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NATIONAL COUNCIL
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Workshop B
Sustainable Development and Migration:
Towards a Comprehensive Approach

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1. Migration Crisis and Its External Aspects: From Crisis Management to a Comprehensive Solution of Causes

Talks on resolving the migration crisis in the European Union continue into 2016 and shall endure in the future, as well. **The issue of migration is one of the dominating themes concerning not only our countries but all of the EU**. Significant attention should be paid to the **foreign policy aspects** in order to be more flexible, timely and targeted in response to migration challenges, and be able to **address the migration causes.**

It is necessary to support the **EU's comprehensive approach** with an important emphasis on addressing the causes, not just the effects, of migration.

Cooperation with countries of origin and transit is essential for a long-term sustainable solution to the migration crisis in Europe. Cooperation with countries of origin should be based on respect for the principles of partnership and shared responsibility for resolving the problem.

The problem of migration calls for an EU-wide approach; the same applies to the field of internal security. A profound and effective cooperation between European agencies, ministries, and services is very much needed.

Currently, the **European Union** is extensively occupied with **operations to combat traffickers,** efforts to **increase patrols in the Mediterranean** and to **share the migratory pressures from the South** equitably **with all Member States of the European Union.**

It is essential to apply an **inclusive approach** in solving this **crisis of unprecedented proportions -** collaborating with the civil society, NGOs, churches (religious institutions), media, etc. In the context of addressing the **causes of migration**, **international and regional cooperation** is very important, including financial and economic support of the countries of migration origin and transit aiming to **diminish poverty and promote education**.

Regarding the **cooperation in the field of legal and illegal migration**, it is necessary to support the **Rabat and the Khartoum Processes** to **jointly address common challenges.** It is also important to streamline the funding activities leading to the suppression of the migration causes and promote the use of EU trust funds in the region where the **refugees are migrating from into the European Union.**

2. Supporting the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a Precondition for Addressing the Causes of Migration

Currently, there is a **strategic discussion on the implementation of the 2030 UN Agenda** (Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), i.e. the so-called **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).

In 2016, as the result of the upcoming roadmap, a **common position by the European Commission (EC)** and the **EEAS** shall be adopted and implemented, as a result of an evaluation of July 2016 at the **High Level Political Forum in New York** (*HLPF*). The HLPF took place at the UN within a session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Following the adoption of the **UN 2030 Agenda** and the adaptation of the EU development policy, there will be a revision of the **European Consensus on Development (2005).**

The European Consensus on Development should be replaced by a new common position in response to the external and internal dimension, among others, of the **UN 2030 Agenda** implementation. The revision of the European Consensus on Development of 2005 needs to be adapted to the current state of the cooperation development paradigm as well as the ambition to achieve a sustainable development.

Based on the revision of the consensus, it must be apparent that the EU development cooperation is not just about helping the third-world countries in poverty eradication, but furthermore it is **about our mutual sustainable development**. Developed as well as developing countries are facing the same **global challenges.** Therefore, this kind of cooperation is crucial.

Within the revision of the consensus, **it is necessary to include all parties involved**, in particular the **European Parliament**, **national parliaments of the EU Member States**, European civil society and the academic and private sectors.

At present, it is **essential to integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the EU strategic documents on development cooperation** as soon as possible.

European Union should assess the progress since founding the EU **Emergency Trust Fund for Africa** in November 2015, as well as, in fulfilling the **Action Plan of the EU-Africa Summit in Valletta** (November 2015)**.** Some Member States of the European Union have legitimately criticized the EU institutions for their slow response.

In this context, **European Union** has set up two major trust funds **aiming to fight illegal migration:**

1. **Regional Trust Fund for the Syrian crisis** (i.e. MADAD Fund).
2. **Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.**

Except for this, **European Union** provides significant **new financial resources to support Turkey** through the so-called **Refugee Facility for Turkey**.

European Union should bolster further the **EU Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Illegal Migration of IDPs in Africa**, as a flexible response of the European Union to the impasse situation in Africa leading into migration crisis.

The fund may contribute to **a high-level dialogue (on migration) between the EU and African partners,** extremely effectively, by supporting the activities in

the field of legal migration and mobility, activities aimed at **suppressing illegal migration or improving the migration management in the African countries.**

3. Southern Neighbourhood Region of the European Union: Crisis, Instability, Migration, Security

Southern European Neighbourhood Policy, as an integral and coherent part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), is a **foreign policy tool of the EU focused on building and strengthening the relations between the EU and southern Mediterranean countries** (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria).

Presently, **the European Neighbourhood Policy** dominates significantly the control and management focused agenda of migration to European Union countries; however this has not been the original objective of this policy. In the turbulent political and economic situation, in many areas of North Africa and the Middle East the **threats of extensive instability are persistent**; the Southern Mediterranean region is also one of the least integrated regions in the world. **The European Union provides financial assistance to these countries if they meet the strict requirements of governmental and economic reforms, and progress in their positive and democratic transformation** of society.

