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2024 G7 Apulia Summit Final Compliance Report

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Prepared by

Jacob Rudolph and Angus MacKellar
and the G7 Research Group

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www.g7.utoronto.ca • g7@utoronto.ca • [@g7_rg](https://twitter.com/g7_rg)

“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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18. Migration and Refugees: Border Management

“We will enhance cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on ... efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.”

Apulia G7 Leaders' Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

In today's interconnected world, the rapid pace of globalization has created both opportunities and vulnerabilities, as criminal organizations exploit the increased flow of people, goods and information across borders, endangering citizens and destabilizing global systems. Although the G7 has changed its commitments in border management throughout the years, three main priorities have consistently remained at the forefront. These include assisting migrants and refugees, enhancing border security to reduce crime and fostering collaboration between countries to facilitate better border management. As global conflict and instability drive record numbers of forced displacement, estimated at around 120 million in May 2024, countries hosting refugees will require vital support.⁴⁰⁶⁸ Reducing crime has also been a major focus for border management, as 2023 marked “the deadliest year on record for migrants.”⁴⁰⁶⁹ G7 members will tackle human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and other transnational organized crimes by improving border security systems and utilizing data analysis.

Highlights on some of the G7's work on border management, migration, and refugees follow:

At the 1993 Tokyo Summit, the G7 leaders noted the increasing rates of refugees, displaced persons, and uncontrolled migration, and the global challenges they posed, specifically towards national minorities.⁴⁰⁷⁰ G7 leaders urged member states and the international community to support refugees and commit to protecting human rights.

At the 1997 Denver Summit, the G8 leaders expressed concern about the discriminatory attacks on refugees and personnel of humanitarian organizations supporting refugees.⁴⁰⁷¹

⁴⁰⁶⁸ Worldwide Levels of Forced Displacement Hit New High: UNHCR, United Nations (New York City) 12 June 2024. Access Date: 8 September 2024. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/06/1150981>

⁴⁰⁶⁹ IOM and UNODC Join Forces to Tackle Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, United Nations (New York City) 2 July 2024. Access Date: 8 September 2024. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2024/July/iom-and-unodc-join-forces-to-tackle-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling.html>

⁴⁰⁷⁰ Tokyo Summit Political Declaration: Striving for a More Secure and Humane World, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 1993. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/political.html>

⁴⁰⁷¹ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, the G8 leaders voiced their concern for human trafficking and migrant smuggling, agreeing on joint efforts to prevent these crimes and protect victims from operations. In addition, they committed to prosecuting criminals and implementing strategies to resolve these problems.⁴⁰⁷²

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, the G8 committed to adopting the United Nations Transnational Organised Crime Convention (UNTOC) and three protocols on firearms, migrant smuggling, and human trafficking by the end of 2000.⁴⁰⁷³ The members specifically expressed concern over the rising challenges of illegal immigration and human trafficking and requested that the Lyon Group, recognized for its efforts, report on its fight against transnational organized crime.

At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, G8 leaders committed to improving how countries share information on terrorist and criminal movements to enhance border control, reduce terror attacks, and minimize threats to infrastructure and security.⁴⁰⁷⁴

At the 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, G8 leaders declared their support in fighting transnational organized crime, and strengthening cooperation to fight various global challenges including both human trafficking and migrant smuggling.⁴⁰⁷⁵ Additionally, the G8 leaders emphasized their continued support for the implementation of the UNTOC and its related three protocols.

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, G8 leaders, in response to the increasing amount of remittance flows around the world, declared their support to facilitate access to financial services for migrants.⁴⁰⁷⁶ To do this, G8 leaders committed to a 5% reduction of global average transferring remittance costs, creating increased income for migrants receiving remittances.

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, the G8 leaders committed to providing political and financial support to organizations to help them better monitor and secure borders, strengthening border security and reducing crime.⁴⁰⁷⁷ Leaders reaffirmed their support for the rule of law and vowed to hold criminals involved in the trafficking of drugs and people accountable for their crimes, as well as coordinating with international organizations such as the United Nations to hold meetings to discuss the issue of border security with regional partners. In addition, the G7 leaders acknowledged the tragic loss of life and growing numbers of displaced people caused by the conflict in Syria, promising to support humanitarian efforts in neighbouring countries such as Lebanon and Jordan.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders recognized the significant issue of vulnerable migration around the world, which had reached its highest levels since the Second World War.⁴⁰⁷⁸ The leaders committed to increasing financial and humanitarian support for migrants, which included assistance for migrant host countries, collaboration with support partners and development in affected regions. The G7 leaders encouraged countries to ease border controls to allow for the temporary stay of refugees and implement resettlement policies to provide opportunities for refugees.

⁴⁰⁷² Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 6 September 2024.

<https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

⁴⁰⁷³ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 6 September 2024.

<https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

⁴⁰⁷⁴ G8 Statement on Counterterrorism, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2004. Access Date: 3 September 2024.

<https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/counterterrorism.pdf>

⁴⁰⁷⁵ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 3 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

⁴⁰⁷⁶ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 2 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>

⁴⁰⁷⁷ G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 July 2013. Access Date: 2 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communication.html>

⁴⁰⁷⁸ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 1 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, the G7 leaders emphasized the issue of the rising numbers of migrants and refugees, advocating for increased international partnerships to address the issue.⁴⁰⁷⁹ Efforts included controlling migrant flows and supporting refugees and migrants near their home country. This approach aimed to make future returns easier, assist in redevelopment, uphold human rights for refugees and ensure the safety of vulnerable groups, such as women and children. Leaders also committed to tackling the root cause of migration as part of a long-term strategy, by providing support to improve conditions within countries that are at risk of an outflow of migration.

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, the G7 leaders committed to facilitating safe global migration and respecting migrants' human rights.⁴⁰⁸⁰ The leaders also dedicated their efforts to tackling criminal organizations that exploit migrants through illegal and dangerous migration.

At the 2024 Apulia Summit, leaders committed to “enhance cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.”⁴⁰⁸¹

Commitment Features

This commitment can be broken down into two main dimensions: 1) enhancing border management and enforcement and 2) curbing transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Additionally, for full compliance, G7 members must also partner with countries of origin and transit in each of the two dimensions.

Definitions and Concepts

“Enhance” is understood to mean heighten or intensify.⁴⁰⁸²

“Cooperation” refers to the action or process of working together to the same end.⁴⁰⁸³

“Promote” is understood to mean to encourage or support something, or to help something become successful.⁴⁰⁸⁴

“Three-pronged approach” refers to the G7’s cooperation strategy that includes three distinct, but interconnected focus areas aimed at addressing migration. The three prongs include addressing the root cause of irregular migration, enhancing border management and combating migrant smuggling and trafficking, and creating safe and regular pathways for migration.⁴⁰⁸⁵

“Partnership” is understood to mean an agreement between organizations, people, etc. to work together.⁴⁰⁸⁶

⁴⁰⁷⁹ G7 Taormina Leader’s Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 1 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

⁴⁰⁸⁰ G7 Hiroshima Leader’s Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 1 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communique.html>

⁴⁰⁸¹ Apulia G7 Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 June 2024. Access Date: 31 August 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2024apulia/240614-apulia-communique.html>

⁴⁰⁸² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2024. https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁴⁰⁸³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2024. https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁴⁰⁸⁴ Promote, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/promote>

⁴⁰⁸⁵ Apulia G7 Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 June 2024. Access Date: 11 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2024apulia/240614-apulia-communique.html>

⁴⁰⁸⁶ Partnership, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/partnership>

“Country of origin” in the context of the migration commitment, refers to a country of nationality or of former habitual residence of a person or group of persons who have migrated abroad, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.⁴⁰⁸⁷

“Country of transit” in the context of the migration commitment, refers to the country through which a person or a group of persons pass on any journey to the country of destination or from the country of destination to the country of origin or of habitual residence.⁴⁰⁸⁸

“Border management” is understood to mean the administration of measures related to authorized movement of persons (regular migration) and goods, whilst preventing unauthorized movement of persons (irregular migration) and goods, detecting those responsible for smuggling, trafficking and related crimes and identifying the victims of such crimes or any other person in need of immediate or longer-term assistance and/or (international) protection.⁴⁰⁸⁹

“Enforcement” is understood to mean the process of making people obey a law or rule, or making a particular situation happen or be accepted.⁴⁰⁹⁰

“Curb” is understood to mean to control or limit something that is not wanted.⁴⁰⁹¹

“Transnational organized crime” refers to self-perpetuating associations of individuals who operate across borders for the purpose of obtaining power, influence, monetary and/or commercial gains, wholly or in part by illegal means, while protecting their activities through a pattern of corruption and/or violence, or while protecting their illegal activities through a transnational organizational structure and the exploitation of transnational commerce or communication mechanisms.⁴⁰⁹²

“Migrant smuggling” refers to the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the irregular entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.⁴⁰⁹³

“Trafficking in persons” refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.⁴⁰⁹⁴ Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

⁴⁰⁸⁷ Key Migration Terms, International Organization for Migration (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024.
<https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

⁴⁰⁸⁸ Key Migration Terms, International Organization for Migration (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024.
<https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

⁴⁰⁸⁹ Key Migration Terms, International Organization for Migration (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024.
<https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

⁴⁰⁹⁰ Enforcement, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024.
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/enforcement>

⁴⁰⁹¹ Curb, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024.
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/curb>

⁴⁰⁹² Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime: Definition, National Security Council (Washington D.C.) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime/definition>

⁴⁰⁹³ Key Migration Terms, International Organization for Migration (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024.
<https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

⁴⁰⁹⁴ Key Migration Terms, International Organization for Migration (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 6 September 2024.
<https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

General Interpretive Guidelines

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that take strong actions in all three commitment dimensions and demonstrate partnerships with countries of origin and transit within each dimension. Actions must show a clear impact on the migration and security landscape.

Examples of strong actions for enhancing border management and enforcement include investments in surveillance and monitoring technologies at borders, as well as training and deployment of specialized border security forces.

For curbing transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking, strong actions include border enforcement announcements, enacting and/or amending national legislation to strengthen punitive measures, actively participating in initiatives to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks and undertaking targeted law enforcement actions.

In terms of partnering with countries of origin and transit, strong actions include bilateral and/or multilateral agreements focused on shared migration management responsibilities, providing financial or technical assistance for migration management and engaging in joint operations or task forces targeting smuggling and trafficking networks.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that take strong actions towards fewer than three, or weak action across all three, of the following: 1) enhancing border management and enforcement, 2) curbing transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking or 3) partnering with countries of origin and transit within each dimension. Weaker actions include issuing verbal statements of support, attending meetings and forums without committing to concrete actions and proposals of legislation without passing them or making minimal legislative changes that lack enforcement mechanisms.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if the G7 member takes no strong action and only weak action in fewer than three of the commitment criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has not enhanced cooperation to curb migrant smuggling and trafficking by taking weak action in two or fewer of: 1) enhancing border management and enforcement, 2) curbing transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking or 3) partnering with countries of origin and transit.
0	The G7 member has enhanced cooperation to curb migrant smuggling and trafficking by taking a strong action fewer than three, or taking weak actions in all three, of: 1) enhancing border management and enforcement, 2) curbing transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking, or 3) partnering with countries of origin and transit.
+1	The G7 member has enhanced cooperation to curb migrant smuggling and trafficking by taking strong actions in all three criteria: 1) enhancing border management and enforcement, 2) curbing transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking, and 3) partnering with countries of origin and transit.

*Compliance Director: Jennifer Lee
Lead Analyst: Kevin Li*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing border management and enforcement by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

On 4 July 2024, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) announced the recent amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulation that aim to optimize border processing, bolster border security

and uplift public safety.⁴⁰⁹⁵ The changes enable a Minister's Delegate to authorize the removal of persons who are deemed inadmissible directly at a port of entry, such as those smuggling firearms, drugs, and weapons.⁴⁰⁹⁶

On 12 July 2024, Canadian Ministers met with US officials at the 2024 US-Canada Cross Border Crime Forum (CBCF) to discuss their commitment to bolster partnerships in law enforcement, national security and trafficking.⁴⁰⁹⁷ The US and Canada reiterated their commitment to optimizing information sharing regarding law enforcement and intelligence to combat transnational organized crime.

On 16 July 2024, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the details of a successful operation between Canadian and US law enforcement that resulted in the arrest of four persons involved in a smuggling attempt on the St. Clair River.⁴⁰⁹⁸ Canadian law enforcement coordinated with US Border Patrol and Air and Marine Operators to arrest the individual driving the vessel as he returned to Canada from US waters. This collaborative effort highlights a strong commitment to curbing transnational organized crime and reinforces partnerships between the two nations in managing migration and security challenges.

On 30 July 2024, the CBSA declared new hours of operation for the Stanstead Route 143 Border Crossing.⁴⁰⁹⁹ The updated operation hours will harmonize with the hours at the US port of entry at Derby Line Route 5, building security and correlation measures to return inadmissible persons at each border.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers announced the G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants.⁴¹⁰⁰ The priorities of the plan are to improve collaboration and communication between partner countries, strengthen border management, and discourage migrants by informing them of the risks.

On 4 October 2024, the Government of Canada announced that Canada and the European Union had signed an agreement to strengthen national security by improving border security measures.⁴¹⁰¹ This agreement includes the sharing of Passenger Name Record data, which can help the CBSA assess the risk associated with travellers so that the agency can act if needed against those involved in terrorism or crime.

On 17 October 2024, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) announced a successful operation between the RCMP and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation that targeted a Mexican drug cartel network which

⁴⁰⁹⁵ New regulatory amendments will improve border processing efficiency and support public safety priorities, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 4 July 2024. Access Date: 20 September 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/07/new-regulatory-amendments-will-improve-border-processing-efficiency-and-support-public-safety-priorities.html>

⁴⁰⁹⁶ Regulations Amending the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (Transborder Criminality): SOR/2024-128, Canada Gazette (Ottawa) 10 June 2024. Access Date: 20 September 2024. <https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2024/2024-06-19/html/sor-dors128-eng.html>

⁴⁰⁹⁷ The 2024 U.S.–Canada Cross Border Crime Forum (CBCF), Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 20 September 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2024/07/the-2024-uscanada-cross-border-crime-forum-cbcf.html>

⁴⁰⁹⁸ Border Patrol Stops Cross-Border Smuggling Event on St. Clair River, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 16 July 2024. Access Date: 23 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-stops-cross-border-smuggling-event-st-clair-river>

⁴⁰⁹⁹ The CBSA is modifying hours of service at Stanstead Route 143 border crossing, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 30 July 2024. Access Date: 20 September 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/07/the-cbsa-is-modifying-hours-of-service-at-stanstead-route-143-border-crossing.html>

⁴¹⁰⁰ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

⁴¹⁰¹ Canada and the European Union sign agreement to enhance border security, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 13 November 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/10/canada-and-the-european-union-sign-agreement-to-enhance-border-security.html>

trafficked drugs to North America.⁴¹⁰² The operation resulted in many arrests in the US and Canada, along with drug seizures, indicating their strong commitment to stopping trafficking across borders.

On 8 November 2024, the CBSA announced the implementation of new facilities at the Sainte-Aurélie border crossing, part of a CAD4 million investment to improve border management processes.⁴¹⁰³ The government allocated the funding towards upgrading technology and facilities to improve efficiency in processing travellers while still ensuring strong security measures.

On 18 November 2024, the CBSA announced the future adjustment of service hours across 35 Canadian land ports of entry starting from 6 January 2025.⁴¹⁰⁴ This adjustment comes in cooperation with the United States, aiming to bolster border security and facilitate the return of inadmissible travellers.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration and its causes, including poverty, instability, and climate change.⁴¹⁰⁵

On 17 December, the Canadian government announced an investment of CAD1.3 billion in a comprehensive Border Plan aimed at enhancing border security and improving immigration systems.⁴¹⁰⁶ The plan is supported by five main pillars, such as improving cooperation between law enforcement and the financial sector to combat money laundering and stop the flow of profits from crime, as well as enhancing coordination with U.S. officials for real-time intelligence sharing on illegal border crossings.

On 2 January 2025, the CBSA announced the “first Canadian land preclearance operation in the U.S.” to facilitate the movement of goods and individuals at Quebec’s border with New York.⁴¹⁰⁷ At the preclearance site, Canadian border officers will examine travellers and goods to decide whether they are admissible into Canada.

On 19 January 2025, the RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region increased its security at the Manitoba border with the US by deploying Black Hawk helicopters.⁴¹⁰⁸ These flights will target illegal activity, such as individuals who illegally enter Canada, or smugglers, and trafficking of contraband. The RCMP also emphasized that these new measures and the continued presence of officers in patrol vehicles allow officers to respond faster to issues on the Canada-US border.

⁴¹⁰² Significant transnational organized crime group disrupted by RCMP, FBI and police across Canada and the Americas, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Ottawa) 17 October 2024. Access Date: 29 December 2024. <https://rcmp.ca/en/news/2024/10/significant-transnational-organized-crime-group-disrupted-rcmp-fbi-and-police-across-canada-and>

⁴¹⁰³ The Canada Border Services Agency announces the opening of new border crossing facilities in Sainte-Aurélie, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 8 November 2024. Access Date: 13 November 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/11/the-canada-border-services-agency-announces-the-opening-of-new-border-crossing-facilities-in-sainte-aurelie.html>

⁴¹⁰⁴ The CBSA is adjusting hours of service at land ports of entry across Canada, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 18 November 2024. Access Date: 6 December 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/11/the-cbsa-is-adjusting-hours-of-service-at-land-ports-of-entry-across-canada.html>

⁴¹⁰⁵ G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

⁴¹⁰⁶ Government of Canada announces its plan to strengthen border security and our immigration system, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2024. Access Date: 21 December 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2024/12/government-of-canada-announces-its-plan-to-strengthen-border-security-and-our-immigration-system.html>

⁴¹⁰⁷ The CBSA announces first Canadian land preclearance operation in the U.S., Government of Canada (Ottawa). 2 January 2025. Access Date: 17 February 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2025/01/the-cbsa-announces-first-canadian-land-precleanance-operation-in-the-us.html>

⁴¹⁰⁸ RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region confirms Black Hawk helicopter flights have started in Manitoba, RCMP (Emerson). 20 January 2025. Access Date: 17 February 2025. <https://rcmp.ca/en/manitoba/news/2025/01/rcmp-federal-policing-northwest-region-confirms-black-hawk-helicopter-flights-have-started-manitoba>

On 27 January 2025, the CBSA announced that it would be “discontinuing the issuance of permits to enter Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail without [an individual presenting themselves] to a port of entry.”⁴¹⁰⁹ Per the CBSA, this change will enhance security at the border by monitoring the compliance of trail users—aligning with the US CBP.

