

Migration policy

The migration and refugee crisis, as well as the disproportionate pressure on the EU external borders were the main targets of our joint efforts during the last five years. Faced with a crisis situations, we have proved that, despite the differences, we can work together and that we can be effective in limiting the illegal migration to the EU. Still, due to the high migration potential and looming instability within our neighbourhood, finding a more permanent and sustainable solutions for managing migration remains a crucial challenge.

Goals

Our vision for the future is a European Union capable of protecting its external borders, ensuring safety of the Schengen zone, having effective control over migration flows, resilient in the wake of a crisis and against threats. Our main goal should be to permanently regain control over migration flows to the EU by reducing the scale of illegal migration, as well as the abuse of our asylum systems.

European Union needs a common approach outlined in a renewed Agenda that would create an environment for managing migration effectively and responsibly, further linking the external and internal dimensions of the migration policy. It should enable us to support those that need our protection most while providing highest level of security, fulfil the principle of solidarity while fully respecting each and every Member State's sovereignty and the right to decide who they admit to their territory.

Initiatives undertaken as a part of the migration policy's external dimension should be implemented in close cooperation with the countries of origin and transit. EU actions should be supportive and based more on the principle of conditionality. Their intensity should depend on the level of cooperation, commitment and understanding for the EU priorities.

Proposed Actions

I. External borders

Management of the EU external borders is a key element of a safe EU and a guarantee of a stable asylum and migration policy. It is also a prerequisite for the undisturbed functioning of the Schengen area.

- Effective Schengen zone starts with an effective border control. Therefore priority should be given to full implementation of the Integrated Border Management.
- The European and Border Coast Guard Agency, in the framework of its broadened mandate, should further expand its support to Member States, improving coordination and capacities of return operations.
- We should take security considerations into account in Schengen visa policy.

II. Common European Asylum System reform

Abuse of refugee procedures by economic migrants and – as a consequence – further development of secondary movements, shows the need for more simplified and sealed refugee procedures, with respect to the Member States' competences.

- We should introduce a mandatory border procedure, as well as strengthen the existing provisions concerning an effective differentiation of economic migrants from foreigners who are in need of international protection (including from the outside of the EU territory).
- Future CEAS should take into account Member States' competences and not to undermine their sovereignty. Moreover, due to the many links between various elements of the CEAS reform, works should be continued within the package approach, which will ensure effective implementation in the future.

Polish contribution to the preparation of the EU Strategic Agenda 2019-2024

- While not supporting the idea of a relocation mechanism in general, we believe that, if based on voluntary participation, it may be one of many possible forms of cooperation for Member States which so wish.

III. Returns

The inability to enforce an effective return policy is one of the key EU-wide factors providing a strong incentive for illegal immigration. Therefore, the EU needs to address the obstacles both internally, where we can still achieve more efficiency and externally, though cooperation with third countries.

- Internally, we should further streamline and harmonize procedures, reducing their length and scale of the abuse of the right to effective remedy.
- We need to link the Common European Asylum System to returns, allowing for swift and effective returns of persons who have been refused international protection within the EU.
- The EU must have a common position, prioritizing effectiveness of returns and readmission. We need to reinforce solutions that allow the withdrawal of residence permits and returns of people who do not comply with law, and thus show a lack of understanding and respect for the European principles and values.

IV. Interoperability

We need to further develop, implement and ensure effective cooperation between newly-created (EES, ETIAS, ECRIS-TCN) and existing (SIS, VIS, Eurodac) large-scale IT systems. We must ensure swift implementation of adopted legislation and to this end the EU should provide Member States with adequate support.

- We should monitor the process of modernization of existing large-scale systems, creation and implementation of new large-scale systems and creation of tools enabling interoperability between them (ESP, Shared BMS, CIR, MID).
- It is also necessary to close the information gap regarding migration policy and encourage initiatives leading to further digitalization of migration procedures, reducing administrative burden for Member States while maintaining high standards of security.
- We should pursue an effective implementation of the Regulation on the use of the Schengen Information System for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals.

V. External dimension

The dialogue with key third countries should be further developed, especially with the countries in our closest neighbourhood, both from the South and from the East, which are key for the EU security. Promoting and developing an effective migration governance across our neighbourhood plays a significant role, both preventing and stabilizing, and should be equally implemented together with works on reforming CEAS.

- The EU actions should motivate the third states to increase their engagement in combating the roots of migration through their own actions on local and regional level.
- The EU should provide support based on conditionality, depending on the level of cooperation and engagement – the accent should be especially put on the support for those partners, who are ready for make an effort of building/reforming their migration, asylum and border management systems, as well as on a level of effectiveness of cooperation in terms of returns.
- We should strengthen communication with the target groups in the third countries, interested in migration, to represent a real image of the situation in the EU, the consequences and threats related with illegal migration and to imply measures of legal migration for interested people, considering the needs of the national labour markets and without prejudice to the EU competences.