

COMMUNITY DIMENSIONS OF MIGRATION. STUDY (Part I)

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Abstract

Migration is a historical phenomenon that has been perpetuated differently over time. The generating factors of migration are multiple: economic, environmental, social. At the community level, migration issues occupy a central place, practically representing a priority axis to which we find the response of the European Commission embodied in the New Pact on migration and asylum. The elements of novelty brought by the New Pact are embodied in the concrete intervention with procedures regarding the best practices applied within the migration system of the European Union. Compared to the pandemic period, we observe, according to community statistics, an uneven decrease in migration that generated the need for rapid and concrete management of migration based on effective and resilience measures.

Keywords: *Migration, migrants, legal migration, irregular migration, generating factors of migration, return, resilience.*

JEL Classification: [K40, K49]

1. Introduction

European Commission:

- adopted the European Agenda on migration;
- appreciated the fact that the need for a better management of migration was quickly imposed;
- found that migration management is considered to be a shared responsibility.

The agenda covers all aspects of migration management and analyzes internal and external aspects in a fully integrated manner.

The agenda identifies concrete actions and measures in the following four areas:

- reducing the incentive factors for irregular migration;
- saving human lives and securing external borders;
- a strong asylum policy;
- a new policy in the field of legal migration.

„The main objective of the Strategy is the development of the concept of integrated management at the state border level, with the objective of improving the ability to ensure a high level of security at the external border of the EU, as well as

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to adopt and implement the common policies in the domain” (Radu, <http://fiatiustitia.ro>).

„In relation to other institutions of international law, such as diplomatic law or consular law, the interational protection of human rights is extremely young” (Popescu, 2000, p. 8).

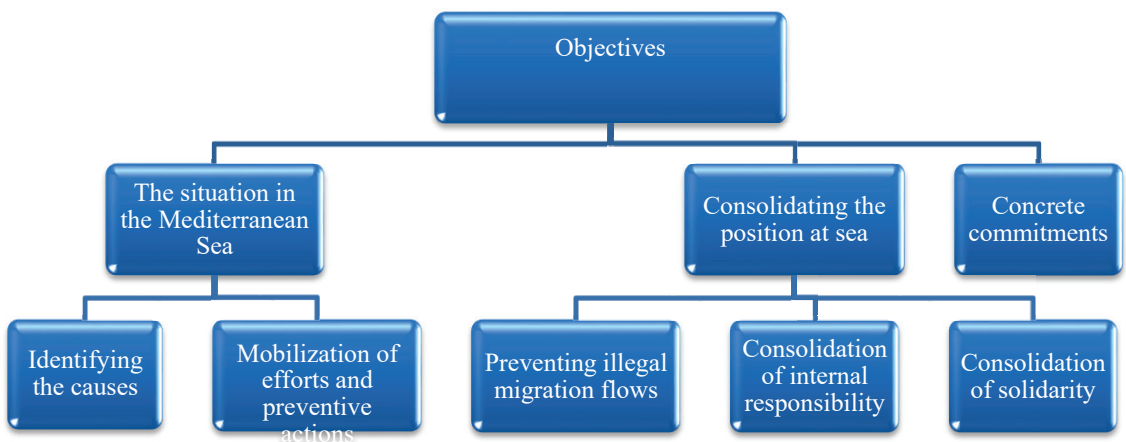
2. Succession of gradual community actions in the field of migration in 2015

In a gradual sequence, the actions regarding migration at the community level are presented as follows:

On April 23, 2015 took place the extraordinary meeting of the European Council which investigated the situation in the Mediterranean Sea, the consolidation of the presence at sea from the perspective of mobilizing efforts in order to prevent the loss of human lives on the one hand and on the other hand, to identify and treat the deep causes of the human emergency in a collaboration with countries of transit and countries of origin in conjunction with the intensification of efforts to address conflicts and instability appreciated as key factors for stimulating migration.

We schematically reproduce the objectives of the community actions:

Figure 1. Objectives of community actions



Related to each objective, the commitments assumed at that time took shape in:

- A. Strengthening the presence at sea through:
1. the rapid consolidation of EU Triton operations;
 2. the rapid consolidation of Poseidon operations;
 3. the tripling the financial resources for this purpose in 2015 and 2016;
 4. the consolidation of the number of assets;
 5. the commitments already assumed by the member states.

- B. Combating traffickers in accordance with the international law by:
1. breaking up traffic networks;
 2. bringing the perpetrators to justice;
 3. confiscation of their assets;
 4. fast cooperative actions of the authorities of the member states with institutions empowered in this regard.
- C. Preventing illegal migration flows by:
1. The additional support given to Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt, Mali and Niger for the monitoring and control of land borders and routes, based on:
 - PSAC type operations;
 - operations of regional cooperation frameworks;
 - intensifying the dialogue with the African Union at all levels regarding all these aspects.
 2. Aspects of strengthening cooperation at all levels with African partners in order to combat:
 - the causes of illegal migration;
 - illegal introduction of migrants;
 - human trafficking;
 - organization of a summit in Malta.
 3. Strengthening and intensifying cooperation with Turkey.
 4. Sending European officers to collect information on migration, coordination and direct cooperation with local authorities;
 5. The collaboration with regional partners to consolidate capacities for maritime border management and search and rescue operations;
 6. Launching programs:
 - for the regional development;
 - for the protection for North Africa and the Horn of Africa;
 7. The Commission and the High Representative will consider actions to:
 - mobilize all instruments regarding:
 - cooperation;
 - development;
 - apply national readmission agreements;
 - apply EU readmission agreements with third countries;
 - promote the readmission of unauthorized economic migrants in the countries of origin and transit in close collaboration with the International Organization for Migration;
 8. Establishing a rapid return program for illegal migrants from frontline Member States, coordinated by Frontex.
- D. Strengthening internal solidarity and responsibility by:
1. Reporting on the right to request asylum will be quickly and fully applied to the common European asylum system based on common European standards.
 2. Supplementing emergency aid to front-line member states and considering options for organizing emergency transfers between all member states on a voluntary basis;

3. Sending EASO teams to Member States on the front line for:
- joint processing of asylum applications, including registration and fingerprinting;

4. Establishing a voluntary pilot project on resettlement in the EU, and granting places to people who qualify for protection.