On 23 January 2025, the CBSA reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining strong border security ahead of International Customs Day.⁴¹¹⁰ From the year-round work of securing borders to stopping or removing inadmissible people, the CBSA is dedicated to maintaining strong border management.

On 29 January 2025, the CBSA and RCMP stopped a human smuggling attempt along the Canadian border.⁴¹¹¹ The arrest and subsequent return of the individual to the US marks Canada’s commitment to ensuring strong border security and the success of its Project Disrupt and Deter.

On 27 February 2025, the CBSA released an announcement regarding the renovation of the Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle border crossing to ensure higher safety, technology and security standards.⁴¹¹² This project is part of a larger commitment with the US to secure ports of entry at US-Canada border crossings.

On 3 March 2025, Canada launched the Joint Operational Intelligence Cell (JOIC) to strengthen coordination between federal agencies in targeting transnational organized crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling.⁴¹¹³ Created under the Prime Minister’s Directive on Transnational Crime and Border Security, the JOIC supports enhanced intelligence sharing and joint enforcement with domestic and US partners.

On 5 March 2025, Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed plans for collaboration on shared goals of border control and national safety.⁴¹¹⁴ This call highlights the importance of US-Canadian relations and the two countries’ efforts for border security.

On 14 March 2025, Minister Joly and the G7 foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, following the 2024 G7 Action Plan.⁴¹¹⁵ This will enhance cooperation between member states to curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling.

⁴¹⁰⁹ The CBSA is discontinuing the issuance of Pacific Crest Trail permits, Government of Canada (Ottawa). 27 January 2025. Access Date: 17 February 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2025/01/the-cbsa-is-discontinuing-the-issuance-of-pacific-crest-trail-permits.html>

⁴¹¹⁰ The CBSA reaffirms its commitment to efficiency, security, and prosperity on International Customs Day, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2025. Access Date: 1 March 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2025/01/the-cbsa-reaffirms-its-commitment-to-efficiency-security-and-prosperity-on-international-customs-day.html>

⁴¹¹¹ CBSA and RCMP intercept human smuggling attempt in Niagara, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 29 January 2025. Access Date: 1 March 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2025/01/cbsa-and-rcmp-intercept-human-smuggling-attempt-in-niagara.html>

⁴¹¹² The CBSA announces the start of work to modernize the Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle border crossing, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 27 February 2025. Access Date: 19 April 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2025/02/the-canada-border-services-agency-announces-the-start-of-work-to-modernize-the-saint-bernard-de-lacolle-border-crossing.html>

⁴¹¹³ Launch of the Joint Operational Intelligence Cell, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2025. Access Date: 24 April 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2025/03/launch-of-the-joint-operational-intelligence-cell.html>

⁴¹¹⁴ Secretary Rubio’s Call with Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 March 2025. Access Date: 5 April 2025. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-rubios-call-with-canadian-minister-of-foreign-affairs-melanie-joly/>

⁴¹¹⁵ G7 Foreign Ministers’ Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, G7 Information Centre (Charlevoix) 14 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/250314-declaration.html>

Canada has fully complied with enhancing border management enforcement and curbing transnational organized crime involving migrant smuggling and trafficking. Canada has taken strong action in both commitment dimensions, by introducing new amendments to legislation and operation hours that help improve border processing efficiency and safety and has partnered with the US by engaging in collaborations to uphold border security. Canada has also taken strong action in collaborating with countries of origin and transit to dismantle smuggling networks and has participated in forums to commit to curbing transnational organized crime.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Salma Amer Safarini

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

On 5 July 2024, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) announced the seizure of a human trafficking network operating in France and Romania.⁴¹¹⁶ The French authorities, aided by Eurojust and Europol, collaborated with the Romanian authorities to successfully track down and arrest the suspected members of the trafficking group that had been smuggling Romanian women into France for sexual exploitation.

On 19 July 2024, French authorities led and collaborated with a British Border Force Vessel on a rescue operation of migrants on board a boat that had deflated while trying to cross the English Channel.⁴¹¹⁷ Authorities rescued 71 migrants and returned them to Calais, France, ensuring the safety of individuals attempting to cross the channel, while also exemplifying cooperation between the UK and France in managing migration challenges.

On 30 July 2024, the French authorities coordinated with the National Crime Agency (NCA) to investigate and arrest a man who allegedly aided a crossing in the English Channel that caused a woman's death in France.⁴¹¹⁸ This demonstrates French efforts to address dangerous smuggling activities and enhancing law enforcement partnerships between France and the UK.

On 1 October 2024, Prime Minister Michel Barnier outlined the French government's stance on immigration moving forward.⁴¹¹⁹ He affirmed that France will impose stricter measures to control immigration, such as lengthening the maximum holding time of irregular immigrants to facilitate their exit from the country, improving border security through collaboration with countries of origin and transit, imposing harsher sentences for individuals involved in smuggling and trafficking, and re-establishing border checks. This initiative

⁴¹¹⁶ Coordinated actions from Romanian and French authorities to stop a human trafficking network, Eurojust (The Hague) 5 July 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/actions-taken-stop-romanian-human-trafficking-network>

⁴¹¹⁷ British vessel takes Channel migrants back to France, BBC (London) 19 July 2024. Access Date: 26 September 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2lk950y1gpo>

⁴¹¹⁸ Arrest follows fatal Channel crossing, National Crime Agency (London) 30 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/arrest-follows-fatal-channel-crossing>

⁴¹¹⁹ Déclaration de politique générale de M. Michel Barnier, Premier ministre, sur la feuille de route gouvernementale en matière de niveau de vie, de logement, de sécurité et d'immigration, ainsi que sur la réduction des dettes budgétaire et écologique, à l'Assemblée nationale le 1er octobre 2024, Direction de l'information légale et administrative (Paris) 3 October 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 2 November 2024. <https://www.vie-publique.fr/discours/295574-michel-barnier-01102024-declare-politique-generale-assemblee-nationale>

shows France's commitment to enhancing its border management and enforcement, both domestically and in collaboration with countries of origin and transit.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers announced the G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants.⁴¹²⁰ The priorities of the plan are to improve collaboration and communication between partner countries, strengthen border management, and discourage migrants by informing them of the risks.

On 4 October 2024, Minister of the Interior Bruno Retailleau and Italian Minister of the Interior, Matteo Piantedosi, signed a document indicating their determination to share information about migrant trafficking.⁴¹²¹ The governments intend to investigate and take down criminal migrant trafficking networks.

On 18 October 2024, the French authorities tried alleged trafficking mastermind Mirkhan Rasoul, who is accused of organizing and controlling one of the biggest smuggling gangs that facilitated migrant crossings in the English Channel from 2020 to 2022.⁴¹²² His trial is part of an overarching European smuggling trial concerning the gang's members, who were arrested during a previous joint operation against smugglers led by France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

On 23 October 2024, the French government prolonged its previous border control policy for neighboring states from the Schengen Area.⁴¹²³ Authorities will conduct identification checks at borders and prop up additional border checkpoints. Among other justifications for the decision, the government highlights security threats from criminal smuggling networks and irregular migration. This border control policy, which involves France's borders with Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain is expected to continue until 30 April 2025.

On 30 October 2024, President Emmanuel Macron announced that France and Morocco signed a bilateral agreement to fight against clandestine immigration and trafficking.⁴¹²⁴ The countries will also collaborate on fighting transnational organized crime and providing a more effective framework for returning irregular migrants from France to Morocco.

On 5 November 2024, a French court convicted members of an English Channel smuggling group.⁴¹²⁵ The individuals were sentenced to multiple years of jail time, with up to 15 years for the group mastermind Mirkhan Rasoul.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration.⁴¹²⁶

⁴¹²⁰ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

⁴¹²¹ France, Italy launch project to exchange migrant trafficking information, Reuters (Toronto) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/france-italy-launch-project-exchange-migrant-trafficking-information-2024-10-04/>

⁴¹²² 'Merchants of death' trial steps up fight against Channel smugglers, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 18 October 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cden09n621wo>

⁴¹²³ Temporary Reintroduction of Border Control, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 22 October 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-area/temporary-reintroduction-border-control_en

⁴¹²⁴ Paris et Rabat ont noué "un partenariat renforcé" contre "l'immigration clandestine", France 24 (Paris) 30 October 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20241030-paris-et-rabat-ont-nou%C3%A9-un-partenariat-renforc%C3%A9-contre-l-immigration-clandestine>

⁴¹²⁵ 18 convicted in France for small boat people smuggling following joint operation involving NCA, National Crime Agency (London) 5 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/18-convicted-in-france-for-small-boat-people-smuggling-following-joint-operation-involving-nca>

⁴¹²⁶ G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

On 28 November 2024, the French National Police, supported by EU members, dismantled a transnational criminal group engaged in migrant smuggling.⁴¹²⁷ The group, active in France since 2022, allegedly profited hundreds of millions of euros from smuggling thousands of migrants.

On 29 November 2024, Director of Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior Simon Fetet, Diplomatic Advisor Mathilde Grammont, Deputy Ambassador in charge of Migration at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs Frédéric Rimoux and Chief of the removal centre at the Directorate of Immigration Delphine Montuelle with Moroccan Migration, Border and Foreign Affairs Ministers to discuss migration between the two states.⁴¹²⁸ Building upon their previous meeting, the representatives conversed about facilitating legal immigration to France, fighting against irregular immigration, and cooperating on the return of irregular Moroccan migrants.

On 4 December 2024, French authorities broke up a transnational smuggling network with the help of German authorities, Europol and Eurojust.⁴¹²⁹ They arrested 13 suspects and seized smuggling equipment such as lifeboats and vests which would have been used to cross the English Channel.

On 25 December 2024, French authorities rescued a total of 107 migrants attempting to cross the English Channel.⁴¹³⁰ Throughout the day, they intervened a total of 12 times to rescue migrants from boats that were at times malfunctioning.

On 15 January 2025, French authorities rescued a total of 99 migrants attempting to cross the English Channel.⁴¹³¹ Intervening twice, authorities rescued the passengers in need of assistance and dispatched a monitoring vessel to supervise the remaining passengers headed to the United Kingdom.

On 14 February 2025, Prime Minister Francois Bayrou stated that he would reactivate the “interministerial committee of immigration control.”⁴¹³² He claimed this was a response to France’s concerning low statistics on carried out “Obligation to Leave the French Territory” orders, resulting from a lack of cooperation from countries of origin.

On 6 March 2025, Special Representative on Immigration Patrick Stefani and UK Border Security Commander Martin Hewitt signed a roadmap intended to promote cooperation between France and the UK to fight human

⁴¹²⁷ France arrests 26 for smuggling migrants from Indian sub-continent, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/france-arrests-26-for-smuggling-migrants-indian-sub-continent>

⁴¹²⁸ Maroc-France : une réunion inédite pour améliorer les procédures migratoires, Ministère de l’Intérieur (Paris) 30 November 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/communiqués-de-presse/maroc-france-reunion-inedite-pour-ameliorer-procedures-migratoires>

⁴¹²⁹ Authorities disrupt migrant smuggling supply chain, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 December 2024. Access Date: 19 February 2025. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/authorities-disrupt-migrant-smuggling-supply-chain>

⁴¹³⁰ French rescuers save 107 migrants in English Channel on Christmas day, France 24 (Paris) 26 December 2024. Access Date: 19 February 2025. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20241226-french-rescuers-save-107-migrants-in-channel-in-one-day>

⁴¹³¹ 99 migrants rescued in English Channel, InfoMigrants (Paris) 16 January 2025. Access Date: 19 February 2025. <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/62258/99-migrants-rescued-in-english-channel>

⁴¹³² Déclaration de politique générale de M. François Bayrou, Premier ministre, sur la dette publique et le budget 2025, l'Europe, l'éducation nationale, les outre-mer, la réforme des retraites, la "débureaucratisation", l'immigration, la transition écologique, l'intelligence artificielle et la concertation sur le travail et les salaires, à l'Assemblée nationale le 14 janvier 2025, Direction de l'information légale et administrative (Paris) 14 January 2025. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 19 February 2025. <https://www.vie-publique.fr/discours/296842-francois-bayrou-14012025-declaration-politique-generale-l>

smuggling.⁴¹³³ The agreement aims to disrupt irregular migration by deterrence through reminding migrants of risks, ensuring the swift return of migrants to their countries of origin, and apprehending criminal organizations involved.

On 14 March 2025, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noël Barrot and the G7 foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, following the 2024 G7 Action Plan.⁴¹³⁴ This will enhance cooperation between member states to curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling.

On 16 March 2025, the National Police and Spanish law enforcement agencies took down a smuggling group based in Marseille.⁴¹³⁵ The group smuggled over 1,700 migrants from Spain into France from May 2023 to August 2024. The operation resulted in nineteen arrests and the seizure of multiple vehicles and cash.

On 27 March 2025, Minister of the Interior Bruno Retailleau and UK Secretary of State for the Home Department Yvette Cooper announced that France and the UK would prolong a pre-existing agreement on irregular migration by one year.⁴¹³⁶ This agreement extends the Sandhurst Agreement on irregular immigration and border control to 2027, allowing authorities to make use of unused funds.

On 16 April 2025, the Government of France and the Government of the United Kingdom began discussions on a pilot bilateral agreement to address irregular Channel crossings.⁴¹³⁷ The proposed arrangement would involve returning individuals who arrive in the UK without authorization to France in exchange for the legal resettlement of migrants with family ties in Britain. Framed as a deterrent to people-smuggling networks, the plan is intended to reduce dangerous small boat crossings and strengthen cross-border enforcement.

France has fully complied with its commitment to enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, enhancing border management and enforcement, and stopping transnational organized crime of migrant smuggling and human trafficking. France has taken strong action in both dimensions of its commitment, by enhancing security at its borders and entering bilateral agreements to fight transnational smuggling and trafficking groups, all in the context of collaboration with countries of origin and transit. France has also prosecuted individuals and groups responsible for migrant smuggling and has entered agreements to assist in the return of migrants.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Olivier d'Aragon Flores

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border

⁴¹³³ The UK deepens cooperation with France on people smuggling, Home Office (London) 7 March 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-uk-deepens-cooperation-with-france-on-people-smuggling>

⁴¹³⁴ G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, G7 Information Centre (Charlevoix) 14 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/250314-declaration.html>

⁴¹³⁵ Network smuggling migrants between Spain and France busted in Marseille, Europol (The Hague) 21 March 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/network-smuggling-migrants-between-spain-and-france-busted-in-marseille>

⁴¹³⁶ Royaume-Uni et France prolongent un accord contre les migrations clandestines, France24 (Paris) 27 February 2025. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.france24.com/fr/info-en-continu/20250227-royaume-uni-et-france-prolongent-un-accord-contre-les-migrations-clandestines>

⁴¹³⁷ UK and France in talks over migrant returns deal, BBC (London) 16 April 2025. Access Date: 24 April 2025. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c99pg1men8po>

management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

On 27 June 2024, the Federal Minister of the Interior and Community Nancy Faeser welcomed the Minister of Interior of Türkiye Ali Yerlikaya for a discussion on German and Turkish cooperation.⁴¹³⁸ The ministers focused on enhancing their collaboration on issues regarding organized crime, migrant smuggling and terrorism.

On 28 June 2024, Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, Nasser Bourita, to discuss the partnerships between Germany and Morocco.⁴¹³⁹ The ministers voiced their support for the bilateral Mixed Migration Working Group and concurred on efforts to address irregular migration through facilitating legal migration and returns with support from the EU Talent Partnerships, the Rabat Process, and the Global Compact for Migration.

On 2 July 2024, the Government of Germany and the Government of Poland came together to discuss partnerships and cooperation between Germany and Poland in areas regarding organized crime and illegal immigration.⁴¹⁴⁰ Minister Faeser spoke with Poland's Interior Minister Tomasz Siemoniak and Sport Minister Sławomir Nitras on ways to bolster border police coordination, tackle migrant smuggling and improve collaboration in cross-border disaster management efforts.

On 12 August 2024, Minister Faeser began her security tour through seven federal states, pledging an additional EUR1 billion in 2025, 1,000 additional federal police officers, and significant reinforcements for the Federal Criminal Police Office, Federal Agency for Technical Relief, and other authorities.⁴¹⁴¹ The government allocated goals and funds support ongoing measures to address internal and external threats rooted in irregular migration and people smuggling.

On 13 August 2024, the Government of Germany announced additional plans to improve border management, stop human smugglers and reduce irregular migration.⁴¹⁴² These plans include the implementation of temporary border checks at the German-Polish land border in response to the rise in human smuggling and irregular migration. Furthermore, these plans also aim to quickly implement the Common European Asylum System which will allow asylum cases to be decided at the EU's external borders and ensure equal responsibility among EU countries on issues concerning asylum.

On 29 August 2024, Minister Faeser, the Federal Minister of Justice, Marco Buschmann, and the State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Anja Hajduk, announced a federally agreed upon substantial security package to take on a more rigorous approach for migration policy.⁴¹⁴³ This included measures to streamline the identification of irregular migration and asylum seekers, enforce weapons laws, and grant greater authority to border security agencies.

⁴¹³⁸ Promoting German–Turkish cooperation, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 27 June 2024. Access Date: 24 September 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/06/tuerk-innenminister.html>

⁴¹³⁹ Joint statement on the Moroccan-German Strategic Dialogue, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 28 June 2024. Access Date: 23 September 2024. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2665270>

⁴¹⁴⁰ German-Polish cooperation, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 2 July 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/07/dt-pol-regierungskonsultationen.html>

⁴¹⁴¹ Sicherheitstour 2024: Bundesinnenministerin Faeser besucht Sicherheitsbehörden und Einsatzkräfte in sieben Bundesländern, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 12 August 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 October 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/08/sicherheitsreise.html>

⁴¹⁴² Joining forces to stop human smugglers and reduce irregular migration, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 13 August 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/08/sicherheitstour_grenze.html

⁴¹⁴³ Greater Security for Germany, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 29 August 2024. Access Date: 01 November 2024. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/security-package-of-federal-government-2305010>

On 11 September 2024, Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke on migration, modernization and border security at the general debate in the German Bundestag.⁴¹⁴⁴ He stressed the need for legal migration to support Germany's economic stability, highlighting accelerated deportations and how the Federal Government's initiatives—specifically the Skilled Labor Immigration Act and reformed citizenship law—have aimed for strategic handling and selection of migrants.

