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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
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To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Delegations will find attached document COM(2017) 205 final - ANNEX 1.

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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE
EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL**

**Third Progress Report on the Partnership Framework with third countries under the
European Agenda on Migration**

Progress in priority countries

Niger	
Action and progress since December 2016	Next steps
<p><i>High level engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Visit of President Issoufou of Niger to Brussels (December 2016) – Visit of Danish Minister for Development Cooperation (January) <p><i>Key progress by Nigerien authorities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Flow of irregular migrants transiting the country further reduced. – Effective action against smuggling in Agadez region continued (seizure of equipment and arrest of smugglers). – Medium term Action Plan being drafted, to address gaps in the current approach. – National strategy on migration being finalised <p><i>EU support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support for enforcement of anti-migrant smuggling legislation. – EU Migration Liaison Officer deployed to the EU Delegation in Niamey on 1 February. – European Border and Coast Guard Agency liaison Officer to be deployed in the near future – Meeting of the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community held at the start of March. – New projects adopted under the EU Trust Fund for Africa in December 2016, to assist migrants, facilitate return and raise awareness, provide land, accommodation and access to drinkable water, and create jobs. – Contract signed with the High Authority for Consolidation for Peace to provide short term employment opportunities for youth in the Agadez region. – Field missions conducted to assess alternative routes and identify projects to create economic alternatives in local communities. – Support provided to the G5 Sahel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Swift signing of contracts on all actions now agreed under the EU Trust Fund to ensure concrete implementation and provide alternative income opportunities to substitute the smuggling economy. – Intensified action to fight smuggling and trafficking, including support to a joint investigation team. – Intensified monitoring of possible alternative routes and preparation of support to appropriate action in response, modelled on the approach taken in the Agadez region. – Provide feedback to a medium term Action Plan developed by Niger, expected by the end of March, focusing on gaps to be addressed. – Establishment of a working arrangement between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and Nigerien authorities and deployment of a liaison officer to the EU Delegation. – Full operationalisation of the EU antenna in Agadez, including for training. – Follow-up on the meeting of the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community and prepare to launch the Risk Analysis Cell.

Nigeria	
Action and progress since December 2016	Next steps
<p><i>High level engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Visit of Commission Vice-President Ansip (February) – Visit of Controller general of Nigeria to the Netherlands (February) – Visit of Secretary of States of Spain (February) <p><i>Key progress by Nigerian authorities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Launch of Cooperation Platform on Migrant Smuggling, involving EU Agencies and Member States. <p><i>EU support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – European Migration Liaison Officer has been deployed since 1 February. – Projects adopted under the EU Trust Fund for Africa in December 2016 to support reintegration, literacy, and mental health services. – Support to cover humanitarian needs of the victims of the crisis in Nigeria, in terms of food and nutrition, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, non-food items, and health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conclude the negotiations on the Readmission Agreement by June 2017. – Continue active cooperation on anti-smuggling and trafficking through the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community and the recently launched Cooperation Platform on Migrant Smuggling. – Identify EU Trust Fund for Africa projects with a strong migration focus.
Senegal	
Action and progress since December 2016	Next steps
<p><i>High level engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Visit of the High Representative/Vice-President to Senegal (December) – Visit of the President of Senegal to France (December) <p><i>Key progress by Senegalese authorities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bilateral cooperation with Italy, through sensitisation mission in December. – Focal Points for Identification identified in relevant ministries. – Negotiations with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency on improved working arrangements launched. <p><i>EU support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Four projects under the EU Trust Fund for Africa adopted in December 2016, to support reintegration, job creation, and a biometric national registry system. – Senegal benefits from the regional project supporting the internal security services of six Sahel countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Follow up missions undertaken, ensuring the effective return of identified irregular migrants. – Improve day to day cooperation for both identification and issuance of travel documents; – Finalise and sign by mid-2017 working arrangements between Senegal and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. – On the basis of results achieved step up cooperation in other areas including border management.

Mali	
Action and progress since December 2016	Next steps
<p><i>High level engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Meeting between High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini and Minister for Malians Abroad Sylla (February). <p><i>Key progress by Malian authorities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development of National Border Strategy and a related Action Plan. – Capacity building of the police forces in charge of border management. <p><i>EU support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stepping up migration dimension of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission operating in Mali. – Projects adopted under the EU Trust Fund for Africa in December 2016 to improve biometric population registry, support reintegration of returnees and youth employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Deployment of a mission at technical level to explore options for cooperation and strengthening of capacities for border management and the fight against smuggling. – Step up work with Mali on the transit dimension, focusing on voluntary return of transiting migrants.. – Strengthen cooperation on effective return of irregular migrants including of Malians attempting to cross the southern Libyan border irregularly. – Maintain close dialogue with Mali as Chair of the Rabat Process.
Ethiopia	
Action and progress since December 2016	Next steps
<p><i>High level engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Meeting between Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Mimica and Prime Minister Desalegn (January) – Meeting between High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini and the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs Gabeyehu (February) – Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabeyehu to Brussels (February) <p><i>Key progress by Ethiopian authorities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Constructive contribution to Valletta Senior Officials' meeting as chair of the Khartoum process <p><i>EU support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional programmes under the EU Trust Fund for Africa adopted in December 2016, to support a Regional Operational Centre for the Khartoum Process, and a facility to support returns, to help stranded migrants and their sustainable reintegration into communities. Support to refugees hosted in Ethiopia and their host communities through humanitarian funding and the Regional Development and Protection Programme. – European Migration Liaison Officer to be deployed in Ethiopia in March 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Finalise actions on the pilot return cases and use them as the blueprint for faster returns to be performed in the future. – Continue to support Ethiopia as a country of transit and of destination of migrants and refugees, including through the actions financed under the EU Trust Fund for Africa. – Launch the Strategic Engagement sectoral dialogue on migration (target date of April 2017). – Maintain close dialogue with Ethiopia as Chair of the Khartoum Process.