5. The EU institutions and Member States will work immediately on the full implementation of these guidelines. The Presidency and the Commission will present a roadmap next week setting out work until June.

6. Communication by the Commission of the European agenda on migration in order to develop a more systemic and geographically comprehensive approach to migration.

The European Council will continue to manage the situation and closely monitor the implementation of these guidelines. The Council and the Commission will present a report to the European Council in June.

EUCAP Sahel Niger, in the press release of the EU Council of May 13, 2015, was appreciated as a contribution to the prevention of irregular migration by the fact that the EU will provide the Nigerian authorities with:

- support for the prevention of irregular immigration;
- support for combating related crimes through:
 - advice on a related strategy;
 - training for Nigerian security services;
 - an outpost in Agadez;
 - advice and training to support the Nigerian authorities.

EU Navfor Med will be carried out in sequential stages and according to requirements of the international law. The planning of the operation and the initial phase of surveillance and assessment of people smuggling and human trafficking networks in the south-central Mediterranean area will be carried out as soon as possible. The second and third phases of the operation would, on the basis of the international law and in partnership with the Libyan authorities, aim to search, seize and destroy the assets of people that smuggle migrants(europa.eu).

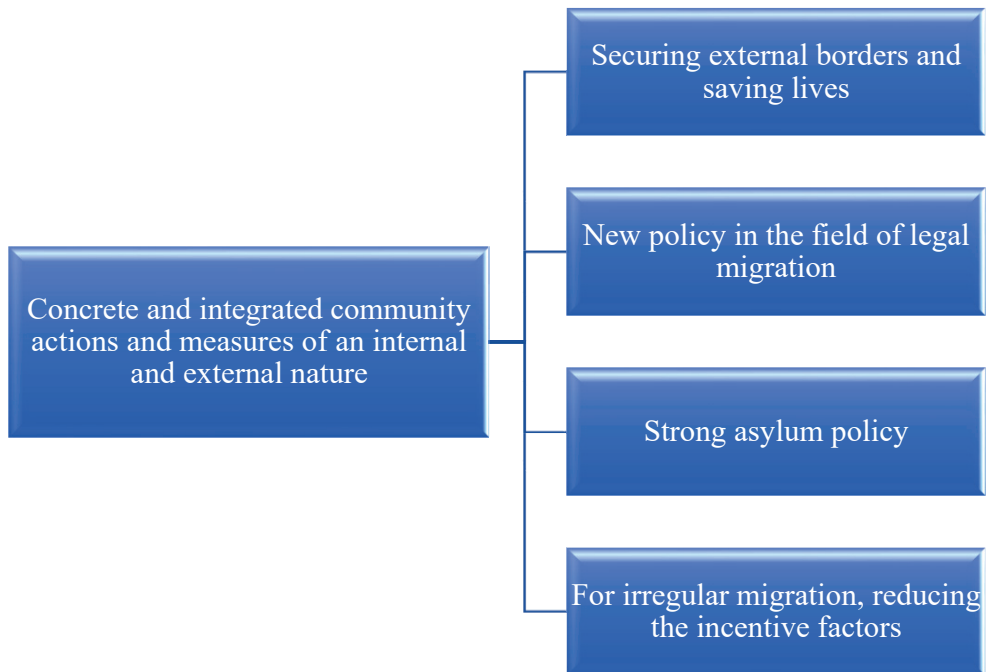
Community agenda on migration

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The Commission appreciated the fact that: No single action will be effective on its own. All the different parts of our action are relevant: saving lives at sea, working with our partners on root causes and dismantling criminal networks that smuggle people (europa.eu).

On 26 May 2015 the Council discussed „related issues on migration and development, following the extraordinary European Council of 23 April. The EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, said: „What we have agreed today is a solid basis for EU action and leadership in the future negotiation process.

Figure 2. Community agenda on migration



On May 27, 2015, the European Commission presented the first package of measures to address the migration crisis:

Table 1. The first package of measures aimed at addressing the migration crisis

No.	Proposals to address the refugee crisis
1.	A proposal for an emergency transfer of 40,000 people in need of international protection from Italy and Greece to other Member States
2.	A recommendation asking Member States to ensure the resettlement of 20,000 people from outside the EU in need of international protection
3.	An EU action plan against migrant smuggling
4.	Fingerprinting Guidelines
5.	Fingerprinting Guidelines. A public consultation on the future of the Blue Book Directive.

Source:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/policies/eu-migration-policy/migration-timeline/>

On 16 June 2015, the Justice and Home Affairs Council Meeting discussed the various aspects of the European Agenda on Migration proposed by the Commission, as well as the package regarding its implementation.

On 22 June 2015, the Council launches "EU naval operation to tackle migrant smugglers and people smugglers in the Mediterranean. The first phase focuses on the surveillance and assessment of people-smuggling and people-trafficking networks in the south-central Mediterranean area.

On 25-26 June 2015, the European Council focused on three key dimensions that need to advance in parallel:

Table 2. Key dimensions for migration

No.	Specification
1	A proposal for an emergency transfer of 40,000 people in need of international protection from Italy and Greece to other Member States
2	A recommendation asking Member States to ensure the resettlement of 20,000 people from outside the EU in need of international protection
3	An EU action plan against migrant smuggling

Source: europa.eu

Home affairs ministers agreed on the contribution from each member state to the transfer and resettlement of people in clear need of international protection, amounting to a total of 54,760 people. They also adopted conclusions on the designation of certain third countries as safe countries of origin.