On 12 September 2024, Minister Faeser announced a new security legislation to the Bundestag which will include stricter weapons laws, measures to strengthen law enforcement capabilities, and easier processes to expel non-citizen criminals.⁴¹⁴⁵ These actions are in response to the terrorist attack in Solingen and will better protect the security of Germans.

On 13 September 2024, Minister Faeser signed a comprehensive “migration and mobility partnership agreement” with Kenya on behalf of the German Federal government.⁴¹⁴⁶ This bilateral cooperation both allows for faster repatriation of citizens required to leave the country as well as limits irregular migration.

On 15 September 2024, Minister Faeser and Uzbekistan's President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, signed a “comprehensive migration and mobility partnership” agreement.⁴¹⁴⁷ This agreement enforces limits on irregular migration while cooperating bilaterally in aspects of educational and employment migration to and from Germany and Uzbekistan.

On 15 September 2024, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community announced that border checks would officially begin on Monday, 16 September 2024, at all of Germany's land borders.⁴¹⁴⁸ This increased border security will be temporary to combat cross-border crime and stop irregular migration.

On 16 September 2024, the Federal Government temporarily reintroduced border checks at all of Germany's land borders with Belgium, Denmark, France and Luxembourg for a 6-month period starting 16 September 2024.⁴¹⁴⁹ This increased border security with increased cooperation with partner countries and joint patrols will be temporary to counter cross-border crime and curb irregular migration.

On 17 September 2024, Minister Faeser met with her counterparts from the governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, and the UK to discuss increased cooperation in combating irregular migration and organised crime.⁴¹⁵⁰ Increased cooperation could include joint police patrols, data

⁴¹⁴⁴ “Stop complaining, start acting and pitching in”, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 11 September 2024. Access Date: 28 October 2024. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/federal-chancellor-general-debate-2307772>

⁴¹⁴⁵ Bundestag debate on migration and security, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 12 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/09/bt_sicherheitspaket.html

⁴¹⁴⁶ Bundesinnenministerin Faeser unterzeichnet ein umfassendes Migrationsabkommen mit Kenia, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 13 September 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 October 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/09/kenia-migrationsabkommen.html>

⁴¹⁴⁷ Qualifizierte Arbeitskräfte gewinnen, Rückführungen beschleunigen: Migrationsabkommen zwischen Deutschland und Usbekistan abgeschlossen, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 15 September 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 October 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/09/usbekistan-migrationsabkommen.html>

⁴¹⁴⁸ Checks at all German land borders start on Monday, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 15 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024.

https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2024/09/binnengrenzkontrollen_pm2-en.html

⁴¹⁴⁹ Checks at all German land borders start on Monday, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 15 September 2024. Access Date: 26 November 2024.

https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2024/09/binnengrenzkontrollen_pm2-en.html

⁴¹⁵⁰ Federal Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser continues talks on the Western Balkans, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 17 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/09/berliner-prozess.html>

exchange, and the incorporation of financial and social authorities to stop the flow of funds to criminal organizations.

On 18 September 2024, the Federal Government's Special Representative for Migration Agreements, Joachim Stamp, and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Colombia, Jorge Rojas Rodriguez, signed a joint declaration for migration partnership between Germany and Colombia.⁴¹⁵¹ This declaration and new bilateral steering group enhance bilateral cooperation in migration policy by promoting legal migration pathways and addressing irregular migration through the enforcement of repatriation measures.

On 24 September 2024, the German police arrested at least four individuals associated with migrant smuggling and smuggling people from the Middle East and the Caucasus into Germany.⁴¹⁵² Around 400 law enforcement officers took part in the operation involving the federal police, prosecutors and customs authorities. This demonstrates Germany's commitment to combatting irregular migration and organized crime.

On 30 September 2024, the Federal Foreign Office announced the creation of a new German-Danish border committee to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and make everyday life easier for citizens who frequently cross the border.⁴¹⁵³ This initiative will focus on strengthening coordination between relevant authorities and systematically identifying obstacles that restrict mobility in the pertinent region(s), while monitoring success through long-term tracking.

On 4 October 2024, Minister Faeser travelled to Mirabella Eclano for the meeting of G7 interior ministers to discuss migration policy and ongoing efforts to combat human smuggling.⁴¹⁵⁴ The ministers stressed the importance of tackling these issues and engaging with third countries to fight against trafficking and irregular migration.

On 10 October 2024, Minister Faeser met with the EU at the Justice and Home Affairs Council in Luxembourg to sign a new agreement on closer border police controls and cooperation, specifically on cross-border trains.⁴¹⁵⁵ This bilateral approach is intended to strengthen the security of both countries' border management systems and stop people smugglers at an early stage with greater success.

On 11 October 2024, the Federal Ministry of the Interior presented draft laws for the implementation of the legal basis of the new Common European Asylum System (GEAS) in Germany to amplify migration control.⁴¹⁵⁶ This mechanism will limit irregular migration by enhancing border security and efficiently processing asylum concerns while upholding constitutional and humanitarian standards.

On 13 October 2024, the Federal Government of Germany announced its first comprehensive national action plan to fight human trafficking, incorporating prevention, prosecution, and victim support measures that are

⁴¹⁵¹ Deutschland und Kolumbien unterzeichnen gemeinsame Absichtserklärung über Migrationspartnerschaft, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 18 September 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 October 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/09/kolumbien-migration.html>

⁴¹⁵² German police arrest four over alleged people smuggling, Euronews (Lyon) 24 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/09/24/german-police-arrest-four-suspects-for-alleged-human-smuggling>

⁴¹⁵³ Deutschland und Dänemark etablieren neues Grenzgremium, Auswärtiges Amt (Berlin) 30 September 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 October 2024. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/deutsch-daenisches-grenzgremium/2674834>

⁴¹⁵⁴ "We are potentially direct targets for terrorist organisations", Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/10/g7.html>

⁴¹⁵⁵ Bundesinnenministerin Faeser unterzeichnet Abkommen mit Dänemark für grenzpolizeiliche Kooperation, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 10 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 October 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/10/abkommen-daenemark.html>

⁴¹⁵⁶ Gemeinsames Europäisches Asylsystem: Bundesinnenministerium legt Gesetzentwürfe zur Umsetzung vor, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 11 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 October 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/10/geas.html>

expected to be adopted in spring 2025.⁴¹⁵⁷ This plan aims to improve “structural conditions” to effectively combat human and cross-border trafficking in the country with greater success.

On 30 October 2024, Minister Faeser visited the Polish-Belarusian border with Polish Interior Minister Siemoniak.⁴¹⁵⁸ The Ministers exchanged their views and intentions to address irregular migration and security through bilateral cooperation and police coordination, as well as discuss their country’s implementation of the GEAS by 2026.

On 31 October 2024, the Federal government presented a security package and the draft law to enhance security, alongside bringing into effect an asylum system that grants additional powers to the Federal Criminal Police Office.⁴¹⁵⁹ Such measures authorize the use of biometric data to authenticate the identity of asylum seekers to improve deportation procedures.

On 1 November 2024, Minister Faeser visited Germany’s largest airport in Frankfurt to observe and highlight the strengthened border security measures due to recent government directives for stricter border controls.⁴¹⁶⁰ These changes will support the country’s security measures by reducing illegal entry, irregular migration and the quantity of asylum applications received.

On 12 November 2024, Germany participated in the two-day 7th Ministerial Conference of the Budapest Process, working with EU members and partner countries to promote the Budapest Process Ministerial Declaration and the accompanying Call for Action 2025-2030, which focuses on improving areas of migration and asylum.⁴¹⁶¹ This action will improve Germany’s regional dialogues and collaboration with international partners to address migration challenges and foster solutions.

On 22 November 2024, Minister Faeser met with the Spanish Interior Minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, in Madrid to discuss implementing the Common European Asylum System, which enhances migration management and strengthens collaboration against organized crime.⁴¹⁶² This meeting highlights Germany’s efforts to strengthen border security by addressing irregular migration and organized crime bilaterally.

On 26 November 2024, G7 foreign ministers reaffirmed the commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration..⁴¹⁶³

On 2 December 2024, Foreign Minister Baerbock met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss a solution through strategic dialogue with the interconnectedness of security, economic and migration

⁴¹⁵⁷ Federal Government develops national action plan to fight human trafficking, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 17 October 2024. Access Date: 25 November 2024.

https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2024/10/aktionsplan_menschenhandel.html

⁴¹⁵⁸ Innenministerin Nancy Faeser besucht polnische Grenze zu Belarus, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 30 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 01 November 2024.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/DE/2024/10/polen.html>

⁴¹⁵⁹ Greater Security for Germany, The Federal Government (Berlin) 31 October 2024. Access Date: 20 November 2024.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/security-package-of-federal-government-2305010>

⁴¹⁶⁰ “The measures we have taken are showing effect!”, Federal Ministry of the Interior (Berlin) 2 November 2024. Access Date: 27 November 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/11/flughafen-frankfurt.html>

⁴¹⁶¹ 7th Budapest process Ministerial conference: Adoption of the new Ministerial Declaration and Call for Action charts the course for five years of cooperation, ICMPD Budapest process (Budapest) 20 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.budapestprocess.org/7th-budapest-process-ministerial-conference-adoption-of-the-new-ministerial-declaration-and-call-for-action-charts-the-course-for-five-years-of-cooperation/>

⁴¹⁶² Europäische Asylreform gemeinsam voranbringen, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 22 November 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2024.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/DE/2024/11/madrid-spanien.html>

⁴¹⁶³ G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

management at the forefront.⁴¹⁶⁴ This meeting highlights Germany's commitment to enhancing border management through international cooperation.

On 3 December 2024, Minister Faeser travelled to Athens and Kos to speak with Greek representatives, including Greek Minister for Migration and Asylum Nikolas Panagiotopoulos to address limiting irregular migration and the implementation of the Common European Asylum System.⁴¹⁶⁵ This meeting illustrates Germany's efforts to enhance border protection and cooperation by tackling current refugee situations and policy issues bilaterally.

On 4 December 2024, German, UK and French law enforcement authorities targeted an Iraqi-Kurdish criminal network suspected to be involved in migrant smuggling activities through the English Channel.⁴¹⁶⁶ German Federal Police sent over 500 officers to execute search warrants, leading to the seizure of hundreds of equipment as well as 13 arrests with one High Value Target. This effective cooperation with British and French law enforcement authorities highlights Germany's commitment to bilateral coordination in combatting migrant smuggling and organized crime.

On 10 December 2024, Minister Faeser and British Home Secretary Cooper co-hosted the Calais Group's fourth meeting in London and together signed the "UK-Germany Joint Action Plan on Irregular Migration".⁴¹⁶⁷ This meeting and subsequent joint action plan prioritizes combatting migrant smuggling, particularly through the English Channel and reinforces areas of potential cooperation between British and German law enforcement authorities.

On 12 December 2024, Minister Faeser and Dutch Minister of Justice and Security, David van Weel, signed "a joint declaration of intent to increase bilateral police cooperation."⁴¹⁶⁸ This step furthers bilateral police and cross-border cooperation between Germany and the Netherlands, countering illegal migration, terrorism and organized crime.

On 20 December 2024, Chancellor Scholz, Foreign Minister Baerbock, Development Minister Svenja Schulze and other Federal Government representatives engaged in talks with representatives of the terrorist organization Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and members of the Syrian transitional government in Damascus to focus on the political and territorial transition process in Syria.⁴¹⁶⁹ The Federal Government stressed its engagement to work with a transitional government to support the safe return of refugees, aiming to mitigate the humanitarian and migration crisis in Syria.

⁴¹⁶⁴ Außenministerin Baerbock vor ihrer Reise nach China, German Foreign Office (Berlin) 1 December 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2025. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/baerbock-china-2688482>

⁴¹⁶⁵ Federal Minister Faeser visits Greece for Talks, German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 3 December 2024. Access Date: 10 February 2025. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/12/griechenland.html>

⁴¹⁶⁶ 21 Boats Confiscated and 13 Arrested in Hit Against Migrant Smuggling Across the English Channel, Europol (Netherlands) 5 December 2024. Access Date: 2 February 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/21-boats-confiscated-and-13-arrested-in-hit-against-migrant-smuggling-across-english-channel>

⁴¹⁶⁷ Fighting Illegal Smuggling of Migrants, German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (London) 10 December 2024. Access Date: 20 February 2025. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/12/london-jointaction-en.html>

⁴¹⁶⁸ Germany and the Netherlands to Strengthen Operational Cooperation Between Police Special Units, German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Brussels) 12 December 2024. Access Date: 20 February 2025. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemittelungen/EN/2024/12/dt-ndl-vertrag.html>

⁴¹⁶⁹ Bundesregierung unterstützt geordneten und friedlichen Übergangsprozess, Die Bundesregierung (Berlin) 20 December 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 February 2025. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/support-syria-2328710>

On 12 February 2025, Minister Faeser extended checks at Germany's land borders for six months to help curb irregular migration and migrant smuggling.⁴¹⁷⁰

On 15 February 2025, Chancellor Scholz and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky signed a declaration of intent at the Munich Security Conference to open "Unity Hubs."⁴¹⁷¹ These centers and the broader initiative aim to manage migration and support refugees.

On 17 February 2025, Minister Faeser and Brandenburg's Interior Minister Katrin Lange officially agreed to open two "Dublin centres" in Germany to expedite the transfer of asylum seekers to the appropriate EU member states.⁴¹⁷² This supports Germany's commitment to coordinated border control by strengthening cooperation within the EU to effectively manage irregular migration.

On 12 March 2025, Minister Faeser and Czech Interior Minister Rakusan signed a new bilateral border treaty to digitally map their shared borders, replacing existing treaties.⁴¹⁷³ This agreement will increase the precision and cross-border management, strengthen security and enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

On 31 March 2025, Minister Faeser discussed cross-border cooperations at the Border Security Summit in London.⁴¹⁷⁴ The need for coordinated responses was emphasized to curb migrant smuggling operations and organized crime groups.

On 1 April 2025, Germany's Federal Ministry of the Interior presented a comprehensive review of the government's migration policy, highlighting progress in managing skilled immigration, reducing irregular migration and combating human smuggling.⁴¹⁷⁵ Key measures included the implementation of the Common European Asylum System, expanded border controls with neighboring countries, legal reforms to expedite returns and increased personnel for federal policing and asylum processing. Germany also opened joint Dublin centers with federal states to accelerate EU-coordinated returns.

On 24 April 2025, Germany and Colombia signed a joint declaration to deepen cooperation on migration management.⁴¹⁷⁶ The agreement focuses on expanding legal pathways for labor and education-related migration while reducing irregular migration and unfounded asylum claims. It also includes coordinated efforts to raise awareness about legal migration routes and improve return processes.

⁴¹⁷⁰ Federal Minister Faeser orders checks at all of Germany's land borders to continue for another six months, Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Community (Berlin) 12 February 2025. Access Date: 1 March 2025.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2025/02/binnengrenzkontrollen-EN.html>

⁴¹⁷¹ Deutschland und Ukraine unterzeichnen Absichtserklärung für „Unity Hubs“, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 15 February 2025. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 April 2025.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2025/02/unity-hubs.html>

⁴¹⁷² Dublin-Zentren in Hamburg und Eisenhüttenstadt eröffnet, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 17 February 2025. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 April 2025.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/DE/2025/02/dublin-center.html>

⁴¹⁷³ Digitale Grenzdaten: Bundesinnenministerin Faeser und Tschechiens Innenminister Rakušan unterzeichnen neuen Vertrag über die gemeinsame Staatsgrenze, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 12 March 2025. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 April 2025. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2025/03/dt-cz-grenze.html>

⁴¹⁷⁴ Stärkung der grenzüberschreitenden internationalen Zusammenarbeit, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 31 March 2025. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 April 2025.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/DE/2025/03/bordersecurity-london.html>

⁴¹⁷⁵ Immigration by skilled workers up considerably, irregular migration drops significantly, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 1 April 2025. Access Date: 24 April 2025.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2025/04/bpk-bilanz-en.html>

⁴¹⁷⁶ Germany and Colombia strengthen their partnership on migration, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 24 April 2025. Access Date: 24 April 2025. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2025/04/mou-kolumbien-en.html>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Germany has taken strong action toward both commitment dimensions and partnered with countries of origin and transit within each dimension, notably by initiating talks for bilateral cooperation, focusing on enforcing border security and preventing irregular migration, as well as targeting migrant smuggling.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ananiya Narmathan

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

On 24 June 2024, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni welcomed the Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, where they discussed the shared values between the two countries on strategies to enhance the management of migration flows.⁴¹⁷⁷ She highlighted the need for an improved defence of the European Union's external borders, action on combating illegal migration and a focus on targeting transnational trafficking groups. Both members also advocated for partnerships with the countries of origin to address the source of migration and new approaches to managing migration.

On 26 June 2024, Prime Minister Meloni addressed the Chamber of Deputies where she emphasized her priority to partner with countries of origin and transit in addressing mass irregular immigration.⁴¹⁷⁸ She highlighted the success of Italy's initiative of signing memoranda of understanding with Egypt and Tunisia to address migration and called on other countries to follow this model to address the root cause of migration.

On 26 June 2024, the Italian national police force, Polizia di Stato, announced the success of the operation, "Chinese Shuttles" in apprehending members of a Chinese criminal organization that facilitated human smuggling.⁴¹⁷⁹ There were 77 illegal migrants found and nine individuals were arrested. The illegal migrants were subject to forced labour to pay off their debt to the smugglers who facilitated their trip. The successful operation demonstrated dedication to tackling transnational organized crime and reinforced the importance of dismantling smuggling networks that exploit vulnerable people.