Southern Eastern Neighbourhood Policy vector has recorded a stormy development over the past 11 years, mainly since 2010 during the so-called **Arab Spring**. Amid the uprising in this region, people firmly demanded freedom, fundamental human rights and better prospects for the future.

For decades, the **European Union** almost exclusively maintained intergovernmental relations with its southern neighbours. Most of them were ruled by autocratic governments. **During the Arab Spring many of these autocratic governments were replaced by new politicians.** The European Union was not able to deal with the new rulers, some of whom were representatives of political Islam.

Since the Arab Spring, the Southern Neighborhood Counties of the European Union could be differentiated into the following groups:

1. Countries ruled by the government officials of old regimes (e.g. **Egypt**)
2. Countries rejecting democratic reforms and cooperation (e.g. **Algeria**)
3. Countries where riots and rebellion unleashed civil wars and in fact induced their collapse (**Syria** and **Libya** in particular)
4. Countries relatively still fitting into a slightly modified framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (**Morocco** and **Tunisia**).

In any case, mainly the war **in Syria has deeply ingrained into the nature and quality of relationships throughout the region.** Dramatic and complex changes have occurred also in other Arab countries.

The growing instability in the Southern Neighbourhood of the EU has caused an increased number of people trying to reach the European Union. **The EU and its Member States continuously intensify efforts to create an effective, humanitarian, and safe European migration policy.**

It is therefore imperative and urgent to deal with the revised EU Neighborhood Policy by evaluating and assessing its effectiveness to date, optimization, and search for new modalities of interaction.

Nevertheless, **creation of new parallel structures, new unjustified working mechanisms, or futile increase of accompanying bureaucracy,** should not serve as ways to improving the ENP. The new forms and formats of relations should be based on a thorough assessment of the aspirations and goals of the individual countries of the **Southern Neighbourhood.**

Principally the conflicts in Syria, Libya, and Iraq are spreading instability and insecurity across the whole Southern Neighbourhood of the European Union, and **have caused a rapid increase in the number of migrants** who embarked on a dangerous journey to the European Union, often culminating into dramatic and tragic consequences in the Mediterranean Sea.

Due to this fact, **European Union has responded to the growing migratory** pressure by trying to manage the migration waves by raising the number of sea patrols, and examining its Neighborhood Policy.

It is therefore indispensable to promote a **comprehensive approach to the migration crisis, in addition to connecting its internal and external aspects.**

The primary objective in terms of internal aspects must be the pursuit of policies on protection of the EU external borders and the security of the Schengen area. **Problem solving related to the current migratory flows** continues to remain a priority in this area.

The Presiding Trio (Netherlands, **Slovakia** and Malta) is working on securing better **links between migration, security and external policy.** European Commission has also announced a thorough review of the basic elements of the migration management, including a proposal for a fundamental reform of the Dublin system, proposal for substantial strengthening of the **European Asylum Support Office** (EASO) and **the European Agency for Management of Operational Cooperation at External Borders** (FRONTEX) by its transformation into **European Border and Coast Guard** (EBCG).

It is paramount to focus on solutions of long-term conflicts and crises in the region on the grounds of a **comprehensive approach,** combining diplomacy, trade, energy, development, migration, human rights and security.

The solution to the uncontrolled migration from unstable, war-ravaged regions and failed states into the European Union reaffirms the need for a comprehensive approach also in the framework of the **Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU.**

4. Sahel: The Neighbours of Our Neighbours

In **March 2016,** Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom submitted a **non-paper** to the **Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)** requesting a complex and coherent discussion in order to strengthen the EU's commitment and approach to the opportunities and challenges in the Sahel region, particularly in Mali. The Council has assessed the latest developments concerning the **external aspects of migration**.

Ministers discussed how to intensify **cooperation with countries of origin and transit.** The discussion focused on a **comprehensive approach of the EU to the Sahel region**, particularly with regard to **linking security and development**. The main partner of the EU in the region is the **Sahel G5 group of nations**.

The key country influencing development in other countries in the region is Mali.

Implementation of the **peace agreement** in Mali is crucial for the further development in the entire region, therefore the EU should continue to press for its implementation in cooperation with other international partners, too. **Stabilization of Libya** is an important external factor. CSDP's potential engagement in the region must be built on the existing **Sahel G5 structures**. There are currently the following **CSDP missions** in the region: **EUTM Mali, EUCAP SAHEL Niger and Mali**.

The EU should strengthen its comprehensive approach in the Sahel region also through CSDP. **Acceptance, ownership** and support of the involved host countries are critical for any kind of regional engagement.