The second package of proposals of the European Commission is set for September 9, as a result of the fact that the commitments of the European Agenda on migration have been fulfilled.

The European Commission has presented a second package of proposals aimed at tackling the refugee crisis.

Table 3. Package of proposals

No.	Package of proposals
1	A proposal for the emergency transfer of 120,000 people from frontline countries in clear need of international protection
2	A permanent transfer mechanism for all member states
3	A common European list of safe countries of origin
4	A more effective return policy
5	A guide to public procurement rules for refugee support measures
6	Measures to address the external dimension of the refugee crisis
7	Trust Fund for Africa (consilium.europa.eu).

Source: europa.eu

On September 14, EU NAVFOR MED: The Council adopts a positive assessment regarding the conditions for the transition to the first phase of the 2nd stage (in the open sea).

The Council adopted a positive assessment agreeing that the necessary conditions have been met to make the transition to the first phase of the 2nd stage. The evaluation was part of the formal measures required in the transition process of the operation at the 2nd stage in the open sea.

On September 22, the Justice and Internal Affairs Council meeting on migration.

The Council adopted a decision to establish a temporary and exceptional transfer mechanism from Italy and Greece to other Member States.

This mechanism will apply to 120,000 people who are clearly in need of international protection.

On September 23, the informal meeting of heads of state or government EU leaders agreed on a series of priorities for action:

Table 4. Action priorities

No.	Action priorities
1	A proposal for the emergency transfer of 120,000 people from frontline countries in clear need of international protection
2	A permanent transfer mechanism for all member states
3	A common European list of safe countries of origin
4	A more effective return policy
5	A guide to public procurement rules for refugee support measures

Source: europa.eu

They also discussed ways to address long-term migration challenges and called for renewed diplomatic efforts regarding Syria and Libya.

On September 28, EU NAVFOR MED: agreement on the start of the active phase of the operation. The Political and Security Committee agreed to initiate the first stage of Phase 2 of the operation against migrant smugglers, starting from 7 October 2015. This will allow boarding actions, searches, seizures and diversions on the high seas of suspicious vessels within the limits of international law. The committee also agreed on renaming the operation, its title becoming "Sophia" after the name given to the child born on a ship participating in the operation.

On 8 October, the Conference on the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans EU Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs Ministers met their counterparts from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and the Western Balkans. Associated countries Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland also participated.

The conference aimed to strengthen collaboration between all partners, enhancing solidarity and ensuring the orderly management of migratory and refugee flows. It adopted a statement.

On October 8-9, 2015, regarding migration, the Council discussed future aspects of the management of the EU's external borders:

- such as the development of the collective responsibility of Member States and Frontex, the use of new technologies;
- ways to improve the use of the existing monitoring and evaluation mechanism for verifying the application of the Schengen acquis;
- on the future of return policy and adopted a set of conclusions.

On November 8-9, the Council of Justice and Internal Affairs Ministers adopted conclusions defining new measures to deal with the migration and refugee crisis. They focus on:

Table 5. Measures to deal with the crisis in the matter

No.	Measures
1	Accelerating the ongoing transfer process
2	Consolidation of the external borders of the EU
3	Combating human trafficking and people smuggling

Source: europa.eu

The Council supported the Presidency's decision to move the Integrated Political Crisis Response Mechanism to full activation mode.

On November 12, the Informal Meeting of Heads of State or Government took place.

EU leaders discussed the latest developments in the migration crisis and how the implementation of the measures agreed in September and October can be accelerated. They focused their discussions in particular on cooperation with Turkey.

President Tusk also reiterated the need for the EU to regain control of its external borders and effectively register migrants.

On 2 November Valletta Summit on Migration took place.

EU heads of state or government met with their counterparts in African countries to discuss migration issues. They agreed on an action plan focused on five priority areas:

Table 6. Action priorities

No.	Proposals to address the refugee crisis
1.	Addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement
2.	Improving the efforts regarding the promotion and organization of legal migration channels
3.	Improving the protection of migrants and asylum seekers
4.	Addressing the exploitation and trafficking of migrants
5.	Improving cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration

Source: Council conclusions on measures to manage the refugee and migration crisis – Consilium(europa.eu)

On 6 November, Foreign Affairs Council Ministers focused on follow-up actions to the High-Level Conference on the Western Balkans Route (8 October) and the Valletta Summit on Migration (11-12 November).

On November 23, the Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council took place.

The integration of migrants was a common theme throughout the discussions during the four meetings of the Council. Ministers focused in particular on:

Table 7. Proposals for the integration of migrants

No.	Proposals for the integration of migrants
1	The role of youth policy and youth activities in relation to migration
2	Education and training strategies for the integration of newly arrived migrants and people from migrant families
3	The role of intercultural dialogue to improve mutual understanding between migrants and the host country
4	The educational potential of sport to help disadvantaged young people, including migrants

Source:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/policies/eu-migration-policy/migration-timeline/>

On 29 November at the EU Heads of State or Government Meeting with Turkey, a joint action plan was adopted, in order to manage the refugee crisis and stem the flow of migration heading to the EU through Turkey.

On December 3 Interior Ministers discussed previously agreed measures and actions to strengthen the Schengen area.

On December 15, the European Agenda on Migration **was realized**, the European Commission presented a package of proposals aimed at ensuring the security of the EU's external borders and managing migration in a more effective way.

The European Council, held on December 17, assessed the implementation of the decisions taken at previous meetings and agreed on the acceleration of actions on:

Table 8. Measures to deal with the migration crisis

No.	Specification
1	Operation of hotspots
2	Enforcement of transfer and returns decisions
3	Control of the EU's external borders
4	Cooperation with countries of origin and transit

Source: europa.eu

EU leaders also asked the Council to quickly examine the European Commission's proposal to strengthen the EU's external borders, published on 15 December.

