Skills and Talent package**' to be adopted in April 2022 that will include: proposals to enhance the Single Permit directive, which aims to ensure a simplified and unique procedure for applying for the right to work and reside in the EU, while giving protection and ensuring fair treatment, as well as the Long-term Residents directive, to improve the rights of third-country nationals who are already integrated in the EU; and a Communication that that will set out the next steps on the EU legal migration policy in the medium and longer term.

The Commission adopted on 24 November 2020 a new **Action Plan on integration and inclusion (2021-2027)**. The action plan proposes targeted and tailored support that takes into account individual characteristics that may present specific challenges to people with a migrant background. Although national governments are primarily responsible for creating and implementing social policies, the EU plays a key role in supporting Member States through funding, developing guidance and fostering partnerships with all those involved: migrants, host communities, social and economic partners, civil society and the private sector.

The Pact on Migration and Asylum reaffirmed the commitment to providing protection to those in need through safe and legal pathways to the EU, set out in the dedicated **2020 Recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU**. The Recommendation calls on the Member States to scale up resettlement and promote **humanitarian admission** and other **complementary pathways** for people in need of international protection. On 7 October 2021, the Commission organised a High-

claims. Since 2015, EU Member States granted 2.5 million people protection and gave more than 85,000 people a new home through resettlement.

In January 2022, the EU Regulation creating a new **European Union Agency for Asylum** on the basis of the European Asylum Support Office entered into force. This will enable the Agency to further contribute with operational support in respect of asylum and reception to Member States with an increased budget.

Regarding financial support, the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund** (AMIF) has provided the **financial means** to push forward the EU's comprehensive agenda on migration throughout 2014-2020. It supported actions in relation to asylum, including resettlement and relocation, integration of third country nationals and return operations. AMIF provided **support for asylum** to over 2 million individuals. AMIF's Emergency Assistance Instrument (EMAS) in 2015-2021 provided over €2 billion to support Member States' asylum systems and reception capacities. The renewed AMIF, part of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 will amount to €9.882 billion, dedicated to Member States' programmes as well as to emergency assistance, resettlement and humanitarian admission from non-EU countries, and to relocating asylum-seekers and refugees inside the EU, as part of solidarity efforts.

European Social Fund has supported actions for benefit of migrants in the field of education, training, employment and social inclusion

to people in vulnerable situations who could not be reached through national vaccine deployment plans. During the recent EU

at detention centres when access is possible, and to support host communities, as well as promoting alternatives to detention.

The **EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration** has been designed to provide a coherent framework to save lives, protect and assist migrants along the Central Mediterranean Route. The Initiative contributed to assist more than 106,799 migrants to return to their country of origin, mainly from Libya (38,844); and more than 98,570 migrants were assisted after their return, of which more than 91,627 have engaged in reintegration support in their country of origin.

A number of African coun

livelihoods of the local populations. As chair of the Core Group of the SSAR Platform in 2021 and 2022, the EU is seeking to strengthen the international response to the Afghan refugee situation and to stimulate further political, financial and material commitments. In addition, EU funding supports the Member States that pledged resettlement and humanitarian admission places for Afghans most at risk.

In striving to enhance the development outcomes of migration, the EU has supported **regional and national efforts** in the ASEAN region to promote fair recruitment and decent work with ILO and UNWOMEN.

The **EU has also been at the forefront of the response to the Venezuelan migration crisis** providing humanitarian and development aid inside and outside Venezuela, including support to Venezuelan migrants and host communities in neighbouring countries. On 26 May 2020, the virtual International Donors Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in the Countries of the Region raised €144.2 million in grants from EU funds and €400 million in loans from the European Investment Bank. Subsequently, at the International Donors' Conference of 17 June 2021, the EU pledged a further €144 million in humanitarian and development aid.

The EU has been providing protection and immediate relief to vulnerable populations in Central America and Mexico forced to leave their households as consequence of the poverty and widespread violence in the area.

The EU is also committed to a number of global actions related to various aspect of a comprehensive migration as described in the GCM. For instance, with the **REFRAME programme of ILO**, the EU has supported fair recruitment in several key migratory corridors. Through the **EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) of ICMPD**, the EU contributes to facilitate engagement and cooperation between countries of origin and their diaspora. Through the **Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX)** initiative with ICMPD and the support to the UN migration network with IOM, the EU supports capacity building on

external action for 2021-2025, which sets out the EU's political and operational roadmap towards a gender-equal world and calls for the EU to scale up its contribution to reach Sustainable Development Goal 5 (gender equality) in its external policy areas. Such engagement was confirmed in the NDICI-Global Europe, which specifies that at least 85 % of new actions should have gender equality as a principal or a significant objective and that at least 5 % of those actions should have gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal objective. The first EU LGBTIQ Strategy was adopted on 12 November 2020,