On 28 June 2024, the Italian Government announced the visit of the Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers Alfredo Mantovano to Albania where he toured facilities for the processing and deportation of illegal migrants.⁴¹⁸⁰ This is part of an agreement between Italy and Albania signed in 2023 as a new innovative approach to managing illegal migration flows.

⁴¹⁷⁷ President Meloni's press statement with Prime Minister Orbán of Hungary, Italian Government (Rome) 24 June 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-press-statement-prime-minister-orb-n-hungary/26118>

⁴¹⁷⁸ President Meloni's address to the Chamber of Deputies ahead of the European Council meeting on 27-28 June, Italian Government (Rome) 26 June 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-address-chamber-deputies-ahead-european-council-meeting-27-28-june/26151>

⁴¹⁷⁹ Trieste: operazione "Chinese Shuttles" contro immigrazione clandestina, Polizia di Stato (Rome) 26 June 2024. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/15667c305d427c2069197247>

⁴¹⁸⁰ Undersecretary of State Mantovano visits Shengjin and Gjader: deadlines met, centre openings confirmed, Italian Government (Rome) 28 June 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/undersecretary-state-mantovano-visits-shengjin-and-gjader-deadlines-met-centre-openings>

On 4 July 2024, Prime Minister Meloni met with President Alexander Stubb of the Republic of Finland.⁴¹⁸¹ The pair discussed matters of importance to both countries, where managing irregular migration was on the agenda.

On 11 July 2024, Prime Minister Meloni met with Prime Minister Kier Starmer of the United Kingdom.⁴¹⁸² The pair exchanged their views and intentions to boost collaboration on addressing irregular migration.

On 17 July 2024, Prime Minister Meloni spoke on the challenges of migration and provided her perspective on addressing the challenge at the Trans-Mediterranean Migration Forum.⁴¹⁸³ She emphasized the need to apprehend individuals engaged in migrant smuggling who profit off the desperation of fragile persons and place them at risk. Furthermore, she discussed the threat of illegal migration on legal migration and advocated the method of addressing the origin of the problem to solve illegal migration.

On 12 September 2024, Italy, alongside Germany, Austria, Denmark, France, Slovenia, Sweden, and Finland, reintroduced border checks within the Schengen zone.⁴¹⁸⁴ This action aims to protect border security.

On 16 September 2024, Prime Minister Meloni held a meeting with UK Prime Minister Starmer, where they discussed the importance of enhancing cooperation regarding human smuggling and trafficking.⁴¹⁸⁵ The two Prime Ministers attributed a specific focus on “judicial dimensions,” notably regarding “assisted voluntary returns.”

On 26 September 2024, authorities in Italy and other countries, including Albania, Poland, and Switzerland, dismantled a large-scale cocaine-smuggling ring.⁴¹⁸⁶ Italian authorities arrested a total of 45 suspects, finding them to be part of an organized crime group based in Albania that sold Latin American cocaine in northern Italy. This demonstrates Italy’s efforts to secure its border through anti-smuggling campaigns aimed at disrupting well-established criminal networks.

On 26 September 2024, Prime Minister Meloni spoke with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz over the phone concerning migration issues in Europe.⁴¹⁸⁷ Prime Minister Meloni and Chancellor Scholz agreed to bolster partnerships with countries of origin and transit and tackle human trafficking.

On 1 October 2024, Chief of the Italian Defence Staff Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone met with the Algerian Army’s Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Said Chanegriha, to bolster collaboration between Italy and Algeria in securing borders and combatting illegal migration.⁴¹⁸⁸ This meeting comes two months after both countries

⁴¹⁸¹ Meeting with the President of the Republic of Finland, Italian Government (Rome) 4 July 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/meeting-president-republic-finland/26175>

⁴¹⁸² President Meloni meets with Prime Minister Starmer at NATO Summit, Italian Government (Rome) 11 July 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-meets-prime-minister-starmer-nato-summit/26209>

⁴¹⁸³ President Meloni’s address at the Trans-Mediterranean Migration Forum, Italian Government (Rome) 17 July 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-address-trans-mediterranean-migration-forum/26249>

⁴¹⁸⁴ EU Countries Tighten Border Checks Amid Security and Migration Fears, Radio France International, Radio France International (Rome) 12 September 2024. Access Date: 6 November 2024. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20240912-eu-countries-tighten-border-checks-amid-security-and-migration-fears>

⁴¹⁸⁵ President Meloni meets with UK Prime Minister Starmer, Italian Government (Rome) 16 September 2024. Access Date: 11 November 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-meets-uk-prime-minister-starmer/26557>

⁴¹⁸⁶ Eurojust Supports Major Operation Against Albanian Drug-Trafficking Ring Italy: 66 Arrests, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Rome) 26 September 2024. Access Date: 6 November 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/eurojust-supports-major-operation-against-albanian-drug-trafficking-ring-italy-66-arrests>

⁴¹⁸⁷ President Meloni’s telephone conversation with Chancellor Scholz, Italian Government (Rome) 26 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-telephone-conversation-chancellor-scholz/26665>

⁴¹⁸⁸ Third and last day of the official visit of General Said Chanegriha, Chief of PNA Staff of in Italy, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria Ministry of National Defence (Algiers) 3 October 2024. Access Date: 18 November 2024. https://www.mdn.dz/site_principal/sommaire/actualites/an/2024/octobre/cem03102024an.php

held the Strategic Dialogue conference in Rome, where they discussed the importance of sustaining their partnership, as well as their goals to increase cooperation on security issues in the Mediterranean.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers released an action plan to resolve border management issues.⁴¹⁸⁹ The G7 Action Plan included commitments to improve law enforcement capabilities, cooperation with both G7 member countries and countries of origin and transit and enhance general border management processes to prevent migrant smuggling and other transborder criminal activities.

On 16 October 2024, an Italian navy ship reached Albania to deliver refugees and migrants, completing the first mission under the new Italy-Albania agreement to send migrants to asylum centres in Albania.⁴¹⁹⁰ This is one of two processing centres which Italy has opened in Albania, processing up to 36,000 asylum seekers per year. This agreement with Albania demonstrates a plan for managing migration flows and reducing immediate pressure on Italy's immigration system.

On 29 October 2024, Prime Minister Meloni participated in the Italy-Libya Business forum held in Tripoli, where she met with the Prime Minister of Libya, Abdul Hamid Dabaiba.⁴¹⁹¹ The two leaders discussed strengthening the bilateral cooperation between Italy and Libya and touched on migration management and the prevention of human trafficking.

On 29 October 2024, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Antonio Tajani attended a press conference with his Slovenian counterpart in Ljubljana, Slovenia to announce that the new border controls between Italy and Slovenia are to enhance security, stop illegal immigration, and crack down on human trafficking.⁴¹⁹² This reflects Italy's commitment to improving border management through partnerships and government responses.

On 18 November 2024, Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi conversed over the telephone with his counterparts in Slovenia and Croatia to discuss the extension of Italy's land border controls with Slovenia.⁴¹⁹³ The minister said this extension will be for an additional six months due to increased concerns of terrorism and irregular migration.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the commitment made at the Apulia summit to address irregular migration.⁴¹⁹⁴

On 28 November 2024, the Italian police blocked 3,339 work permits for non-EU workers during an investigation into migrant smuggling.⁴¹⁹⁵ It was discovered that criminal groups were using various companies to support illegal immigration.

⁴¹⁸⁹ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 12 November 2024. <https://g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

⁴¹⁹⁰ Italy Sends First Asylum Seekers to Albania Under Controversial Deal, Al-Jazeera (Rome) 16 October 2024. Access Date: 5 November 2024. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/16/italy-sends-first-asylum-seekers-to-albania-under-controversial-deal>

⁴¹⁹¹ President Meloni attends Italy-Libya Business Forum in Tripoli, Italian Government (Rome) 29 October 2024. Access Date: 12 November 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-attends-italy-libya-business-forum-tripoli/26945>

⁴¹⁹² Tajani: "Border Controls Between Italy and Slovenia Dictated by International Security Issues," Agenzia Nova (Ljubljana) 29 October 2024. Access Date: 6 November 2024. <https://www.agenzianova.com/en/news/tajani-the-border-controls-between-italy-and-slovenia-are-dictated-by-international-security-issues/>

⁴¹⁹³ Italy May Extend Border Controls with Slovenia for An Additional 6 Months, SchengenNews (Rome) 19 November 2024. Access Date: 28 November 2024. <https://schengen.news/italy-may-extend-border-controls-with-slovenia-for-additional-6-months/>

⁴¹⁹⁴ G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

⁴¹⁹⁵ Italy Blocked over 3,300 Work Permits, Cracks Down on Mafia-Owned Migrant Trafficking Ring, FirstPost (Rome) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 29 November 2024. <https://www.firstpost.com/world/italy-blocks-over-3300-work-permits-cracks-down-on-mafia-owned-migrant-trafficking-ring-13839859.html>

On 29 November 2024, Prime Minister Meloni spoke to the President of the European Council, Antonio Costa, over the telephone regarding migration in Europe.⁴¹⁹⁶ Prime Minister Meloni highlighted the importance of a legal framework which will allow for the return of irregular migrants and emphasized the partnerships between the EU and countries of origin and transit.

On 13 December 2024, Prime Minister Meloni chaired a virtual meeting with the G7 leaders to discuss international issues and the handover of the Presidency to Canada.⁴¹⁹⁷ One of the key topics raised was for G7 leaders to continue fulfilling their commitments to address irregular migration, strengthen borders, and combat transnational crime.

On 19 December 2024, Prime Minister Meloni attended the European Council meeting held in Brussels.⁴¹⁹⁸ During the meeting, Prime Minister Meloni demonstrated Italy's commitment to finding innovative solutions for managing migration and expressed interest in finding ways to strengthen the legal framework regarding the return of migrants.

On 19 December 2024, Prime Minister Meloni hosted an informal meeting with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Dutch Prime Minister, Dick Schoof, on the “margins of the European Council” meeting.⁴¹⁹⁹ The Prime Ministers agreed on strengthening the concepts of “safe country of origin” and “safe third country” as a foundation for the possible creation of “safety hubs” in third countries. Additionally, Prime Minister Meloni highlighted the need to counter irregular migration by breaking the “business model of human traffickers”. This action demonstrates Italy's engagement in collaborative discussions on migration management.

On 23 December 2024, Prime Minister Meloni chaired a meeting on the implementation of the Italy-Albania Protocol, following the ruling by the Italian Court of Cassation, which reiterated the responsibilities of countries of origin in line with the European Council's “innovation solutions to the migration phenomenon”.⁴²⁰⁰ During this meeting, Prime Minister Meloni reinforced Italy's commitment to enforcing border control measures through the Italy-Albania Protocol.

On 24 January 2025, Prime Minister Meloni met with European Commissioner for the Mediterranean Dubravka Suica and discussed strengthening the EU's relations with its “Southern Neighbourhood through the “Pact for the Mediterranean”.⁴²⁰¹ Prime Minister Meloni emphasized the importance of the Pact being based on agreements centred around security and migration management.

⁴¹⁹⁶ President Meloni's telephone conversation with incoming European Council President António Costa, Italian Government (Rome) 29 November 2024. Access Date: 6 December 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-telephone-conversation-incoming-european-council-president-antonio-costa>

⁴¹⁹⁷ President Meloni chairs a G7 Leaders' meeting. Focus on Ukraine, the Middle East, Venezuela and the handover of the G7 Presidency from Italy to Canada, Italian Government (Rome). 13 December 2024. Access Date: 17 February 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-chairs-g7-leaders-meeting-focus-ukraine-middle-east-venezuela-and-handover>

⁴¹⁹⁸ President Meloni attends European Council, Italian Government: Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Brussels). 19 December 2024. Access Date: 7 January 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-attends-european-council/27323>

⁴¹⁹⁹ Informal meeting in Brussels on Migration management and innovative solutions, Italian Government: Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Brussels). 19 December 2024. Access Date: 7 January 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/informal-meeting-brussels-migration-management-and-innovative-solutions/27321>

⁴²⁰⁰ Meeting on implementation of the Italy-Albania Protocol, Italian Government: Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome). 23 December 2024. Access Date: 7 January 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/meeting-implementation-italy-albania-protocol/27372>

⁴²⁰¹ Meeting with the European Commissioner for the Mediterranean, Dubravka Suica, Italian Government (Rome). 24 January 2025. Access Date: 17 February 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/meeting-european-commissioner-mediterranean-dubravka-suica/27539>

On 10 February 2025, Prime Minister Meloni met with Federal Chancellor of Austria Alexander Schallenberg and discussed the EU and international agendas, with an emphasis on migration issues and security.⁴²⁰²

On 18 February 2025, Prime Minister Meloni met with European Commissioner for Internal Affairs Magnus Brunner to discuss migration policies. They discussed the importance of strengthening cooperation with the migrant's countries of origin, improving regulations on migrant returns in the EU, and upholding the Pact on Migration and Asylum.⁴²⁰³

On 26 February 2025, Prime Minister Meloni met with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and discussed irregular migration and the bilateral relations between Italy and Sweden to resolve migration issues.⁴²⁰⁴ Specifically, Prime Minister Meloni thanked the Swedish Prime Minister for his support on the concept of the “safe country of origin” at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

On 27 February 2025, Prime Minister Meloni held a telephone meeting with the President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi where they discussed the bilateral relations between Italy and Egypt.⁴²⁰⁵ They focused specifically on the efforts by both countries in combatting irregular migration, based on the previously signed memorandum of understanding agreement between the EU and Egypt.

On 11 March 2025, Prime Minister Meloni met with Danish Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen and discussed Italy and Denmark's cooperation on tackling irregular migration.⁴²⁰⁶ Prime Minister Meloni reviewed possibilities to further strengthen Italy and Denmark's bilateral cooperation on migration.

On 12 March 2025, Prime Minister Meloni met with Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof.⁴²⁰⁷ Their meeting was centred around the shared coordination of Italy and the Netherlands in fighting against irregular migration. Both leaders expressed the importance of continuing to find solutions to strengthen border management, particularly through preliminary rulings at the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning the concept of a “safe country of origin.”

On 14 March 2025, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani and the G7 foreign ministers of reaffirmed their commitment to combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, following the 2024 G7 Action Plan.⁴²⁰⁸ This will enhance cooperation between member states to curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling.

On 20 March 2025, Prime Minister Meloni, alongside Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof, attended an informal meeting on the margins of the European Council meeting

⁴²⁰² Meeting with the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Italian Government (Rome). 10 February 2025. Access Date: 17 February 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/meeting-federal-chancellor-republic-austria/27643>

⁴²⁰³ President Meloni Meets with the European Commissioner for Internal Affairs, Magnus Brunner, Italian Government (Rome). 18 February 2025. Access Date: 1 March 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-meets-european-commissioner-internal-affairs-and-migration-magnus-brunner>

⁴²⁰⁴ President Meloni Meets with the Swedish Prime Minister, Italian Government (Rome). 26 February 2025. Access Date: 20 April 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-meets-swedish-prime-minister/27748>

⁴²⁰⁵ Telephone Conversation with President El-Sisi of Egypt, Italian Government (Rome). 27 February 2025. Access Date: 20 April 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/telephone-conversation-president-el-sisi-egypt/27764>

⁴²⁰⁶ President Meloni meets with Prime Minister Frederiksen of Denmark, Italian Government (Rome). 11 March 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-meets-prime-minister-frederiksen-kingdom-denmark/27918>

⁴²⁰⁷ President Meloni meets with Prime Minister Schoof of the Netherlands, Italian Government (Rome). 12 March 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-meets-prime-minister-kingdom-netherlands/27935>

⁴²⁰⁸ G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, G7 Information Centre (Charlevoix) 14 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/250314-declaration.html>

to discuss the shared interests in strengthening the legal framework for migration returns.⁴²⁰⁹ The meeting emphasized the urgent need to implement elements of the Pact on Migration and Asylum and for stronger commitments to improve coordination on issues of border management ahead of the June European Council meeting.

On 16 April 2025, Prime Minister Meloni announced her support for the EU list of safe countries of origin that were designated as part of a wider plan to combat irregular migration and strengthen migration procedures.⁴²¹⁰ These new efforts allow authorities to activate border procedures earlier so that irregular migration can be halted in other countries before entering Italy or elsewhere in the EU.

Italy has fully complied with enhancing border management enforcement and curbing transnational organized crime involving migrant smuggling and trafficking. Italy has taken strong action in enhancing border enforcement and addressing transnational organized crime related to migrant smuggling and trafficking notably through reintroducing border checks with multiple European countries, collaborating with countries of origin and transit, dismantling criminal networks, and engaging in bilateral talks.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Salma Amer Safarini

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

On 21 August 2024, the Government of Japan announced a new travel authorization system that will require travelers from 71 visa-exempt countries to declare personal information online before entry into the country.⁴²¹¹ This system will reduce the number of illegal migrants from visa-exempt countries, providing screening measures before arrival in the country rather than after.

On 9 September 2024, Minister of the Political Section of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations Takayuki Iriya spoke at “the United Nations Security Council Briefing on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security (Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons in the High Sea off the Coast of Libya).”⁴²¹² Minister Iriya reaffirmed Japanese support for combatting criminal transnational smuggle of persons in the Mediterranean and expressed concern regarding the deaths of irregular migrants during transit.

On 16 September 2024, the Pacific Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced the delivery of safety equipment valued at USD500,000 to Palau’s International airport with support from the Government of Japan to enhance Palau’s border security as part of the UNDP Integrated Border

⁴²⁰⁹ European Council meeting of 20-21 March: informal meeting on migration management, Italian Government (Brussels). 20 March 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/european-council-meeting-20-21-march-informal-meeting-migration-management/28013>

⁴²¹⁰ Statement by President Meloni on EU list of safe countries of origin, Italian Government (Rome). 16 April 2025. Access Date: 20 April 2025. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/statement-president-meloni-eu-list-safe-countries-origin/28229>

⁴²¹¹ 外国人観光客に渡航前審査導入へ「ビザ免除」悪用の不法滞在排除狙う, The Sankei Shimbun (Tokyo) 21 August 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 October 2024. <https://www.sankei.com/article/20240821-XBC5NDIIVLYZIORXT2RZVHLSY/>

⁴²¹² Statement by Minister IRIYA Takayuki, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, at the United Nations Security Council Briefing on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security (Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons in the High Sea off the Coast of Libya), Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (Tokyo) 9 September 2024. Access Date: 2 January 2025. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/iriya093024.html

Management Project.⁴²¹³ This has strengthened cooperation between Palau, the UNDP, and the Government of Japan while improving border management.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers released the G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants.⁴²¹⁴ The priorities of the plan are to improve collaboration and communication between partner countries, strengthen border management, and discourage migrants by informing them of the risks.