2. The succession of gradual communal actions in the field of migration in 2016

Table 9. Succession of communal actions in the field of migration in 2016

Date	Specification
18.01	The Council considers that all the conditions have been fulfilled for the application in the high seas of the Resolution 2240 of the UN Security Council.
03.02	"Support for Syria and the region" Member States agreed on the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey, for additional humanitarian assistance targeting host communities and refugees.
12.02	Schengen evaluation of Greece - Council adopts a recommendation.
18.02	EU leaders adopted conclusions on the migration crisis on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. implementation of the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan 2. providing humanitarian aid for refugees, including in the Western Balkans 3. ensuring hotspots are fully operational 4. implementation of decisions on transfer, return and readmission 5. improving the management of external borders 6. restoring the normal operation of the Schengen area
25.02	Ministers discussed the current situation regarding migration and reiterated the need for a common solution at European level.
02.03	The European Commission's proposal for the emergency assistance instrument within the EU in response to major crises affecting Member States, including migration.
07.03	EU Heads of State or Government meeting with Turkey to strengthen cooperation on the migration crisis.
09.03	The Council agrees on an EU-wide emergency assistance instrument regarding an emergency support mechanism caused by the migration crisis. EU humanitarian aid aims to provide refugees with food, shelter, water, medicine and other essential goods.
10.03	The Council adopted conclusions on migrant smuggling.
15.03	The Council adopted a regulation that will allow the EU to support Greece and other affected member states to address the difficult humanitarian situation caused by the migration crisis. EU humanitarian aid aims to provide refugees with food, shelter, water, medicine and other essential goods.

Date	Specification
16.03	The Council accepted the draft amending budget proposed by the Commission on 9 March 2016. It agreed to make available EUR 100 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 80.2 million in payment appropriations from the EU budget for 2016 to support Greece and other member states overwhelmed by the refugee crisis.
18.03	The European Council continued discussions on its comprehensive strategy to combat the migration crisis.
21.03	Following the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March, the European Commission presented a proposal to amend the Council Decision on the transfer of persons in need of international protection from Italy and Greece.
06.04	The Permanent Representatives Committee agreed on the Council's negotiating position on the proposal for a European Border Police regulation. It would involve a European Border Police Agency and national authorities responsible for border management.
18.04	Ministers discussed the external aspects of migration. They assessed the progress made in the implementation of the measures set out in the EU-Turkey declaration and reviewed the initiatives adopted regarding the Central Mediterranean route. They also emphasized the actions taken in the fight against traffickers and people who smuggle migrants, as well as the support given to Africa by the EU.
21.04	Home affairs ministers reviewed progress on the implementation of existing measures. They also reaffirmed the need to speed up the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement of 18 March 2016. Ministers were briefed on the progress made on the draft Regulation on Border Police at European level.
04.05	The European Commission presented a series of proposals to reform the common European asylum system.
12.05	Foreign Affairs Council on development Ministers turned their attention to the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan and the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The ministers also reviewed the status of high-level dialogues with partner countries. The Council held discussions on how best to support displaced people and refugees in the situation of prolonged crises.
12.05	The Council adopted an implementing decision formulating a recommendation allowing the continuation of temporary internal border controls in exceptional circumstances. Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway should maintain proportional temporary controls at certain parts of the borders for a maximum period of six months.
20.05	The Ministers of Internal Affairs held an exchange of views on the current situation. They focused in particular on the implementation of

Date	Specification
	<p>the EU-Turkey statement of 18 March and on migration flows from the central area of the Mediterranean sea.</p> <p>Participating states were invited to accelerate the resettlement of Syrian refugees from Turkey and the transfer of asylum seekers from Greece and Italy, in line with existing decisions.</p>
23.05	<p>Foreign Affairs Council. Ministers held a discussion on the external aspects of migration. They reviewed the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan and the EU-Turkey Statement. The Council adopted conclusions on EU NAVFOR MED Operation SOPHIA, extending the mandate of the operation by one year and adding two support tasks.</p>
27.05	<p>The G7 summit called for a global response to the migration and refugee crisis. Leaders pledged to increase the level of global assistance to meet the needs of refugees and host communities. They appealed to financial institutions and bilateral donors to strengthen their assistance. The leaders also agreed to strengthen legal migration channels and encouraged the establishment of resettlement mechanisms.</p>
07.06	<p>Communication from the European Commission - partnership framework with third countries</p> <p>The European Commission presented a communication on a partnership framework with third countries.</p>
07.06	<p>The ministers discussed the current situation focusing especially on the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement of 18 March and on migration flows from the central Mediterranean area. The Council also adopted conclusions on return and readmission.</p>
20.06	<p>The Council extended the mandate of EU NAVFOR MED Operation SOPHIA by one year, until 27 July 2017. The Council also extended the mandate of the operation by adding two support tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the formation of the Libyan coast guard and naval forces 2. contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya
22.06	<p>The Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) has confirmed the compromise text agreed with the European Parliament on the proposal for a Regulation on Border Police and Coast Guard at European level. The border police and coast guard at European level will be formed by a European agency (the current Frontex agency, with expanded tasks) and the national authorities of the Schengen countries responsible for border management.</p>
13.07	<p>The European Commission's proposals – the common European asylum system</p>

