



Ministère d'Etat  
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité  
Office National d'Identification  
Côte d'Ivoire



Rabat Process  
Euro-African Dialogue  
on Migration and Development



Service public fédéral Intérieur  
Office des Etrangers  
Belgium

## Thematic meeting on Return, Readmission and Reintegration

31 May-1 June 2016

Brussels, Belgium

Chaired by the Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

### Draft Agenda

#### Context

The Rabat Process offers its partner countries a unique platform for exchange and cooperation in order to promote efficient cooperation and share good practices. The Rome Declaration and its Programme which defines the policy framework of the Rabat Process for 2014-2017 recall the importance to strengthen cooperation in the area of readmission and return. In addition, the thematic meeting is in line with the priority action 5 of the Valletta Action Plan, which was adopted at the Summit on Migration in November 2015 and which focuses on return, readmission and reintegration.

First, it is necessary to distinguish the pre-return phase. Migrants in irregular situations must be informed that they are going to be returned to their country of origin, preferably on a voluntary basis but not excluding forced return if necessary. Migrants are informed in advance on voluntary return opportunities and on the support that may be provided by the states where they are in case of need. The involvement of intermediaries such as municipalities or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) could be needed, in order to communicate with migrants and encourage them to return voluntarily. Furthermore, return procedures must be effective as well as transparent, in order to respect human dignity and human rights. The process of return must be designed appropriately, in order to ensure short delays.

Second, it is important to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the identification of the nationality of irregular migrants and to encourage practices that allow for a rapid issuance of travel documents. The identification process usually involves: (i) the use of all the available elements to establish the nationality (for instance official documents such as driving licenses and identity cards or the copies of such documents). In many cases, the use of false or fraudulently obtained travel documents require further inquiries; (ii) identity check using biometric data (for countries in possession of electronic national identity management systems covering, at least, a part of the adult population); and (iii) in-depth interviews to establish nationality. In some instances, even if a person is in possession of identity documents, the authorities of its country of origin can carry out more thorough identity checks. The next step is the issuance of travel documents to the persons whose nationality has been established. In practice, too often, significant and unjustified delays have been noticed with regard to the issuance of

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the travel documents, putting migrants in a situation of uncertainty. It is therefore important to enhance the identification process and travel documents issuance, as part of comprehensive improvements of countries authorities' capacities/national strategies on migration management.

Finally, it is necessary to act at the reintegration level. For this purpose, it is necessary to provide reintegration support, including in the case of forced return and to promote voluntary return in order to prevent irregular migration and strengthen cooperation relations in this field. Stories of returnees who are beneficiaries of reintegration programmes can be used as convincing messages in awareness campaigns in view of preventing irregular migration. Supporting the plans of emigrants who wish to return to their country of origin through supportive policies and with the help of the diaspora is also a crucial element. Learning from the best practices, reintegration programmes can focus on individual care and on the return community. They should include 4 major lines of intervention: (i) economic empowerment (skills development, tailor-made support to business plans, micro-finance), (ii) psycho-social support, in particular for vulnerable migrants, (iii) awareness-raising campaigns (focus on the consequences of irregular migration, integration and the fight against stigma and discrimination), and (iv) support to the local community and institutional development (capacity-building activities for local authorities and service providers).

### Key topics

- \* Improvement of procedures in the pre-departure phase and promotion of voluntary return.
- \* Innovative identification techniques and cooperation mechanisms that allow effective and efficient identification and rapid travel documents deliverance.
- \* Good practices and the challenges of reintegration programs and of special measures for vulnerable migrants.

### Objectives

- \* Establishing a technical dialogue in the field of return, readmission and reintegration among the countries of the Rabat Process.
- \* Presenting operational cooperation mechanisms in the pre-departure phase, for identification techniques and reintegration measures, in order to assess possibilities for replication.
- \* Strengthening cooperation mechanisms while discussing the particularity of the countries of origin, transit and destination.
- \* Improving the monitoring of initiatives implemented in this field and identifying new opportunities for collaboration.

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## Expected results

- \* Initiating a dialogue in the field of return, readmission and reintegration and identifying a list of shared objectives, in order to strengthen practical and operational cooperation among the countries of the Rabat Process.
- \* Identification of concrete initiatives and good practices that could allow states to reach visible results.

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## 31 May 2016 (Tuesday)

<b>08:30 – 09:30</b>	<b>Reception and registration of participants</b>
<b>Opening ceremony and contextual elements (09:30 – 12:30)</b>	
09:30 – 09:35	Declaration of the European Union <i>M. Cygan, Director Strategy and General Affairs, DG HOME, European Commission, European Union</i>
09:35 – 09:40	Declaration of Côte d'Ivoire <i>Ipo Désiré, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire in Belgium</i>
09:40 – 09:45	Declaration of Belgium <i>T. Francken, State Secretary for Asylum Policy and Migration of Belgium</i>
<b>09:45 – 10:00</b>	<b>Official portrait</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:15 – 12:25	<p><b>Presentation of the context</b></p> <p>Introduction by the Presidency of the unfolding of the meeting <i>D. Konate, General Direction of the National Identification Office, Côte d'Ivoire</i> <i>F. Roosemont, General Director of the Immigration Office, Belgium</i></p> <p>Presentation and discussion on the context of migratory flows <i>Papa Demba Fall, Researcher at IFAN, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar</i></p> <p>Presentation and discussion on preparation of return</p> <p>Presentation and discussion on identification and issuance of travel documents <i>D. Rotenberg, Head of Unit Readmission, DG HOME, European Commission, European Union</i></p> <p>Presentation and discussion on return and reintegration <i>Dr. Özge BILGILI, Researcher, Maastricht University</i></p>
12:25 – 12:30	<b>Presentation of the afternoon session</b>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>

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### Working Groups, WG (14:00 – 17:30)

During this session, participants will be divided in three parallel working groups, according to the three subjects described during the morning session. Each working group will have two sub-themes. Each sub-theme will be introduced by a moderator.