On 13 November 2024, Ambassador Naohisa Okuda participated in handing over advanced security equipment valued at USD120,000 to the Government of Vanuatu in partnership with the UNDP Pacific Office and the International Organization for Migration, as part of the UNDP's Integrated Border Management Project supported by the Government of Japan.⁴²¹⁵ This will strengthen border management in Vanuatu and work to facilitate safe and regular migration through international cooperation.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the commitment made at the Apulia Summit, to address illegal migration through cooperation with countries of origin and transit.⁴²¹⁶

On 29 November 2024, the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines participated in a handover ceremony of 3D laser and mapping technology to the Philippines National Police through the Drugs and Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia program by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.⁴²¹⁷ This will help to increase regional security and strengthen the ability of the Philippines to respond to international organized crime, such as human trafficking.

On 7 February 2025, Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru and US President Donald Trump met in Washington, D.C, to discuss further bilateral cooperation for security and defense.⁴²¹⁸ This commitment to share information to combat illegal migration strengthens the members' cooperation on migrant control.

On 26 February 2025, the Government of Japan contributed USD1.5 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support humanitarian border management and healthcare initiatives in Sudan.⁴²¹⁹ This project involves cooperation between the IOM, the Sudan Federal and State Ministries of Health, the immigration authorities of Sudan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and local stakeholders to help increase security.

⁴²¹³ UNDP Supports Enhanced Border Control Capacity and Security in Palau, UNDP Pacific Office (Koror) 16 September 2024. Access Date: 29 November 2024. <https://www.undp.org/pacific/press-releases/undp-supports-enhanced-border-control-capacity-and-security-palau>

⁴²¹⁴ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

⁴²¹⁵ UNDP Strengthens Border Security in Vanuatu with Advanced Equipment Handover, UNDP Pacific Office (Port Vila) 13 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.undp.org/pacific/press-releases/undp-strengthens-border-security-vanuatu-advanced-equipment-handover>

⁴²¹⁶ G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

⁴²¹⁷ Handover Ceremony of Investigative Equipment to the Philippine National Police, Embassy of Japan in the Philippines (Manila) 29 November 2024. Access date: 20 January 2025. https://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/11_000001_01717.html

⁴²¹⁸ United States-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement, The White House (Washington) 7 February 2025. Access Date: 10 February 2025. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/02/united-states-japan-joint-leaders-statement/>

⁴²¹⁹ Japan Deepens its Support to Emergency Health and Border Management in Sudan, United Nations in Sudan (Port Sudan) 26 February 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://sudan.un.org/en/289862-japan-deepens-its-support-emergency-health-and-border-management-sudan?>

On 5 March 2025, Ambassador to Palau Orikasa Hiroyuki signed a deal to exchange notes on the introduction of an electronic machine-readable passport in Palau.⁴²²⁰ This is part of a plan to enhance the capacity of border management through collaboration between Japan and the Republic of Palau.

On 12 March 2025, the Government of Japan pledged USD55 million to the IOM to support its operations.⁴²²¹ This will aid the IOM's ability to support migrants and implement border management solutions in 33 countries.

On 14 March 2025, Minister for Foreign Affairs Takeshi Iwaya and the G7 foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, following the 2024 G7 Action Plan.⁴²²² This will enhance cooperation between member states to curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking of persons. Japan has demonstrated strong actions in both commitment dimensions and has enhanced the building of partnerships in each dimension. It has enhanced border management and enforcement by supporting international partnerships to improve border security. Japan has facilitated partnerships to counter human trafficking and illegal migration, participating in initiatives that increase the capacity of other nations to deal with migration and border management.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Maya Tran

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

On 7 July 2024, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper announced the launch of the Border Security Command (BSC), a new agency dedicated to strengthening Britain's border management.⁴²²³ Border Security Command will cooperate with other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to secure borders and apprehend smuggling gangs. Additionally, the United Kingdom Home Office announced the preparation of new legislation that will provide more powers and stronger measures for law agencies to stop immigration crime.

On 12 July 2024, the National Crime Agency (NCA) announced the success of an investigation which convicted key members of the Teesside crime group for trafficking migrants into the UK.⁴²²⁴ This demonstrates the law enforcement agencies' continued commitment to dismantling criminal networks and securing UK borders.

⁴²²⁰ Grant Assistance to the Republic of Palau: Signing and Exchange of Notes on "the Project for Enhancing Border Management Capacity through the introduction of eMRP (Electronic Machine-Readable Passport)", Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Koror) 5 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_01049.html

⁴²²¹ Japan Pledges USD 55 Million in Support of IOM's Operations in 33 Countries, International Organization for Migration (Geneva) 12 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://www.iom.int/news/japan-pledges-usd-55-million-support-ioms-operations-33-countries>

⁴²²² G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, G7 Information Centre (Charlevoix) 14 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/250314-declaration.html>

⁴²²³ Home Secretary launches new Border Security Command, Home Office (London) 7 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-launches-new-border-security-command>

⁴²²⁴ Teesside crime group convicted of trafficking migrants into the UK, National Crime Agency (London) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/teesside-crime-group-convicted-of-trafficking-migrants-into-the-uk>

On 18 July 2024, the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) announced a funding package worth GBP84 million over three years to support projects in Africa and the Middle East to address the source of illegal migration.⁴²²⁵ This funding will support projects that address the reasons motivating individuals to flee their homes. Furthermore, Prime Minister Kier Starmer committed to working with Global South and European countries to tackle illegal migration.

On 24 July 2024, the NCA announced the jailing of Eglantin Doksani, a migrant smuggler who arranged crossings to the UK in small boats.⁴²²⁶ Stopping organized immigration crime is a key priority for the NCA and this arrest illustrates the ongoing efforts made to apprehend criminals.

On 25 July 2024, the Home Office announced the removal of 46 foreign criminals and immigration offenders on charter flights to Vietnam and Timor-Leste.⁴²²⁷ This marks a shift in immigration policy to end irregular migration, with the removal of flight planning for Rwanda and instead partnering with nations to return individuals to their home countries.

On 26 July 2024, the FCDO announced commitments to tackle migrant smuggling and organized crime at the fourth European Political Community summit.⁴²²⁸ This was the first summit where leaders held discussions on migration producing deals between the UK, Slovakia, and Slovenia to tackle organized crime. The UK additionally agreed to increase involvement in stopping migrant smuggling in Europe by expanding their involvement at Europol and allocating an additional GBP84 million.

On 26 July 2024, the NCA announced the arrest of an individual as part of an investigation into an organized human smuggling ring.⁴²²⁹ The NCA has designated dismantling and disrupting organized immigration crime networks as a top priority, vowing to stop smugglers who operate for profit while placing migrant lives in danger.

On 30 July 2024, the British High Commission in Nairobi announced training exercises for the Kenyan Marine Commando Unit hosted by the UK Royal Marines.⁴²³⁰ These training exercises will provide the Kenyan Marines with the skills to counter piracy, terrorism and smuggling, and represents the UK and Kenya's continued partnership in supporting regional stability.

On 30 July 2024, the NCA announced the arrest of a man who is suspected of facilitating illegal immigration that led to a fatal Channel crossing.⁴²³¹ The NCA collaborated with French authorities in this investigation to hold the suspected smuggler accountable.

⁴²²⁵ UK steps up work to reduce illegal migration, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 18 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-steps-up-work-to-reduce-illegal-migration>

⁴²²⁶ People smuggler who arranged spaces on Channel boat crossings jailed following NCA investigation, National Crime Agency (London) 24 July 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/people-smuggler-who-arranged-spaces-on-channel-boat-crossings-jailed-following-nca-investigation>

⁴²²⁷ Criminals and immigration offenders removed on charter flight, Home Office (London) 25 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/criminals-and-immigration-offenders-removed-on-charter-flight>

⁴²²⁸ The fourth European Political Community summit held at Blenheim in the United Kingdom: UK statement to the OSCE, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 26 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-fourth-european-political-community-summit-held-at-blenheim-in-the-united-kingdom-uk-statement-to-the-osce>

⁴²²⁹ NCA arrest man in Wolverhampton in people smuggling investigation, National Crime Agency (London) 24 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-arrest-man-in-wolverhampton-in-people-smuggling-investigation>

⁴²³⁰ All aboard – Kenyan Marines getting into Ship-shape, British High Commission Nairobi (Nairobi) 30 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-aboard-kenyan-marines-getting-into-ship-shape>

⁴²³¹ Arrest follows fatal Channel crossing, National Crime Agency (London) 30 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/arrest-follows-fatal-channel-crossing>

On 21 August 2024, the Home Office declared that it would recruit 100 additional investigations officers to counter gangs involved in smuggling migrants into the United Kingdom.⁴²³² Furthermore, the Home Office said it would impose financial sanctions and legal action on employers caught recruiting “illegal workers,” who would also be deported if appropriate.

On 23 August 2024, the Home Office announced the imprisonment of three members of a people-smuggling ring who were arrested after they were caught smuggling migrants between France and the UK.⁴²³³ This arrest and sentencing are part of an ongoing effort at the Home Office to combat migrant smuggling.

On 27 August 2024, the UK government pledged GBP10.5 million to provide new technologies to three border checkpoints needed for the European Union’s new biometric border identification system.⁴²³⁴ The ports, which have already heavily invested in preparation for the change, will be upgraded with photo and fingerprinting capabilities.

On 6 September 2024, the Home Office announced that a migrant smuggler had been sentenced to 3 years in prison after a Home Office investigation revealed that he had smuggled five Afghan nationals into the UK.⁴²³⁵ This sentencing demonstrates the UK’s commitment to punishing smugglers and those who commit immigration crimes to make a profit.

On 9 September 2024, NCA personnel seized approximately 600 hazardous lifejackets intended for use by criminal groups smuggling migrants over the English Channel.⁴²³⁶ The lifejackets, seized with help from European partners such as Denmark and Italy, were unsafe and would not have saved the migrants in the event of a capsized.

On 16 September 2024, Prime Minister Starmer announced that the UK and Italy would collaborate to subdue migrant smuggling gangs by exchanging intelligence and cooperating strategically.⁴²³⁷ He insisted on the efficiency of bilateral approaches to the countries’ “common challenge” of irregular migration.

On 17 September 2024, Home Secretary Cooper announced that the BSC would receive GBP75 million from the UK government, taken from the Rwanda deportation project.⁴²³⁸ The BSC, which aims to take down migrant smuggling gangs and trafficking networks in the UK and across Europe, will receive surveillance technologies and intelligence resources.

On 9 October 2024, the UK government pledged GBP4 million to the United Nations Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF) to tackle irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking.⁴²³⁹ The MMPTF fights

⁴²³² UK government to boost staff, crack down on employers, in bid to fight people smuggling, Reuters (Toronto) 21 August 2024. Access Date: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-government-boost-staff-crackdown-employers-bid-fight-people-smuggling-2024-08-20/>

⁴²³³ People smuggling ring jailed for cramming migrants in boot of car, Home Office (London) 23 August 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-smuggling-ring-jailed-for-cramming-migrants-in-boot-of-car>

⁴²³⁴ UK to spend £10.5m on new EU border checks, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 27 August 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gz9n06rxdo>

⁴²³⁵ People smuggler jailed for stashing migrants inside motorhome, Home Office (London) 6 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-smuggler-jailed-for-stashing-migrants-inside-motorhome>

⁴²³⁶ NCA and European partners seize dangerous lifejackets destined for people smugglers, National Crime Agency (London) 12 September 2024. Access Date: 18 November 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-and-european-partners-seize-dangerous-lifejackets-destined-for-people-smugglers>

⁴²³⁷ UK PM Starmer pledges to work with Italy on migration, Reuters (Toronto) 16 September 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-pm-starmer-pledges-migration-cooperation-ahead-italy-talks-2024-09-15/>

⁴²³⁸ UK uses funds from scrapped Rwanda deportation plan to boost border security, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 17 September 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20240917-uk-uses-funds-from-scrapped-rwanda-deportation-asylum-plan-to-boost-border-security>

⁴²³⁹ New UK money to combat human trafficking, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 9 October 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-money-to-combat-human-trafficking>

transnational crime related to migrant smuggling, by providing humanitarian and logistical aid in countries of origin.

On 4 November 2024, Prime Minister Starmer announced an additional GBP58 million in funding for the NCA.⁴²⁴⁰ This extra funding will help the agency expand its intelligence technologies, such as security equipment and greater access to data, to protect border security.

On 4 November 2024, Prime Minister Starmer announced the funding of GBP75 million for the BSC.⁴²⁴¹ This funding will provide the agency with staff and technology and will be supplemented by legislation that grants the BSC additional powers.

On 8 November 2024, following an investigation by the NCA, Preston Crown Court sentenced Amanj Hasan Zada to 17 years in prison.⁴²⁴² Zada had been smuggling migrants from France into the UK.

On 13 November 2024, as part of a joint operation with Dutch and Belgian agencies, the NCA arrested a man accused of supplying boats and engines to smugglers.⁴²⁴³ The supposedly “highly dangerous” boats were intended for use in Belgium and France.

On 16 November 2024, following an NCA investigation, the Canterbury Crown Court convicted a group of three smugglers.⁴²⁴⁴ The smugglers had been trying to smuggle migrants into the UK from France.

On 20 November 2024, the NCA arrested 5 men suspected of smuggling migrants from the UK to France.⁴²⁴⁵ The men allegedly organized the smuggling and transported migrants in large trucks.

On 20 November 2024, the NCA arrested Arsen Feci with help from Spanish authorities for allegedly helping smuggle migrants into the UK.⁴²⁴⁶ He is accused of buying equipment and organizing crossings in association with smuggling gangs.

⁴²⁴⁰ PM announces further funding for the National Crime Agency (NCA) and new migration returns figures, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 4 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-further-funding-for-the-national-crime-agency-nca-and-new-migration-returns-figures>

⁴²⁴¹ Prime Minister unveils game changing investment to tackle national security threat from people smuggling gangs, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 4 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-unveils-game-changing-investment-to-tackle-national-security-threat-from-people-smuggling-gangs>

⁴²⁴² Man feted as “the best smuggler” convicted of organising Channel small boat crossings, National Crime Agency (London) 8 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/man-feted-as-the-best-smuggler-convicted-of-organising-channel-small-boat-crossings>

⁴²⁴³ Joint investigation sees suspected small boat supplier arrested in the Netherlands, National Crime Agency (London) 14 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/joint-investigation-sees-suspected-small-boat-supplier-arrested-in-the-netherlands>

⁴²⁴⁴ People smuggling gang tried to use rundown boats for cross Channel migrant journeys, National Crime Agency (London) 16 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/people-smuggling-gang-tried-to-use-rundown-boats-for-cross-channel-migrant-journeys>

⁴²⁴⁵ Suspected members of people smuggling network arrested in NCA dawn raids across London, National Crime Agency (London) 21 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/suspected-members-of-people-smuggling-network-arrested-in-nca-dawn-raids-across-london>

⁴²⁴⁶ Suspected people smuggler extradited to the UK after fleeing to Spain, National Crime Agency (London) 21 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/suspected-people-smuggler-extradited-to-the-uk-after-fleeing-to-spain>

On 20 November 2024, Foreign Secretary David Lammy signed an agreement with Moldova that aims to tackle irregular migration and create a strategic defense partnership between the two countries.⁴²⁴⁷ The agreement will promote stronger border security and help facilitate the voluntary and enforced return of Moldovan migrants.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the commitment made at the Apulia summit to address irregular migration.⁴²⁴⁸

On 28 November 2024, Minister for Development Anneliese Dodds, pledged a total of GBP1.98 billion to the International Development Association.⁴²⁴⁹ The association aims to combat the causes of irregular migration by providing financial assistance to countries with low income.

On 28 November 2024, Home Secretary Cooper signed an agreement with Iraq to combat transnational organized crime involved in smuggling, reinforce border security, and assist with organized crime.⁴²⁵⁰ The agreement will help address migration in a country of origin and facilitate the return of irregular Iraqi migrants.

On 10 December 2024, the Home Office published a policy paper outlining a new approach to tackling Organized Immigration Crime (OIC) and enhancing border security through the BSC.⁴²⁵¹ Recognizing the growing threat of OIC, the BSC is investing GBP150 million for new technology, law enforcement capabilities, and specialist officers to combat OIC. Additionally, they note that the BSC's scope will expand beyond irregular migration to address broader threats such as illicit commodity trafficking and technological advancements used by criminals to exploit borders.

On 10 December 2024, British Home Secretary Cooper and German Minister Faeser co-hosted the Calais Group's fourth meeting in London and together signed the "UK-Germany Joint Action Plan on Irregular Migration".⁴²⁵² This meeting and subsequent joint action plan prioritizes combatting migrant smuggling, particularly through the English Channel, and reinforces areas of potential cooperation between British and German law enforcement authorities.

On 30 December 2024, NCA officials, in collaboration with the Belgian police, arrested the last member of a fugitive smuggling trio in Hertfordshire.⁴²⁵³ The trio, including the other two members who were arrested earlier in the month, were accused of smuggling migrants into Europe and sexually abusing some of them.