Date	Specification
	The European Commission presented a second set of proposals to reform the Common European Asylum System and a proposal to establish a common EU resettlement framework.
18.07	The Council extended the mandate of EUCAP Sahel Niger until 15 July 2018. It also adapted the mission's mandate to support the Nigerian authorities in developing policies, techniques and procedures to better control irregular migration.
30.08	The Political and Security Committee authorized EU NAVFOR MED Operation Sophia to take on two new support assignments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. training of the Libyan coast guard and naval forces 2. contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya
14.08	Border police and coast guard at European level: final approval The Council has finally approved the Border Police and Coast Guard at European level. The main role of the Border Police and Coast Guard at European level is to help ensure an integrated management of the external borders. This will ensure effective management of migration flows and provide a high level of security for the EU.
06.10	Launch of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency
13.10	Ministers discussed shortcomings in the implementation of the various migration measures adopted so far. In particular, they committed to increasing the number of experts made available to agencies (especially EASO) by Member States. The Council also discussed the reform of the common European asylum system, during which the ministers approved the three-way approach proposed by the Presidency.
07.12	The Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreperul) approved an amendment to the Schengen Borders Code to strengthen controls by consulting relevant databases at external borders.
07.12	The European Border and Coast Guard Agency is launching a rapid reaction reserve

Source: Consilium (europa.eu)

3. The succession of gradual communal actions in the field of migration in 2017

Table 10. Succession of communal actions in 2017

Date	Specification
03.02	<p>1. Stimulating cooperation with Libya in order to stop the flow of migrants.</p> <p>2. On the occasion of an informal summit, the Malta Declaration was adopted, focusing on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. measures aimed at stemming the flow of migrants on the central-Mediterranean route; 2. combating the way of operation of people who illegally introduce migrants; 3. the 28 heads of state or government of the EU agreed on the intensification of cooperation with Libya, the country from which 90% of migrants left in 2016.
07.02	<p>Schengen Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council adopted a recommendation to extend temporary internal border controls in exceptional circumstances. 2. Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway should extend proportional temporary controls at certain parts of their borders for a period of no more than 3 months.
11.05	<p>Schengen Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council authorized a temporary extension of internal border controls in exceptional circumstances. • Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway can extend proportional temporary controls at certain parts of their borders for a period of up to 6 months.
08.06	<p>The conclusions of the Council regarding the children of migrants provide for the right to be protected, in accordance with the relevant provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from EU legislation; • with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, as well as with international law on the rights of the child. In 2015 and 2016, 30% of asylum seekers in the EU were children, many of them traveling without their families.

23.06	<p>For the central Mediterranean route, EU leaders are calling for further action to stem the flow of migration by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• requesting the taking of new measures to stem the flow of migrants from Libya to Italy, on the central-Mediterranean route.• they focused in particular on: providing additional training and equipment to the Libyan Coast Guard and closer cooperation with countries of origin and transit to further efforts to increase the number of returns;• the emergency establishment of readmission agreements with countries outside the EU;• the need to reform the common asylum system.
29.06	<p>European Union Agency for Asylum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Maltese presidency and the European Parliament reach a political agreement• the Maltese presidency and the representatives of the European Parliament reached a broad political agreement ad referendum on all twelve chapters of the Regulation on the European Union Agency for Asylum in the sense that:• The agreement will be subject to approval by Coreper in the near future;• further work on considerations will follow;• the agreement excludes certain parts of the text which are related to other legislative proposals that have not yet been finalized.
30.06	<p>The Council confirms the agreement on the main political provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Permanent Representatives confirmed an agreement reached on 29 June between the Maltese Presidency and the European Parliament on the political aspects of a proposal on an entry/exit system and a proposal to amend the Schengen Borders Code regarding the input/output system.• the agreement will pave the way for a global agreement once the remaining technical issues are resolved.• the system will record information regarding the entry, exit, as well as the refusal of entry of third-country nationals crossing the external borders of the Schengen area.

25.07	<p>Operation Sophia receives an extended mandate until December 31, 2018, embodied in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing a trainee monitoring mechanism to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the training of Libyan coast guard personnel • carrying out new surveillance activities and gathering information on the illegal trafficking of oil exported from Libya • increasing the possibilities of information exchanges on human trafficking with Member States' law enforcement agencies, Frontex and Europol.
19.10	<p>EU leaders agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on the next stages for closing the central-Mediterranean route; • to step up support for the activities undertaken by Italy together with Libya; • and to provide adequate funding for migration-related projects in North Africa. • to continue discussions on the reform of the Dublin system at the summit in December, with a view to reaching a consensus in the first half of 2018.
15.11	<p>A mandate was agreed for the negotiations on a regulation establishing an EU resettlement framework for the admission of persons in need of international protection aiming to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safe and legal routes to the EU; • common rules on resettlement and humanitarian admission; • to help alleviate pressure in non-EU countries where large numbers of asylum seekers have been resettled.
20.11	<p>The Council adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the regulation on an entry/exit system; • the regulation amending the Schengen Borders Code in relation to the entry/exit system.
29.11	<p>EU Permanent Representatives agreed on a mandate for negotiations on draft rules on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conditions that asylum seekers must meet; • better living conditions for asylum seekers across the EU. <p>The Presidency will now start negotiations with the European Parliament.</p>

14-15.12	<p>EU leaders review EU migration policy. The European Council held a debate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the internal and external dimensions of EU migration policy; • they examined what worked and what did not work over the past two years; • they discussed ways to strengthen the policy. • an agreement on reforming the Dublin system by June 2018.
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Source: Consilium (europa.eu)