**A coffee break** will take place from 15:30 to 15:45.

#### WG 1 : Strategies, policies and approaches during the pre-return phase

##### **Sub-theme 1.1 : the return process**

The different procedures (monitoring of voluntary return, interceptions, detention, identification, return) should be coherently structured. How to organise this process and reduce delays, while respecting legal proceedings and existing regulation? The discussion points are: pre-identification, gradual systems of the use of force, observation of procedures, innovative tools for management and return of criminals.

Moderator :

**Morocco**, A. Jilali, Ministry of Interior

Speakers of the Working Group :

**Frontex**, P. Martinsson, *The practice of collecting return flights*

**United Kingdom**, S. Mamanji, Home Office, *The return of criminals*

**The Gambia**, E. Mboob, Ministry of the Interior, *Return practice in The Gambia*

##### **Sub-theme 1.2 : promoting voluntary return**

When possible, voluntary return should be preferred. It is more human, faster and less expensive. However, the promotion of voluntary return represents a significant challenge and requires good communication and information provision to migrants. The discussion points are: communication to the target population, the role of civil society in promoting voluntary return, pilot projects and funding opportunities.

Moderator :

**Senegal**, Ambassador C. T. Thiam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Speakers of the Working Group :

**Belgium**, Neelen, FEDASIL, *The role of communes*

**Niger**, A. Soly, Ministry of Interior, *The promotion of voluntary return Niger*

**ERSO**, A. Dussart, *The role of NGOs*





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## **WG 2 : Identification : techniques, key stakeholders and cooperation mechanisms**

### **Sub-theme 2.1 : innovative techniques**

Readmission requires a reliable and rapid identification of the person to be readmitted. However, this is often difficult. What are the best practices used by states? How to develop biometric techniques? How to strengthen the identity management? The discussion points are: the use of biometric data for identification, innovative techniques, the role of interviews and in particular via videoconferencing, the role of diplomatic missions, the development of civil registries, the registration of citizens and foreigners, the securing of acts and source documents.

Moderator :

**European Commission**, D. Rotenberg, DG HOME

Speakers of the Working Group :

**Benin**, D. Akodejénou, Ministry of Interior, *Reform of the Civil Code, the use of mobile phones (SMS) for civil registrations*

**Belgium**, S. Goos, Immigration Office, *Interviews by videoconference*

**Côte d'Ivoire**, T. Traoré, National Identification Office, *The biometric register*

### **Sub-theme 2.2 : identification of cooperation mechanisms**

Through which mechanisms can states assist each other in order to permit a reliable identification? Which joint projects can be developed for this purpose? The discussion points are: joint investigation teams, collaboration strategies for complex identification cases (stateless persons, persons born and residing in other countries, mixed couples...), reduction of the delays for travel documents issuance.

Moderator :

**Belgium**, G. Verbauwhede, Immigration Office

Speakers of the Working Group :

**Netherlands**, M. Besseling, Ministry of Security and Justice

**Democratic Republic of Congo** J. Ikwa Ekila, Ministry of Interior





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### **WG 3 : Establishing reintegration strategies**

#### **Sub-theme 3.1 : supporting sustainable return**

Which projects enhance sustainable return? How to develop a coherent, valuable and sustainable offer for migrants? How to strengthen the local communities and governments capacities of countries of origin? The discussion points are: involvement of the countries of origin in the reintegration assistance system, management of a reintegration system, the selection of target groups, pilot projects in Africa, funding opportunities.

Moderator :

**Cameroon** Y. Tsala, NGO Solutions to Irregular Migration

Speakers of the Working Group :

**European Commission**, I. Wahedova, DG DEVCO

**IOM**, S. Craggs, *Lessons learnt from South-South cooperation on voluntary return and reintegration*

**Guinea Conakry**, E.I. Diallo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### **Sub-theme 3.2 : responses to the specific needs of returned persons**

Some migrants need targeted assistance during return and specific care. It is particularly the case of vulnerable persons, which are isolated or with medical or psychological problems. How to answer to these needs? Which solutions are more human and adapted? Which practices have been developed? The discussion points are: reception, accompaniment and reintegration of forced or voluntary returnees with specific needs such as unaccompanied minors.

Moderator :

**IOM** S. Craggs, International Organization for Migration, Cairo

Speakers of the Working Group :

**Belgium** I. Vervloesem, Immigration Office, *the « special needs » project*

**Nigeria**, A.J.Ogbole, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Sweden**, K. Hellgren, Migrationverket, *return of non-accompanied minors*

17:30 End and Closing of the 1st day

19:00 *A cocktail will generously be offered by Belgium*

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## 1 June 2016 (Wednesday)

<b>Working groups (09:00 – 10:45)</b> continuation	
09:00 – 10:45	Continuation of the three working groups
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Summary of the Working Groups (11:00 – 13:00)</b>	
11:00 – 13:00	Presentation of the results of the Working Groups by the moderators (10 minutes for each sub-theme), followed by a discussion after each theme (20 minutes per theme)
<b>13:00 – 15:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>Conclusions of the thematic meeting (15:00 – 15:30)</b>	
15:00 – 15:05	<b>Intervention of the Support Project to the Rabat Process</b> L. Gehrke, Director of the Support Project, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
15:05 – 15:30	<b>Presentation by the Presidency of the conclusions and closing remarks</b>
15:30	<b>Closing of the meeting</b>

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