On 2 January 2025, the Home Office announced serious crime laws were updated to deter migrant smuggling gangs.⁴²⁵⁴ These changes give more power to law enforcement authorities who can now immediately place

⁴²⁴⁷ UK signs new agreements on migration, defence & security with Moldova, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 20 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-new-agreements-on-migration-defence-security-with-moldova>

⁴²⁴⁸ G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

⁴²⁴⁹ New UK investment to unlock billions to tackle root causes of irregular migration, climate change and growth crises, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-investment-to-unlock-billions-to-tackle-root-causes-of-irregular-migration-climate-change-and-growth-crises--2>

⁴²⁵⁰ UK/Iraq border security pact to target smuggling gangs, Home Office (London) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-iraq-border-security-pact-to-target-smuggling-gangs>

⁴²⁵¹ Delivering Border Security, Home Office (London) 10 December 2024. Access Date: 21 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivering-border-security-statement/delivering-border-security>

⁴²⁵² Fighting Illegal Smuggling of Migrants, German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (London) 10 December 2024. Access Date: 20 February 2025. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/12/london-jointaction-en.html>

⁴²⁵³ Fugitive members of small boat people smuggling network who transported thousands and sexually abused migrants arrested, National Crime Agency (London) 30 December 2024. Access Date: 19 February 2025. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/fugitive-members-of-small-boat-people-smuggling-network-who-transported-thousands-and-sexually-abused-migrants-arrested>

⁴²⁵⁴ Serious crime laws to be overhauled to combat people-smuggling gangs, Home Office (London) 2 January 2025. Access Date: 1 March 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/serious-crime-laws-to-be-overhauled-to-combat-people-smuggling-gangs>

temporary restrictions on people suspected of human smuggling, without having to go through complex processes. This new policy, which allows law enforcement to take urgent actions earlier, will help to deter organized crime and strengthen border security.

On 14 January 2025, Prime Minister Starmer declared that the UK would collaborate with Iraq on migration in a joint statement with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani.⁴²⁵⁵ The two agreed to facilitate irregular migrant returns from the UK, cooperating in strengthening border security and fighting transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling.

On 16 January 2025, the Prime Minister's Office announced that Prime Minister Starmer will travel to Poland to meet with the Polish Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, to discuss the UK-Poland Treaty.⁴²⁵⁶ A part of the treaty focuses on fighting illegal migration and organized immigration crime from across the borders, highlighting the UK's efforts to strengthen borders via cooperation.

On 30 January 2025, Home Secretary Cooper introduced the "Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill" to Parliament.⁴²⁵⁷ The bill would provide UK authorities with greater, "counter-terror style" powers to fight smuggling gangs and secure the border. The new laws would allow authorities to act earlier, criminalize actions that may potentially aid smugglers, and introduce harsher sentences for those who assist in smuggling operations.

On 31 January 2025, Foreign Secretary Lammy stated that the UK would provide funding to skill-building and migrant repatriation programs in Tunisia to combat irregular migration.⁴²⁵⁸ The UK hopes to lower migration numbers by improving the living conditions in the country of origin, Tunisia, and allowing returning migrants to be better reintegrated.

On 24 February 2025, the Birmingham Crown Court convicted six men who were involved in migrant trafficking.⁴²⁵⁹ The men were part of a group that kept and forced trafficked migrants to work in cannabis farms where the migrants suffered poor conditions and were subject to violent treatment.

On 28 February 2025, Secretary Cooper and French Minister of the Interior Bruno Retailleau announced that France and the UK would prolong a pre-existing agreement on irregular migration by one year.⁴²⁶⁰ This agreement extends the Sandhurst Agreement on irregular immigration and border control to 2027, allowing authorities to make use of unused funds.

⁴²⁵⁵ Joint Statement between the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the Prime Minister of Iraq, Prime Minister's Office (London) 14 January 2025. Access Date: 19 February 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-between-the-prime-minister-of-the-united-kingdom-and-the-prime-minister-of-iraq>

⁴²⁵⁶ UK and Poland to launch new defence and security treaty in Warsaw, Prime Minister's Office (London). 16 January 2025. Access Date: 1 March 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-poland-to-launch-new-defence-and-security-treaty-in-warsaw>

⁴²⁵⁷ Counter terror-style powers to strengthen ability to smash smuggling gangs, Home Office (London) 30 January 2025. Access Date: 19 February 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/counter-terror-style-powers-to-strengthen-ability-to-smash-smuggling-gangs>

⁴²⁵⁸ UK partnership with Tunisia to target root causes of irregular migration, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 31 January 2025. Access Date: 19 February 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-partnership-with-tunisia-to-target-root-causes-of-irregular-migration>

⁴²⁵⁹ NCA investigation leads to conviction of gang who forced migrants to work in cannabis farms, National Crime Agency (London) 25 February 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-investigation-leads-to-conviction-of-gang-who-forced-migrants-to-work-in-cannabis-farms>

⁴²⁶⁰ New UK-French action to go after smuggler gangs, Home Office (London) 28 February 2025. Access Date: 20 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-french-action-to-go-after-smuggler-gangs>

On 4 March 2025, the Government of the United Kingdom signed a communique with the Government of Vietnam that signals a desire to tackle irregular immigration.⁴²⁶¹ The governments will work together to deter migrants from using irregular means of entry, share intelligence and cooperate in law enforcement and return unauthorized Vietnamese migrants in the UK to Vietnam.

On 4 March 2025, the Home Office announced that its digital advertising campaign in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq had begun.⁴²⁶² The campaign aims to clear up misinformation about irregular migration and to discourage individuals from making the voyage. The government claims the campaign protects would-be migrants and warns them of the risks they face.

On 6 March 2025, Border Security Commander Hewitt and US Special Representative on Immigration Patrick Stefani signed a roadmap intended to promote cooperation between the UK and US on fighting human smuggling.⁴²⁶³ The agreement aimed to disrupt irregular migration by deterrence through reminding migrants of risks, ensuring the swift return of migrants to their countries of origin and apprehending criminal organizations involved.

On 12 March, NCA officers supported Libyan authorities in arresting a man accused of helping smuggle hundreds of migrants across the Mediterranean.⁴²⁶⁴ The network he is a part of is said to have smuggled over two thousand migrants. This arrest fits into a larger collaborative effort with the Libyan government to fight immigration crime in countries of origin.

On 14 March 2025, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Lammy and the G7 foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, following the 2024 G7 Action Plan.⁴²⁶⁵ This will enhance cooperation between member states to curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling.

On 23 March 2025, NCA officers arrested three people involved in a smuggling operation.⁴²⁶⁶ The three individuals allegedly smuggled a woman and a minor into the UK in a truck.

On 30 March 2025, Home Secretary Cooper announced that gig economy companies would be legally required to verify that their workers are allowed to work in the UK.⁴²⁶⁷ Companies caught not complying could face penalties including fines, closures and even prison sentences for responsible personnel. The government claims this legislation will protect workers and discourage irregular immigration.

⁴²⁶¹ UK and Vietnam sign joint communiqué at annual migration dialogue, Home Office (London) 4 March 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-vietnam-sign-joint-communique-at-annual-migration-dialogue>

⁴²⁶² UK expands campaign to stop migrant smugglers and their lies, Home Office (London) 4 March 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-expands-campaign-to-stop-migrant-smugglers-and-their-lies>

⁴²⁶³ The UK deepens cooperation with France on people smuggling, Home Office (London) 7 March 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-uk-deepens-cooperation-with-france-on-people-smuggling>

⁴²⁶⁴ Four arrested as NCA works with Libyan authorities to target people smugglers in North Africa, National Crime Agency (London) 3 April 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/four-arrested-as-nca-works-with-libyan-authorities-to-target-people-smugglers-in-north-africa>

⁴²⁶⁵ G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, G7 Information Centre (Charlevoix) 14 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/250314-declaration.html>

⁴²⁶⁶ Three arrested in North Lincolnshire as part of NCA people smuggling investigation, National Crime Agency (London) 24 March 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/three-arrested-in-north-lincolnshire-as-part-of-nca-people-smuggling-investigation>

⁴²⁶⁷ Crackdown on illegal working and rogue employers in 'gig economy', Home Office (London) 30 March 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crackdown-on-illegal-working-and-rogue-employers-in-gig-economy>

On 31 March 2025, the Government of the United Kingdom hosted the Organized Immigration Summit in London.⁴²⁶⁸ The summit hosted officials from countries of origin and transit and destination countries to share information on the equipment and supplies involved in “organized international crime.” The same day, Home Secretary Cooper pledged GBP30 million from the Border Security Command budget to tackle organized immigration crime and collaborate with France to fund educational campaigns on the dangers of irregular migration.

On 31 March 2025, the Home Office announced GBP1 million in funding to Iraq, which will be dedicated to strengthening border security and tackling organized crime networks related to human smuggling.⁴²⁶⁹ This funding demonstrates the UK’s efforts in building partnerships and boosting collaboration.

On 1 April 2025, the Home Office released a joint statement along with representatives from Albania, Sweden, Tunisia, the United States and Vietnam on combating OIC related to human smuggling and irregular migration, particularly through online sources.⁴²⁷⁰ They also reaffirmed their shared responsibility and commitment towards fighting OIC through collaboration and action.

On 1 April 2025, the Home Office announced the signing of a joint action plan between the UK and Vietnam.⁴²⁷¹ This plan aims to reduce human trafficking and further strengthen collaboration and information sharing.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. The UK has taken strong action in both commitment dimensions by providing substantial funding both for the strengthening of its border control and security capabilities and for its fight against organized criminal smuggling and trafficking groups. The UK has also collaborated with countries of origin and transit through diplomatic agreements and financial aid to achieve its two commitments, while also leading enforcement operations against smugglers such as seizures and prosecutions.

Thus, The United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Olivier d’Aragon Flores

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

On 18 June 2024, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the rescue of migrants in distress who were stuck in the Peloncillo Mountain range.⁴²⁷² These humanitarian missions are in response to the growing

⁴²⁶⁸ Landmark summit agrees new measures against organised immigration crime, Home Office (London) 31 March 2025. Access Date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-summit-agrees-new-measures-against-organised-immigration-crime>

⁴²⁶⁹ New government fund to go after people smuggling gang bosses, Home Office (London) 31 March 2025. Access Date: 20 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-fund-to-go-after-people-smuggling-gang-bosses>

⁴²⁷⁰ The use of online platforms in enabling organised immigration crime, Home Office (London) 1 April 2025. Access Date: 20 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-organised-immigration-crime>

⁴²⁷¹ UK and Vietnam sign agreement to tackle human trafficking, Home Office (London) 1 April 2025. Access Date: 20 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-vietnam-sign-agreement-to-tackle-human-trafficking>

⁴²⁷² Tucson Air Branch Aircrews Lift Migrants in Distress, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 18 June 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/tucson-air-branch-aircrews-lift-migrants-distress>

transnational criminal smuggling organizations endangering the lives of migrants. Rescues are one of the many responsibilities of the CBP, which engages in securing borders and responding to security threats.

On 25 June 2024, the CBP announced the implementation of new inspection systems at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge.⁴²⁷³ The new Low Energy Portal scanning systems will be installed in the queuing areas at the border, which will allow the CBP to identify vehicles carrying illicit narcotics and other illegal items. These efforts form part of a USD59 million funding package from Congress to secure the US border and prevent illegal items from entering the country.

On 28 June 2024, the US and European Union reaffirmed their cooperation on home affairs such as migration, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and more.⁴²⁷⁴ The meeting highlighted the ongoing efforts and methods being used to combat these issues such as information sharing. Moreover, the representatives increased the discussion of irregular migration to further build on the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling initiative.

On 11 July 2024, the US Department of State announced a total of USD12 million in reward offers for information that will successfully lead to the arrests of leaders of the Tren de Aragu organization.⁴²⁷⁵ The Tren de Aragu is a transnational criminal organization, and its criminal network is involved in activities in Central and South America as well as the US. This initiative aims to disrupt transnational crime by offering rewards and coordinating with the Government of Columbia to apprehend fugitives.

On 12 July 2024, the Department of Justice announced commitments made at the US-Canada Cross Border Crime Forum to enhance border management.⁴²⁷⁶ Both countries agreed to increase law enforcement cooperation to stop firearm smuggling and drug trafficking. Areas of coordination include increased information sharing and joint operations to stop criminal activities.

On 12 July 2024, the CBP rescued migrants locked in a train compartment.⁴²⁷⁷ Border patrol agents are responsible for conducting train checks among many other responsibilities to secure the US border.

On 15 July 2024, the CBP announced the success of border patrol agents in stopping illegal entries into the US from Canada, among which were human smuggling attempts.⁴²⁷⁸ These cases showed the success of imaging technology and collaboration between the US CBP and local law enforcement in stopping illegal entry into the country.

⁴²⁷³ New Non-Intrusive Inspection Systems to Be Added to Juarez Lincoln Bridge, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 25 June 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/new-non-intrusive-inspection-systems-be-added-juarez-lincoln-bridge>

⁴²⁷⁴ Joint Press Release Following the EU-U.S Ministerial on Justice and Home Affairs, 21 June 2024, U.S Department of Homeland Security (Washington) 28 June 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/06/28/joint-press-release-following-eu-us-ministerial-justice-and-home-affairs-21-june>

⁴²⁷⁵ Up to \$12 Million in Reward Offers for Information Leading to Arrests and/or Convictions of Three Leaders of the Tren de Aragua Transnational Criminal Organization, U.S Department of State (Washington) 11 July 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.state.gov/up-to-12-million-in-reward-offers-for-information-leading-to-arrests-and-or-convictions-of-three-leaders-of-the-tren-de-aragua-transnational-criminal-organization/>

⁴²⁷⁶ Joint Communique From the 2024 U.S-Canada Cross Border Crime Forum (CBCF), U.S Department of Justice (Washington) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/joint-communique-2024-us-canada-cross-border-crime-forum-cbcf>

⁴²⁷⁷ Border Patrol Agents Rescue Migrants Stowed Away in a Locked Train Compartment at Laredo Sector, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 22 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-agents-rescue-migrants-stowed-away-locked-train>

⁴²⁷⁸ USBP Foils Human Smuggling Attempts, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 22 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/usbpf-foils-human-smuggling-attempts>

On 15 July 2024, the CBP implemented measures to ensure a smooth and secure flow of border traffic at the Laredo Port of Entry due to an increase in international travelers.⁴²⁷⁹ Travellers were encouraged to take advantage of facial biometrics technology and use the CBP app to reduce wait times while helping CBP maintain border security standards.

On 16 July 2024, the CBP released details on the arrest of four individuals who illegally entered the US from Canada on the St. Clair River.⁴²⁸⁰ The success of this operation was enabled by the close law enforcement partnership between the US and Canada.

On 22 July 2024, the CBP announced the expansion of operations to stop the criminal activities of transnational crime organizations.⁴²⁸¹ The expansion of Operation Plaza Spike will stop and prevent illegal drug trafficking, exploitation of vulnerable migrants, and violence in communities at the US-Mexico border. This increase in law enforcement coverage will help better secure the southwest border and allow the CBP to target plaza bosses and cartels to reduce criminal activity.

On 8 August 2024, the CBP announced that Air and Marines Operations aircrews and Border Patrol agents had successfully rescued wounded undocumented migrants.⁴²⁸² This action reaffirms the US's commitment to confronting security threats, securing the border and responding to emergency situations.

On 22 August 2024, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Justice Department in collaboration with Guatemalan law enforcement under the Joint Task Force Alpha, executed multiple search and arrest warrants throughout Guatemala, leading to the arrest of a Guatemalan national indicted in Texas for alleged involvement in a human smuggling network.⁴²⁸³ This involvement is tied to the 2022 San Antonio incident that resulted in the deaths of 53 migrants. This extensive bilateral cooperation disrupted such transnational smuggling networks that aimed to exploit migrants and undermine the security of US borders, also enhancing international cooperation.

On 28 August 2024, the DHS, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and CBP, announced over USD380 million for Shelter and Service Programs.⁴²⁸⁴ This supports migrant-hosting communities by reducing burdens on short-term holding facilities, and humanely addressing and stabilizing migration while also effectively managing border facilities.

⁴²⁷⁹ Laredo Port of Entry Prepares and Implements Facilitation Measures for Increased Summer Traffic, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 15 July 2024. Access Date: 22 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/laredo-port-entry-prepares-and-implements-facilitation-measures-2>

⁴²⁸⁰ Border Patrol Stops Cross-Border Smuggling Event on St. Clair River, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 16 July 2024. Access Date: 23 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-stops-cross-border-smuggling-event-st-clair-river>

⁴²⁸¹ ICYMI: CBP Announces Expanded Operations Targeting Transnational Criminal Organizations, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 22 July 2024. Access Date: 23 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/icymi-cbp-announces-expanded-operations-targeting-transnational>

⁴²⁸² Air and Marine Operations and Border Patrol Agents work together to rescue wounded undocumented migrants, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 8 August 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/air-and-marine-operations-and-border-patrol-agents-work-together>

⁴²⁸³ Major Enforcement Operation in Guatemala Secures Arrest of Human Smuggler Indicted by Joint Task Force Alpha for Links to 2022 Mass Casualty Event in Texas, Homeland Security (Washington) 22 August 2024. Access Date: 28 October 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/08/22/major-enforcement-operation-guatemala-secures-arrest-human-smuggler-indicted-jtfa>

⁴²⁸⁴ Department of Homeland Security Announces \$380 Million in Additional Funding to Communities Receiving Migrants, Homeland Security (Washington) 28 August 2024. Access Date: 01 November 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/08/28/department-homeland-security-announces-380-million-additional-funding-communities>

On 29 August 2024, the CBP and the Government of Mexico announced the continuation of their law enforcement partnership to arrest criminals wanted by both countries and to stop transnational crime.⁴²⁸⁵ Five new criminal targets were announced who are involved in human smuggling, drug trafficking, and other crimes.

On 5 September 2024, the Department of State announced the Aumoana Regional Law Enforcement Initiative, which will train and provide support to Pacific allies to improve law enforcement capabilities.⁴²⁸⁶ This initiative will help stop illegal maritime activities such as drug and migrant trafficking, and other crimes.

On 9 September 2024, the House of Representatives passed the Subterranean Border Defense Act to strengthen border security by detecting and destroying illegal tunnel activity under the US-Mexico border.⁴²⁸⁷ This legislation ensures Congress can forge another layer of defense and other necessary means to address growing threats of illicit cross-border tunnels.

On 13 September 2024, the CBP announced a multilayered enforcement strategy to enhance border security through stricter regulation on de minimis shipments.⁴²⁸⁸ Such shipments include low-value imports that are often exploited and thus bypass trade and safety laws. These actions improve the monitoring and enforcement of borders, increasing the capacity to combat illicit trade and practices, particularly in narcotics and forced labor.