4. The succession of gradual communal actions in the field of migration in 2018

Table 11. Succession of communal actions in the year 2018

Date	Specification
27.02	<p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approves an additional EUR 3.7 billion for migration issues; • gave the go-ahead for increased lending by the European Investment Bank for non-EU projects addressing migration-related issues. • €3.7 billion is allocated to public and private sector projects to address the root causes of migration.
05.06.	<p>The Council discussed a range of migration issues and the path to follow. Home affairs ministers discussed the current situation and the path to follow on a range of migration issues. They discussed possibilities to strengthen ongoing actions in various areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support to EU agencies; • continued compliance with the EU-Turkey statement; • making available sufficient funds for the EU Trust Fund for Africa; • supporting partners along the Western Balkans; <p>Council of Justice and Internal Affairs, 04-05/06/2018.</p>
14.06	<p>1. The EU sanctions six human traffickers and migrant smugglers who acted in Libya The Council transposed into EU law the sanctions adopted by the UN on June 7 aiming six human traffickers and migrant smugglers operating in Libya.</p> <p>2. It is the first time that the UN imposes sanctions on human traffickers.</p> <p>3. Combating human trafficking in Libya: EU sanctions six human traffickers and smugglers, in line with UN decision (press release, 14/06/2018).</p>

28.06	<p>1. EU leaders agree on new measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • combating people who illegally introduce migrants; • to reduce illegal migration. • Meeting in a two-day summit in Brussels, EU leaders agreed on measures aimed at: • intensifying activities to combat people who illegally introduce migrants; • further reducing illegal migration on all migration routes. • development of a concept of regional landing platforms for persons rescued at sea during search and rescue operations.
29.06	<p>1. EU Member States agree on new funding for the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.</p> <p>2. Member States agree on the details of additional funding (press release, 29/06/2018).</p>
19.09	<p>1. EU leaders agree to strengthen cooperation with third countries.</p> <p>2 The heads of state or government met in Salzburg for an informal working dinner and agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperation with third countries, including Egypt. Donald Tusk to meet President Al Sisi in September to make progress on cooperation; • on organizing a summit with the League of Arab States in February 2019. <p>Informal meeting of heads of state or government, 19-20/09/2018</p>
12.10	<p>The Council discusses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • border police and coast guard at European level; • a Commission proposal to extend the mandate of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, as well as to increase its staff to 10,000 by 2020; • the general desire to strengthen the agency's mandate, especially in relation to returns and cooperation with third countries; • views on the size, composition, tasks and powers of the Frontex permanent corps, as well as on the time frame required for the full establishment of the corps. <p>Justice and Home Affairs Council, 11-12/10/2018</p>
18.10	<p>EU leaders discuss migration issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speeding up the fight against people smuggling migrants; • they invited the Council to develop, by December, a set of measures for this purpose;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more efforts are needed to further prevent illegal migration; • strengthening cooperation with countries of origin and transit; • examining the Commission's recent proposals on migration and asylum as a matter of priority. <p>European Council, 18/10/2018</p>
06.12	<p>The Council agrees on concrete measures to combat the illegal introduction of migrants, taking into account concrete actions based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening the inter-agency approach, both at EU and national level • making the most of the synergies between the available operational instruments • maximum use of the EU's external assets <p>Migrant smuggling: Council approves set of measures to tackle migrant smuggling networks</p>
13.12	<p>EU leaders discussed migration issues at the December EU summit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • called for the EU's external migration policy to be further developed and implemented; • as regards the Union's internal policies, the Heads of State or Government invited the co-legislators to rapidly conclude the negotiations on the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG); • they also called for further efforts to conclude negotiations on the Asylum Agency, the Return Directive and the reform of the European asylum system. <p>European Council, 13-14/12/2018</p>
21.12	<p>The Council has extended the mandate of EU NAVFOR MED operation Sophia until 31 March 2019. The operation aims to undermine the modus operandi of migrant smugglers and human traffickers in the south-central Mediterranean.</p> <p>EU NAVFOR MED operation Sophia: mandate extended until 31 March 2019 (press release, 21/12/2018)</p>

Source: Consilium (europa.eu)

5. The succession of gradual communal actions in the matter of migration in 2019

Table 12. Succession of communal actions in the year 2019

Date	Specification
18.02	In terms of immigration, there is: provisional agreement agreed with the European Parliament aimed at strengthening the European Union network of Immigration Liaison Officers.
20.02	The Council confirms the agreement on the amendments to the Visa Code.
20.02	The Council agreed on the negotiating position on a regulation on border police and coast guard at European level. Based on this mandate, the Romanian presidency of the Council will start the negotiations with the European Parliament.
20.03	Operation Sophia mandate extended until 30 September 2019 The Council extended the mandate of EU NAVFOR MED operation Sophia until 30 September 2019. EU NAVFOR MED operation Sophia: mandate extended until 30 September 2019.
01.04	The Council confirms the agreement on the consolidation of the mandate. The ambassadors to the EU confirmed, on behalf of the Council, the informal agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Romanian presidency of the Council regarding a regulation on border police and coast guard at European level. Next, the new rules must be formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.
06.07	1. EU updates visa rules to combat illegal migration. 2. The Council adopted amendments to the Visa Code Regulation which will increase the tools available to address the challenges posed by illegal migration.
07.06	EU budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council agrees its position on funding for migration, border and security policies; • The EU is expanding the scope of its support for measures in the areas of migration, border management and security to help address growing challenges; • The Council reached partial general approaches on three sectoral proposals in the field of internal affairs in the context of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the period 2021-2027.

07.06	The Council agreed on a partial negotiating position on the revised Return Directive. The new rules aim to increase the rate of effective returns of migrants in an irregular situation. This position covers all aspects of the proposed revision, except for the provisions on the border procedure in the case of returns.
14.06	Immigration Liaison Officers: 1. The Council adopts new rules to improve coordination; 2. The Council adopted a Regulation to improve the functioning of the European Network of Immigration Liaison Officers; 3. The new rules will increase cooperation and coordination between liaison officers sent by Member States or the EU to third countries in order to deal with immigration matters.
20.06	Migration policy in the strategic agenda 2019-2024.
26.09	Operation Sophia mandate extended until 31 March 2020. The Council extended the mandate of EU NAVFOR MED Operation Sophia until 31 March 2020. The deployment of the naval assets of the operation will remain temporarily suspended as EU Member States continue to make efforts, in the appropriate forums, to find a solution to the disembarkation, as part of the actions taken following the conclusions of the European Council of June 2018.
08.10	The Council discusses the current situation with regard to migration Home Affairs Ministers discussed the current situation regarding migration. They analyzed the migration situation in the EU taking into account all routes and placing particular emphasis on the increase in the number of arrivals recorded on the Eastern Mediterranean route. They also took note of the recent declaration by France, Germany, Italy and Malta on temporary disembarkation measures.
08.10	The Council adopts a regulation on border police and coast guard at European level. The Council adopted a revised regulation on the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. The agency is strengthened with personnel and technical equipment. It is also given a wider mandate to support the activities of Member States, especially in border control, return and cooperation with third countries.
04.12	The Council discussed the future of EU migration and asylum policy.

Source: Consilium (europa.eu)

6. The succession of gradual communal actions in the matter of migration in 2020

Table 13. Succession of communal actions in 2020

Date	Specification
04.03	<p>1. The Council adopts a declaration on the external borders of the EU.</p> <p>2. Home Affairs Ministers discussed the situation at the EU's external borders and expressed solidarity with Greece, Bulgaria and Cyprus, as well as with other Member States that may be similarly affected, including in the efforts to manage the external border of the EU. They also confirmed their commitment to strengthen their support for areas under pressure, including through the deployment of Frontex Rapid Border Intervention Teams and additional technical assistance.</p>
06.03	<p>The Foreign Affairs Council adopts a statement on the situation at the EU's external borders with Turkey.</p> <p>The Council recognizes the increased migration burden and risks that Turkey faces on its territory, as well as the substantial efforts it has made to host 3.7 million migrants and refugees.</p> <p>Ministers also reaffirm their full solidarity with Greece which is facing an unprecedented situation, as well as with Bulgaria, Cyprus and other Member States, in their efforts to manage the EU's external borders.</p>
09.03	Meeting of EU-Turkey leaders
13.03	<p>The Council discusses the situation at the EU's external borders</p> <p>Home Affairs Ministers were briefed by the Member States most directly affected, by the Commission and by the relevant EU agencies on the latest developments at the EU's external borders with Turkey. Ministers also assessed how the measures outlined in the Home Affairs Ministers' statement of 4 March are being implemented, including the deployment of Frontex rapid border intervention teams and additional technical assistance.</p>
14.12	<p>The Council discusses the Pact on Migration and Asylum.</p> <p>On 23 September 2020, the European Commission presented a new Pact on Migration and Asylum and five new legislative proposals to reform EU asylum rules.</p> <p>EU ministers discussed key elements of the pact, including the external dimension, the proposal for a pre-entry stage, a solidarity mechanism, internal migration and asylum management, various means of improving returns, the role of agencies, legal routes to Europe and integration.</p>
17.12	Long-term EU budget 2021-2027: Support for migration management has been strengthened.

	<p>Following approval by the European Parliament on 16 December 2020, the Council adopted the regulation establishing the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the period 2021-2027. The Regulation provides for a long-term budget of EUR 1 074.3 billion for the EU-27.</p> <p>Spending on migration and border management will amount to €22.7 billion over the next seven years. Support for "migration and border management" has been significantly strengthened, including funding to provide up to 10,000 border guards to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency by 2027.</p>
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Source: Consilium (europa.eu)

7. The succession of gradual communal actions in the matter of migration in 2021

Table 14. Succession of communal actions in the year 2021

Date	Specification
17.05	<p>EU Blue Book: A provisional agreement was reached on a draft directive on entry and residence conditions for highly skilled non-EU nationals coming to live and work in the EU.</p> <p>The Blue Book Directive aims to attract and retain highly skilled workers, especially in sectors facing a shortage of skilled personnel. The new rules will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish more favorable admission criteria for inclusion; • simplify procedures; • facilitate mobility within the EU; • facilitate family reunification; • grant a high level of access to the labor market.
25.06	<p>The European Council discusses the migration situation on different migration routes and it will be pragmatic, flexible and adaptable as a "Team Europe" approach, it will make use of all available tools and incentives will take place in close cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).</p> <p>EU Heads of State or Government have requested the European Commission and the High Representative, in cooperation with the Member States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to immediately consolidate concrete actions with priority countries of origin and transit

Date	Specification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to present, in autumn 2021, action plans for priority countries of origin and transit <p>The European Council condemned and rejected any attempt by third countries to use migrants for political purposes.</p>
29.06	<p>EU Asylum Agency: Provisional agreement reached on a regulation on the EU Asylum Agency. The proposed regulation aims to improve the enforcement of asylum policy within the EU, transforming the current European Asylum Support Office (EASO) into a real agency. This agency will be responsible for improving the functioning of the Common European Asylum System by providing increased operational and technical assistance to Member States contributing to greater convergence in the assessment of international protection requests.</p>
31.08	<p>Council adopts declaration on Afghanistan (31 August 2021).</p>
07.10	<p>The Council adopted the Blue Book Directive. The new rules, which replace existing ones, further harmonize entry and residence conditions for highly skilled workers from non-EU countries and increase the appeal of the EU Blue Card.</p> <p>The new system aims to attract and retain highly skilled workers, particularly in sectors facing a shortage of skilled personnel.</p> <p>This admission system at EU level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets more inclusive criteria • simplify the procedures • facilitate mobility within the EU • facilitates family reunification • grant a high level of access to the labor market.
22.10	<p>EU leaders called on the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to operationalize the eight action plans for priority countries of origin and transit and implement them without delay.</p>
09.12	<p>The Council adopted a regulation establishing the EU Asylum Agency. That regulation aims to improve the application of asylum policy within the EU, transforming the current European Asylum Support Office (EASO) into a real agency.</p> <p>This agency will be responsible for improving the functioning of the Common European Asylum System by providing increased operational and technical assistance to Member States contributing to greater convergence in the assessment of international protection requests.</p>