On 13 September 2024, the CBP announced the signing of a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement with Uzbekistan aimed at improving cooperation on law enforcement and customs support between the two countries.⁴²⁸⁹ This new agreement allows both countries to exchange information, combat drug trafficking, and halt the operations of transnational criminal organizations together.

On 25 September 2024, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced over USD686 million in “new humanitarian, development, economic and security assistance to support partner countries.”⁴²⁹⁰ This allows for resource mobilization to increase the prosecutions of human smuggling and trafficking networks, impose greater restrictions on irregular migration and expand lawful pathways for migration and border protection.

On 30 September 2024, President Joe Biden issued an updated Proclamation and a joint final rule with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General to restrict asylum eligibility for individuals entering the country and enforce timely consequences for those who cross unlawfully at the southern border.⁴²⁹¹ This

⁴²⁸⁵ U.S. Custom and Border Protection, Government of Mexico counterparts in Chihuahua continue law enforcement partnership on Se Busca Informacion initiative to find wanted criminals, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 29 August 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-customs-and-border-protection-government-mexico-counterparts>

⁴²⁸⁶ Aumoana Regional Law Enforcement Initiative Announced in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.state.gov/aumoana-regional-law-enforcement-initiative-announced-in-nukualofa-tonga/>

⁴²⁸⁷ Rep. Eli Crane's Bipartisan Border Security Bill Passes U.S. House, Representative Eli Crane House (United States) 09 September 2024. Access Date: 30 October 2024. <https://crane.house.gov/2024/09/09/rep-eli-cranes-bipartisan-border-security-bill-passes-u-s-house/>

⁴²⁸⁸ DHS Workforce on the Frontlines of Biden-Harris Administration's New Executive Actions to Address Surge in De Minimis Shipments and Protect American Consumers, Workers, and Businesses, Homeland Security (Washington) 13 September 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/09/13/dhs-workforce-frontlines-biden-harris-administrations-new-executive-actions-address>

⁴²⁸⁹ US, Uzbekistan sign Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 13 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/us-uzbekistan-sign-customs-mutual-assistance-agreement>

⁴²⁹⁰ Fact sheet: Fourth Ministerial Meeting on the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, The White House (Washington) 26 September 2024. Access Date: 29 October 2024. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/09/26/fact-sheet-fourth-ministerial-meeting-on-the-los-angeles-declaration-on-migration-and-protection/>

⁴²⁹¹ FACT SHEET: Joint DHS-DOJ Final Rule Issued to Restrict Asylum Eligibility for Those Who Enter During High Encounters at the Southern Border, Homeland Security (Washington) 30 September 2024. Access Date: 01 November 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/09/30/fact-sheet-joint-dhs-doj-final-rule-issued-restrict-asylum-eligibility-those-who>

implementation builds on a previous interim rule that emphasizes limited entries of noncitizens at this border and swift removal of such persons, thus aiming to enhance border security and decrease illegal migration.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers announced the G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants.⁴²⁹² The priorities of the plan are to improve collaboration and communication between partner countries, strengthen border management, and discourage migrants by informing them of the risks.

On 21 October 2024, DHS Investigations and the Taiwan Criminal Investigation Bureau announced the arrest of five suspects through a joint weapon smuggling investigation in both countries.⁴²⁹³ Through such cooperation, the first instance of cross-border transportation of seized weapons under a Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement for prosecutorial evidence was successfully carried out. This cross-border collaboration effectively worked to dismantle this organized trafficking and crime network and enhance border security.

On 22 October 2024, the DHS, with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), deported Indian nationals who lacked legal grounds to stay in the US through a charter flight.⁴²⁹⁴ In collaboration with the Indian government, this action combats irregular migration.

On 31 October 2024, the CBP released details of the “Global Entry partnership” with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which allows expedited immigration processing for “pre-vetted, low-risk” UAE citizens.⁴²⁹⁵ This agreement will promote efficient and safe travel for both countries while strengthening bilateral diplomatic relations.

On 1 November 2024, the CBP successfully intercepted vessels connected to various maritime smuggling attempts in San Diego, resulting in the arrest of over 40 individuals.⁴²⁹⁶ This operation aligns with the US’ dedication to enhancing border security and combat trafficking and migrant smuggling operations.

On 7 November 2024, the CBP strengthened border security and surveillance in the Big Bend Sector of Texas with the addition of two new solar-powered Autonomous Surveillance Towers equipped with “long-range sensors” and “night thermal technology.”⁴²⁹⁷ These installations make use of new innovations to increase efficiency and the ability to monitor border crossings, reduce illegal border activity and disrupt smuggling operations.

On 8 November 2024, the CBP’s Douglas Border Patrol Station collaborated with the Mexican Consulate to rescue an injured, non-citizen from Mexico abandoned by his group in Rucker Canyon, Arizona.⁴²⁹⁸ This rescue

⁴²⁹² Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

⁴²⁹³ HSI, Asia Partners Announce Historic Weapons Smuggling Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations (Washington) 28 October 2024. Access Date: 29 October 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/hsi/news/2024/10/28/hsi-asia-partners-announce-historic-weapons-smuggling-investigation>

⁴²⁹⁴ DHS Conducts Removal Flight to the Republic of India, Department of Homeland Security (Washington) 25 October 2024. Access Date: 20 November 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/10/25/dhs-conducts-removal-flight-republic-india>

⁴²⁹⁵ CBP Announces Global Entry Partnership with the UAE, US Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 31 October 2024. Access Date: 20 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-announces-global-entry-partnership-uae>

⁴²⁹⁶ CBP’s San Diego Border Patrol Sector and Air and Marine Branch arrest over 40 individuals in maritime smuggling, US Customs and Border Protection (San Diego) 1 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-s-san-diego-border-patrol-sector-and-air-and-marine-branch-arrest>

⁴²⁹⁷ Big Bend Sector expands high-tech border security with new autonomous surveillance towers, US Customs and Border Protection (Texas) 07 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/big-bend-sector-expands-high-tech-border-security-new-autonomous>

⁴²⁹⁸ Man from Mexico abandoned by group rescued from Rucker Canyon, US Customs and Border Protection (Tucson) 13 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/man-mexico-abandoned-group-rescued-rucker-canyon>

effort and cooperation with Mexican partners illustrates the US's commitment to preventing the loss of migrant life through international cooperation.

On 14 November 2024, the CBP announced and deployed biometric tests with the use of the “Simplified Arrival-Vehicle Biometric” system at the Peace Bridge Port of Entry, automating document checks required for entry into the US.⁴²⁹⁹ The test will be in place until March 2025 and then reevaluated for continuation. This advanced scanning will strengthen border management, security and control systems.

On 16 November 2024, Border Patrol agents and National Park Service Rangers rescued 13 migrants, including several children, abandoned by human smugglers in Big Bend National Park, located along the US-Mexican border.⁴³⁰⁰ This highlights the US's dedication to combatting migrant smuggling networks and protecting the lives affected.

On 18 November 2024, the CBP expanded the “Global Entry Enrollment” program by launching an “Enrollment on Departure” program at Atlanta International Airport.⁴³⁰¹ This program will streamline traveler programs and thus bolster border management systems while enhancing international mobility.

On 18 November 2024, the DHS, along with ICE, deported Chinese nationals who were not permitted to lawfully remain in the US on a charter flight.⁴³⁰² This will decrease and prevent irregular migration, thereby countering the smuggling and exploitation of individuals.

On 18 November 2024, the CBP announced it will expand its hours of operations at border crossings with Canada in collaboration with the CBSA to improve border security and facilitate more convenient trade and travel across the border.⁴³⁰³ These changes will help to bolster the security of both countries and include efforts to increase border resources at busier ports of entry.

On 26 November 2024, the CBP announced a “Global Entry partnership” with Japan, leading to expedited entry for low-risk Japanese travelers coming to the US.⁴³⁰⁴ This partnership will uplift security, encourage bilateral relations between the two countries, and promote modernizing border security and efficiency.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the commitment made at the Apulia summit to address irregular migration.⁴³⁰⁵

⁴²⁹⁹ CBP Announces Facial Biometric Test for Inbound Vehicle Travelers at Buffalo, Peace Bridge Port of Entry, US Customs and Border Protection (Buffalo) 14 November 2024. Access Date: 27 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-announces-facial-biometric-test-inbound-vehicle-travelers-buffalo>

⁴³⁰⁰ Thirteen migrants rescued in Big Bend National Park, US Customs and Border Protection (Texas) Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/thirteen-migrants-rescued-big-bend-national-park>

⁴³⁰¹ CBP Launches Global Entry Enrollment on Departure at Atlanta International Airport, US Customs and Border Protection (Atlanta) 19 November 2024. Access Date: 27 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-launches-global-entry-enrollment-departure-atlanta-international>

⁴³⁰² DHS Conducts Removal Flight to the People's Republic of China, Homeland Security (Washington) 18 November 2024. Access Date: 28 November 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/11/18/dhs-conducts-removal-flight-peoples-republic-china>

⁴³⁰³ CBP Aligns Hours of Operations at Northern Border Ports of Entry, US Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 18 November 2024. Access Date: 10 December 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-aligns-hours-operations-northern-border-ports-entry>

⁴³⁰⁴ CBP Announces Global Entry Partnership with Japan, US Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 29 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-announces-global-entry-partnership-japan>

⁴³⁰⁵ G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

On 3 December 2024, US Border Patrol Agents searched a vessel suspected to be a part of a migrant smuggling operation, yielding 39 non-citizen arrests.⁴³⁰⁶ This seizure reaffirms the US's commitment to strengthening border security and preventing migrant smuggling.

On 20 January 2025, the Government of the United States enacted policies to close the Southern Border and tighten border security.⁴³⁰⁷ This policy demonstrates the US's commitment to curbing illegal migration, organized crime and potential migrant trafficking.

On 29 January 2025, US CBP discovered a smuggling attempt at the Douglas Port of Entry and took a man into custody in connection with the attempt.⁴³⁰⁸ This demonstrates the US's efforts to strengthen border security and curb migrant smuggling.

On 2 February 2025, US CBP partnered with Royal Caribbean to implement and conduct biometric facial comparison technologies for cruise operations.⁴³⁰⁹ This move will lead to enhanced and efficient border security.

On 7 February 2025, President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba met in Washington, D.C, to discuss further bilateral cooperation for security and defense.⁴³¹⁰ This commitment to share information to combat illegal migration strengthens the members' cooperation on migrant control.

On 12 February 2025, Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Mexican Foreign Secretary Juan Ramón de la Fuente about potential joint actions to enhance the security of the US-Mexican border and target trafficking efforts.⁴³¹¹ Secretary Rubio emphasized efforts to curb illegal migration and utilize cross-border patrol efforts.

On 13 February 2025, President Trump met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch the "U.S.-India COMPACT" initiative and sign a new ten-year "Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership in the 21st Century" to advance bilateral defense ties further.⁴³¹² The leaders committed to strengthening law enforcement cooperation against illegal migration and transnational organized crime.

On 18 February 2025, DHS Secretary Noem signed a memorandum to strengthen immigration enforcement by allowing a maximum of 600 special agents from the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service, as well as employees from the Department of Justice, to assist in arresting and deporting illegal migrants.⁴³¹³ These deputations expand law enforcement coordination and reinforce the commitment to enhancing border security.

⁴³⁰⁶ US Border Patrol apprehends 39 non-citizens from the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Venezuela after landing in Isabela, Puerto Rico, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Aguadilla) 3 December 2024. Access Date: 10 February 2025.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-border-patrol-apprehends-39-non-citizens-dominican-republic-haiti>

⁴³⁰⁷ Forum Analysis: President Trump's Executive Actions on Border Security, National Immigration Forum (United States) 24 January 2025. Access Date: 20 February 2025. <https://immigrationforum.org/article/u-s-southern-border-president-trumps-executive-actions-on-border-security/>

⁴³⁰⁸ Area Port of Douglas CBP Officers Foil an Alien Smuggling Attempt, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 29 January 2025. Access Date: 1 March 2025. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/area-port-douglas-cbp-officers-foil-alien-smuggling-attempt>

⁴³⁰⁹ CBP and Royal Caribbean Implement Biometric Facial Comparison Technology for Cruise Passengers in Puerto Rico, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (San Juan) 13 February 2025. Access Date: 20 February 2025.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-and-royal-caribbean-implement-biometric-facial-comparison>

⁴³¹⁰ United States-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement, The White House (Washington) 7 February 2025. Access Date: 10 February 2025. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/02/united-states-japan-joint-leaders-statement/>

⁴³¹¹ Secretary Rubio's Call with Mexican Foreign Secretary de la Fuente, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 13 February 2025. Access Date: 20 February 2025. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-rubios-call-with-mexican-foreign-secretary-de-la-fuente-2/>

⁴³¹² United States-India Joint Leaders' Statement, The White House (Washington) 13 February 2025. Access Date: 20 February 2025. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/02/united-states-india-joint-leaders-statement/>

⁴³¹³ ICYMI: Secretary Noem Deputized State Department Officials as Immigration Officers, Homeland Security (Washington) 20 February 2025. Access Date: 21 February 2025. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/20/secretary-noem-deputized-state-department-officials-immigration-officers>

On 18 February 2025, US CBP Air and Marine Operations intercepted a maritime smuggling attempt leading to 24 arrests near the Florida Coast.⁴³¹⁴ This seizure aligns with the US's commitment to combatting trafficking and migrant smuggling operations while tightening border security.

On 21 February 2025, Secretary Rubio spoke with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov to discuss continued cooperation in support of the greater Central Asia.⁴³¹⁵ Both representatives stressed continued cooperation and bilateral efforts towards dismantling illegal migration and counterterrorism.

On 12 February 2025, US CBP Air and Marine Operations halted a maritime smuggling attempt nearby the Florida Coast, stopping 13 individuals from entering the US unlawfully.⁴³¹⁶ This demonstrates the US's commitment to tightening border security.

On 25 February 2025, Secretary Noem announced that the DHS is enforcing the Immigration and Nationality Act to deport illegal migrants.⁴³¹⁷ This strengthens the country's border security and control measures.

On 3 March 2025, the Department of Justice arrested a Guatemalan national and several co-conspirators for operating one of the largest human smuggling organizations in the US, which smuggled approximately 20,000 refugees through unsafe methods.⁴³¹⁸ This directly upholds the US's commitment to combating migrant smuggling by dismantling transnational organized crime networks.

On 5 March 2025, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Joly discussed the two countries' plans to collaborate on shared goals of border control and national safety.⁴³¹⁹ This call highlights the importance of US-Canadian relations and is a step towards enhancing US border security.

On 5 March 2025, Secretary Rubio announced a visa restriction policy applicable to foreign government officials allegedly responsible for facilitating illegal migration into the country.⁴³²⁰ By enacting this policy, the US holds foreign officials accountable and strengthens border security by targeting implicated figures of authority.

On 10 March 2025, Secretary Noem announced that the DHS is launching the CBP Home mobile application, which allows illegal migrants to undergo the process of self-deportation.⁴³²¹ By compelling self-deportation, the US works towards adding additional options to improve border management and combat irregular migration.

⁴³¹⁴ Air and Marine Operations Interdicts Maritime Smuggling Attempt Off the Florida Coast, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Miami) 20 February 2025. Access Date: 21 February 2025. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/air-and-marine-operations-interdicts-maritime-smuggling-attempt>

⁴³¹⁵ Secretary Rubio's Call with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Saidov, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 21 February 2025. Access Date: 21 February 2025. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-rubios-call-with-uzbekistan-foreign-minister-saidov/>

⁴³¹⁶ Air and Marine Operations Intercepts Maritime Smuggling Attempt Off Florida Coast, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 12 February 2025. Access Date: 1 March 2025. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/air-and-marine-operations-intercepts-maritime-smuggling-attempt>

⁴³¹⁷ Secretary Noem Announces Agency Will Enforce Laws that Penalize Aliens in the Country Illegally, Homeland Security (Washington) 25 February 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/25/secretary-noem-announces-agency-will-enforce-laws-penalize-aliens-country-illegally>

⁴³¹⁸ Guatemalan National Arrested on Indictment Charging Him with Leading One of the Largest Human Smuggling Rings in U.S., Department of Justice (Los Angeles) 3 March 2025. Access Date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/guatemalan-national-arrested-indictment-charging-him-leading-one-largest-human>

⁴³¹⁹ Secretary Rubio's Call with Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 March 2025. Access Date: 5 April 2025. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-rubios-call-with-canadian-minister-of-foreign-affairs-melanie-joly/>

⁴³²⁰ Announcement of a Visa Restriction Policy Targeting Foreign Officials and Others Facilitating Illegal Migration into the United States, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 March 2025. Access Date: 5 April 2025. <https://www.state.gov/announcement-of-a-visa-restriction-policy-targeting-foreign-officials-and-others-facilitating-illegal-migration-into-the-united-states/>

⁴³²¹ DHS Launches CBP Home App with Self-Deport Reporting Feature, Homeland Security (Washington) 10 March 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/03/10/dhs-launches-cbp-home-app-self-deport-reporting-feature>

On 14 March 2025, Secretary Rubio and the G7 foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, following the 2024 G7 Action Plan.⁴³²² This will enhance cooperation between member states to curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling.

On 28 March 2025, Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau spoke with Spanish State Secretary for Foreign and Global Affairs Diego Martinez Belio.⁴³²³ They reaffirmed the importance of the US-Spain partnership and discussed deepening ties on mutual interests, such as cooperation on migration.

On 25 March 2025, Secretary Rubio traveled to Jamaica, Guyana and Suriname to meet with heads of state from Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti.⁴³²⁴ During this discussion, they addressed illegal immigration by seeking bilateral partnerships to dismantle transnational criminal networks.

On 1 April 2025, representatives from the US, Albania, Sweden, Tunisia, the UK and Vietnam released a joint statement on combating OIC related to human smuggling and irregular migration, particularly through online sources.⁴³²⁵ They also reaffirmed their shared responsibility and commitment towards fighting OIC through collaboration and action.

On 4 April 2025, Deputy Secretary Landau spoke with Panamanian Foreign Minister Javier Martinez.⁴³²⁶ Together, they reaffirmed shared US-Panamanian priorities in halting illegal immigration and expressed gratitude for current bilateral relations.