Source: Consilium (europa.eu)

8. The succession of gradual communal actions in the matter of migration in 2022

Table 15. Succession of communal actions in the year 2022

Date	Specification
19.01	<p>As of 19 January 2022, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) will replace the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The new agency is responsible for improving the functioning of the Common European Asylum System by providing increased operational and technical assistance to Member States and increasing consistency in the assessment of applications for international protection.</p>
04.03	<p>The EU decided to introduce the system of temporary protection. The aim is to ease pressure on national asylum systems and allow displaced people to enjoy harmonized rights across the EU. These rights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • right of residence; • access to the labor market and housing; • healthcare; • access to education for children. <p>Temporary protection is an emergency mechanism that can be applied in the event of a massive influx of displaced persons and aims to provide immediate and collective protection to displaced persons who are unable to return to their country of origin.</p> <p>Ukraine: Council introduces temporary protection system for people fleeing the war (press release, 4 March 2022).</p>
04.04	<p>EU funds worth €17 billion to help refugees from Ukraine. The Council adopted a regulation on the Cohesion Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE), which will allow the quick release and reallocation of cohesion policy funds. This will ensure that Member States hosting refugees have sufficient resources to meet the growing housing, education and healthcare needs.</p> <p>In addition, Member States will be able to use Recovery Assistance for European Cohesion and Territories (REACT-EU), one of the EU's largest public investment programs following the pandemic.</p> <p>The Council also adopted a proposal that aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to unlock up to €420 million of remaining funds from the Home Affairs Fund (2014-2020) • to allow Member States and other public or private donors to make additional contributions to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2021-2027)

Date	Specification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide additional resources for the reception of people fleeing from the war in Ukraine.
22.06	<p>The Council approves negotiating mandates for the Eurodac Regulation and the Screening Procedure Regulation.</p> <p>The Eurodac Regulation, aimed at helping Member States to better monitor the progress of asylum seekers and people in a situation of illegal stay in the EU.</p> <p>The Regulation on the screening procedure, which contributes to the strengthening of controls on persons at the external borders</p> <p>In addition, 21 Member States or Associated States have confirmed the adoption of a declaration on solidarity, which provides for a voluntary mechanism for solidarity contributions, in the form of transfers or other types of contributions, especially financial contributions.</p>

Source: Consilium (europa.eu)

9. The succession of gradual communal actions in the matter of migration in 2023

Table 16. Succession of community actions in the year 2023

Date	Specification
09.02	<p>The European Council discusses the migration situation. EU heads of state or government spoke about migration at an extraordinary meeting of the European Council which took place in Brussels. They reviewed the implementation of their previous conclusions on a comprehensive approach to migration in line with EU principles and values and fundamental rights, focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an increased external action returns and readmissions control of the EU's external borders combating the exploitation, trafficking and illegal introduction of migrants data on migration flows Pact on Migration and Asylum Extraordinary meeting of the European Council (main results, 9 February 2023)
23.03	<p>The European Council is informed about the progress made on the topic of migration.</p> <p>The Council Presidency and the Commission briefed the European Council on the progress made in implementing the February European Council conclusions on migration.</p>

	The leaders called for swift implementation of those conclusions and will return to them in June to assess their implementation.
08.06	Legal migration: Council sets out its negotiating position for the revision of the Single Permit Directive.
08.06	Migration policy: The Council reaches an agreement on some key pieces of legislation on asylum and migration The Council reached agreement on two key asylum and migration regulations: Regulation on the asylum procedure.

Source: Consilium (europa.eu)

”Migration, under its various forms, can lead to effects that cannot be ignored, and, thus, a coordinated reaction is obligatory” (Radu, 2017).

10. Conclusion

”Migration and the trafficking of migrants are issues that our society is currently faced with. Be it legal or illegal, it leads to consequences that should remain in the attention of allcompetent authorities, national or international” (Radu, 2019).

In the gradual sequence of the actions which took place in the time horizon of years 2015-2023, it can be observed a concrete operational and strategic care of the leaders of the European community regarding the aspects of migration and asylum.

During the analyzed period, the policy in the field of migration consisted of:

- essential legislative acts on asylum and migration;
- essential regulation on asylum and migration;
- regulations on the management of migration-related situations;
- concrete common procedures throughout the European Union for situations when international protection is requested;
- screening procedures and related application regulations;
- cohesion actions for refugees in Europe;
- community agenda regarding migration;
- package of measures aimed at addressing the migration crisis;
- concrete measures for people who need international protection;
- recommendations by which Member States are asked to ensure relocation;
- Blue Book Directive;
- common European list of safe countries of origin;
- a more effective return policy;
- addressing the external dimension of the refugee crisis;
- strengthening the external borders of the EU;
- combating human trafficking and the illegal introduction of persons;
- tackling the root causes of irregular migration;
- promotion and organization of legal migration channels;

- intercultural dialogue to improve mutual understanding between migrants and host countries;
- ensuring that sport helps disadvantaged young people, including migrants;
- education and training for the integration of newly arrived migrants and people from migrant families;
- control of the external borders of the EU;
- the current situation regarding migration and reiterated the need for a common solution at European level;
- emergency support mechanism caused by the migration crisis;
- the amending budget project;
- external aspects of migration;
- actions taken in the fight against traffickers and people who illegally introduce migrants;
- recommendations allowing the continuation of temporary controls at internal borders;
- the G7 summit called for a global response to the migration and refugee crisis;
- informal summit;
- children of migrants have the right to be protected, etc.

Practically, we are witnessing a concrete and comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of migration in the European community in full harmony with values, principles, policies and fundamental rights focused on migration flows, on combating trafficking and illegal introduction of migrants, and on returns and readmissions.

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