On 7 April 2025, Deputy Secretary Landau and Uzbekistani National Security Council Deputy Chairman Abdulaziz Kamilov met to reiterate continued bilateral cooperation for countering illegal immigration and counterterrorism.⁴³²⁷ This action supports the US' commitment to collaborating internationally to counter migrant smuggling and irregular migration.

On 7 April 2025, Secretary Rubio spoke with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar.⁴³²⁸ Together, they underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation on law enforcement initiatives to address illegal immigration.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. The U.S. has taken strong actions in both commitment dimensions by effectively working

⁴³²² G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, G7 Information Centre (Charlevoix) 14 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/250314-declaration.html>

⁴³²³ Deputy Secretary Landau's Call with Spanish State Secretary for Foreign and Global Affairs Martinez Belio, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 28 March 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.state.gov/deputy-secretary-landaus-call-with-spanish-state-secretary-for-foreign-and-global-affairs-martinez-belio/>

⁴³²⁴ On-the-Record Briefing on Secretary of State Marco Rubio's Travel to Jamaica, Guyana, and Suriname, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 March 2025. Access Date: 11 April 2025. <https://www.state.gov/on-the-record-briefing-on-secretary-of-state-marco-rubios-travel-to-jamaica-guyana-and-suriname/>

⁴³²⁵ The use of online platforms in enabling organised immigration crime, Home Office (London) 1 April 2025. Access Date: 20 April 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-organised-immigration-crime>

⁴³²⁶ Deputy Secretary Landau's Call with Panamanian Foreign Minister Martinez Acha, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 4 April 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.state.gov/deputy-secretary-landaus-call-with-panamanian-foreign-minister-martinez-acha/>

⁴³²⁷ Deputy Secretary Landau's Meeting with Uzbekistan National Security Council Deputy Chairman Kamilov, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 7 April 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.state.gov/deputy-secretary-landaus-meeting-with-uzbekistan-national-security-council-deputy-chairman-kamilov/>

⁴³²⁸ Secretary Rubio's Call with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Dar, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 7 April 2025. Access Date: 7 April 2025. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-rubios-call-with-pakistani-deputy-prime-minister-foreign-minister-dar/>

with countries of origin and transit to manage illegal migration, launch joint operations and actively dismantle smuggling networks. Additionally, the US worked to enhance border security and controls through various forms of bilateral cooperation.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ananiya Narmathan

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

On 19 June 2024, the European Council announced the expanded role of Europol in fighting migrant smuggling in member states.⁴³²⁹ Changes to the Europol regulations will increase information sharing, use of biometric data, and assist national law enforcement bodies to reduce transnational crime and terrorism. This will strengthen European border security as well, with closer collaboration between Europol and EU's border agency Frontex.

On 20 June 2024, the European Union Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the success of the meeting of the EU Network of National Coordinators and Rapporteurs on trafficking in human beings.⁴³³⁰ The meeting highlighted the importance of cross-border and EU agency collaboration to combat human trafficking.

On 21 June 2024, the European Council announced the success of the EU-US Ministerial meetings where both sides confirmed their support and need to address irregular migration.⁴³³¹ The parties focused on addressing migrant smuggling and trafficking.

On 24 June 2024, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex announced the success of the coordinated operations with Romania, Austria, Europol and INTERPOL in cracking down on criminal networks engaged in human trafficking.⁴³³² These successful operations are fundamental in securing EU borders and disrupting cross-border crime. In a period of 7 days, authorities arrested 219 smugglers and rescued 1374 victims.

On 24 June 2024, the Council of the EU announced a EUR20 million assistance measure under the European Peace Facility for Kenya Defence Forces.⁴³³³ This funding will enhance the capabilities of the Kenya Defence Forces to respond to threats and maintain regional stability while securing border areas.

⁴³²⁹ Migrant smuggling: Enhanced role of Europol in fighting migrant smuggling, Council of the EU (Brussels) 19 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/19/migrant-smuggling-enhanced-role-of-europol-in-fighting-migrant-smuggling/>

⁴³³⁰ National Coordinators and Rapporteurs discussed trafficking for labour exploitation and forced criminality, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 20 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/national-coordinators-and-rapporteurs-discussed-trafficking-labour-exploitation-and-forced-2024-06-20_en

⁴³³¹ Joint press release following the EU-U.S Ministerial on Justice and Home Affairs 21 June 2024 (Brussels), Council of the EU (Brussels) 21 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/21/joint-press-release-following-the-eu-us-ministerial-meeting-on-justice-and-home-affairs-21-june-2024-brussels/>

⁴³³² Frontex teams up to combat human trafficking, Frontex European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Warsaw) 24 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-teams-up-to-combat-human-trafficking-Y4Mt2H>

⁴³³³ European Peace Facility: Council adopts the first ever assistance measure in support of Kenya Defence Forces, Council of the EU (Brussels) 24 June 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/24/european-peace-facility-council-adopts-the-first-ever-assistance-measure-in-support-of-kenya-defence-forces/>

On 25 June 2024, the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs signed an agreement with Serbia to increase cooperation on issues of migration and border management.⁴³³⁴ This allows Frontex to deploy border guards to areas in Serbia and its borders to increase border security.

On 25 June 2024, the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the discussion for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum at the European Migration Conference.⁴³³⁵ The implementation of the Pact will set a common approach to managing immigration for the EU. It serves as a roadmap which will push EU countries to create their own implementation plans and provides stakeholders with a to-do list of top priorities.

On 26 June 2024, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced key details of the “Priorities of the Home affairs funds” conference where representatives outlined the European Commission’s funding and policy plans for coming years.⁴³³⁶ With the home affairs funds being nearly doubled recently, the conference provided an opportunity to signal successful techniques and proper fund management for projects supporting migration, border management, and organized crime.

On 26 June 2024, the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations announced the delivery of a mobile cargo scanner valued at EUR2.5 million to the Hungarian-Ukrainian border.⁴³³⁷ This EU-funded scanner will improve the flow of trade while detecting prohibited items and speeding up border controls.

On 27 June 2024, President of the European Council Charles Michel highlighted the serious challenge of migration during his remarks following the European Council meeting.⁴³³⁸ He highlighted the immense progress undertaken with the migration pact but drew attention to the need for more cooperation with third countries to address migration.

On 1 July 2024, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the details of the meeting of the Focus Group of specialized prosecutors combating trafficking in human beings.⁴³³⁹ The meeting convened EU and non-EU prosecutors to share experiences on the challenges and best practices for the prosecution of human trafficking cases.

⁴³³⁴ EU signs agreement with Serbia to strengthen collaboration in migration and border management, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 25 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-signs-agreement-serbia-strengthen-collaboration-migration-and-border-management-2024-06-25_en

⁴³³⁵ European Migration Conference on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 25 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/european-migration-conference-implementation-pact-migration-and-asylum-2024-06-25_en

⁴³³⁶ European Commission helps EU-funded projects in migration, security, and borders strive for excellence, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 26 June 2024. Access Date: 26 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/european-commission-helps-eu-funded-projects-migration-security-and-borders-strive-excellence-2024-06-26_en

⁴³³⁷ Commission announces delivery of EU-funded scanner to increase capacity at Hungarian-Ukrainian border, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (Brussels) 26 June 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-announces-delivery-eu-funded-scanner-increase-capacity-hungarian-ukrainian-border-2024-06-26_en

⁴³³⁸ Remarks by President Charles Michel following the European Council meeting of 27 June 2024, Council of the EU (Brussels) 28 June 2024. Access Date: 26 September 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/28/remarks-by-president-charles-michel-following-the-european-council-meeting-of-27-june-2024/>

⁴³³⁹ Specialised anti-trafficking prosecutors meet for the third time to reinforce judicial cooperation, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 1 July 2024. Access Date: 26 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/specialised-anti-trafficking-prosecutors-meet-third-time-reinforce-judicial-cooperation-2024-07-01_en

On 5 July 2024, Eurojust announced coordinated efforts from Romanian and French law enforcement agencies to dismantle a human trafficking network.⁴³⁴⁰ This transnational crime group operated in both France and Romania where authorities were able to apprehend the criminals with the support of Eurojust and Europol.

On 10 July 2024, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation announced the signing of a new agreement with the prosecution services of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru to fight against organized crime.⁴³⁴¹ This increased collaboration between countries will work to disrupt transnational criminal activities, stop drug trafficking, and terrorism.

On 12 July 2024, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the implementation of stronger EU rules to combat human trafficking with the revision of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive.⁴³⁴² These new changes make it easier for authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals and add a wider array of items that count as trafficking. Also, the changes will provide better assistance and support to victims of human trafficking.

On 19 July 2024, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the increased funding of EUR50 million for Bulgaria and Cyprus to upgrade their sea border management technologies.⁴³⁴³ EUR20 million will be allocated to Bulgaria to upgrade their surveillance system with new radars and cameras while EUR30 million will be provided for Cyprus to enhance their radar surveillance system. These upgrades will increase the capabilities of the European Border Surveillance system and allow border management agencies such as Frontex to better respond to issues at external borders.

On 30 July 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of eight individuals involved in migrant smuggling in an operation with the Romanian Police and Border Police.⁴³⁴⁴ The operation benefited from cross-border cooperation between agencies that led to the successful dismantling of the organized criminal network that was smuggling Syria and Romanian nationals.

On 31 July 2024, the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the acceptance of Ireland's opt-in to participate in seven legislative instruments within the Pact on Migration and Asylum.⁴³⁴⁵ This makes Ireland a participant in a joint European approach to managing migration in the EU through cooperation on policies on migration, asylum and integration. Ireland will receive operational and technical support from the European Commission and EU Agencies to support contributions to the common implementation plan.

On 1 August 2024, the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced key details on the EU Technical Support Instrument that will provide tailored guidance on asylum procedures, internal and

⁴³⁴⁰ Coordinated actions from Romanian and French authorities to stop a human trafficking network, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024.

<https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/actions-taken-stop-romanian-human-trafficking-network>

⁴³⁴¹ An important step against organised crime: Eurojust signs Working Arrangements with five Latin American countries, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 10 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024.

<https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/important-step-against-organised-crime-eurojust-signs-working-arrangements-five-latin-american>

⁴³⁴² Stronger EU rules to fight trafficking in human beings enter into force, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 27 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/stronger-eu-rules-fight-trafficking-human-beings-enter-force-2024-07-12_en

⁴³⁴³ Bulgaria and Cyprus receive funding to upgrade external sea borders, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 19 July 2024. Access Date: 27 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/bulgaria-and-cyprus-receive-funding-upgrade-external-sea-borders-2024-07-19_en

⁴³⁴⁴ 8 arrested in Romania for smuggling migrants along Balkan route, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 30 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/8-arrested-in-romania-for-smuggling-migrants-along-balkan-route>

⁴³⁴⁵ Ireland will participate in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 31 July 2024. Access Date: 13 October 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/ireland-will-participate-eu-pact-migration-and-asylum-2024-07-31_en

external migration management, resettlement, and the use of EU funds for nine EU Member States to support the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.⁴³⁴⁶ The support instrument will assist in the operationalization of a common implementation plan for managing migration in the EU.

On 2 August 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 21 individuals suspected of smuggling Algerian and Syrian nationals into the EU in an operation by the Spanish National Police with support from Europol.⁴³⁴⁷ The operation dismantled a transnational organized crime network spanning the EU through collaboration between agencies, disrupting the migrant smuggling route from Algeria to Spain.

On 6 August 2024, the EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM) announced details on the second meeting of the Joint Committee with Libyan counterparts.⁴³⁴⁸ Parties focused on the reinforcement of commitments with the EUBAM partnership to improve border management and expand the capabilities of Libyan authorities to counter cross-border crime.

On 21 August 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of eight suspected gang members involved in migrant smuggling by Bulgarian authorities supported by Europol.⁴³⁴⁹ Four of the suspects were High Value Targets. The operation benefitted from the transnational collaboration between Bulgaria, Moldova, and Romania to raid suspected locations and dismantle a part of the organized criminal network smuggling migrants from Turkey into Bulgaria through the Western Balkan route.

On 3 September 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the detainment of 19 migrant smugglers in an operation with by law enforcement, supported by Europol.⁴³⁵⁰ The operation was the result of cooperation on the investigation by Hungarian, Italian, Romanian, and Slovenian law enforcement authorities.

On 4 September 2024, the EUBAM in Libya announced details on a five-day training program facilitated by the EUBAM in Libya to enhance the operational capabilities of Libya's border agencies by improving information analysis and anti-corruption measures.⁴³⁵¹ This will improve border management in Libya and allow for legitimate cross-border movements.

On 9 September 2024, the European Commission and the Republic of Armenia announced the launch of a visa liberalisation dialogue, allowing for short visa-free stays in the EU.⁴³⁵² This will further efforts to support

⁴³⁴⁶ Nine EU countries receive technical support for the implementation of the Pact, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 1 August 2024. Access Date: 10 October 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/nine-eu-countries-receive-technical-support-implementation-pact-2024-08-01_en

⁴³⁴⁷ 21 arrested in Spain for smuggling Algerian and Syrian migrants into the EU, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Madrid) 2 August 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/21-arrested-in-spain-for-smuggling-algerian-and-syrian-migrants-eu>

⁴³⁴⁸ 2nd MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE REINFORCES EUBAM PARTNERSHIP WITH LIBYAN COUNTERPARTS, EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (Tripoli) 6 August 2024. Access Date: 10 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eubam-libya/2nd-meeting-joint-committee-reinforces-eubam-partnership-libyan-counterparts-tripoli-6-august-2024_en

⁴³⁴⁹ Four High Value Targets leading migrant smuggling ring arrested in Bulgaria, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Sofia) 21 August 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/four-high-value-targets-leading-migrant-smuggling-ring-arrested-in-bulgaria>

⁴³⁵⁰ 19 migrant smugglers detained in Romania, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Rome) 3 September 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/19-migrant-smugglers-detained-in-romania>

⁴³⁵¹ Libya enhances border security through EUBAM training, EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (Tripoli) 4 September 2024. Access Date: 14 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eubam-libya/libya-enhances-border-security-through-eubam-training_en

⁴³⁵² EU and Armenia Launch Visa Liberalisation Dialogue, Delegation of the European Union to Armenia (Yerevan) 9 September 2024. Access Date: 10 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/armenia/eu-and-armenia-launch-visa-liberalisation-dialogue_en

the security and management of travel documentation to counter organized crime involved with migration through EU-Armenia cooperation.

On 10 September 2024, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs and the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs announced details of a meeting discussing the cooperation between the EU and Egypt on migration.⁴³⁵³ The meeting highlighted the success of Egypt in managing irregular migration and the importance of cooperation to establish a holistic and bilateral approach to border management and the return of migrants.

On 11 September 2024, the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the adoption of a harmonized list of supporting documents for visa applicants to the European Union from Mauritania between EU Member States.⁴³⁵⁴ This will increase EU-Mauritania partnerships and dialogue on migration as well as increase border management cooperation between EU Member States.

On 17 September 2024, the European Border and Coastal Guard Agency and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees signed an agreement to enhance collaboration across Europe on border management and humanitarian issues through the exchange of expertise⁴³⁵⁵ This will strengthen cooperation to improve border security and respond to migration challenges in Europe.

On 18 September 2024, Ambassador Katarína Mathernová and the Ukrainian First Deputy Head of the State Border Guard Service Volodymyr Nikiforenko jointly performed the handover of five advanced border surveillance systems acquired.⁴³⁵⁶ This will allow increased efficiency and coverage for monitoring green borders in Ukraine, supporting integrated border management.

On 18 September 2024, the Vice-President of the European Commission announced that the European Union would allocate EUR14 million to the Canary Islands in Spain for the accommodation of the influx of migrants.⁴³⁵⁷ This will enhance the capabilities of the Canary Islands to manage the external border of the EU.

On 20 September 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of eight migrant smugglers in an operation with Bulgarian, Greek, and Romanian authorities within the framework of the regional Operational Task Force.⁴³⁵⁸ The dismantling of the criminal network smuggling Turkish nationals through Bulgaria and Serbia into south-western Europe benefitted from the joint cross-border actions of agencies facilitated by Europol.

On 25 September 2024, the EU's Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation announced the launch of the European Judicial Organised Crime Network to enhance transnational judicial cooperation, involving special

⁴³⁵³ Joint Press Statement on the occasion of the official visit of Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson to Egypt, Delegation of the European Union to Egypt (Cairo) 10 September 2024. Access Date: 13 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/joint-press-statement-occasion-official-visit-commissioner-home-affairs-ylva-johansson-egypt_en

⁴³⁵⁴ The Commission adopts new rules simplifying visa applications for Mauritanian citizens, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 11 September 2024. Access Date: 10 October 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-adopts-new-rules-simplifying-visa-applications-mauritanian-citizens-2024-09-11_en

⁴³⁵⁵ Frontex Strengthens Cooperation with the UNHCR for Enhanced Border Management, Frontex (Geneva) 17 September 2024. Access Date: 21 October 2024. <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-strengthens-cooperation-with-unhcr-for-enhanced-border-management-11Bq4X>

⁴³⁵⁶ Better vision for SBGS to prevent conventional and new threats at the green border, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine (Kyiv) 18 September 2024. Access Date: 14 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/better-vision-sbgs-prevent-conventional-and-new-threats-green-border_en

⁴³⁵⁷ EU to allocate €14 million to help Canary Islands host migrants, Euronews (Santa Cruz de Tenerife) 18 September 2024. Access Date: 21 October 2024. <https://www.euronews.com/2024/09/18/eu-to-allocate-14-million-help-canary-islands-host-migrants>

⁴³⁵⁸ 8 arrested for smuggling migrants across the Turkish-Bulgarian border, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Sofia) 20 September 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/8-arrested-for-smuggling-migrants-across-turkish-bulgarian-border>

prosecutors from all EU Member States.⁴³⁵⁹ This will address multifaceted criminal operations and uncover weaknesses in the system, improving the ability of EU Member States to prosecute criminal groups involved in migrants smuggling and human trafficking.

On 26 September 2024, the European Union transferred Video Spectral Comparator equipment and other border surveillance technologies to Immigration authorities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.⁴³⁶⁰ This supports the EU and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) project to strengthen border management in Bangladesh, aiding in countering irregular migration and building institutional capacity for border security.

On 30 September 2024, the Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt announced EUR12.2 million in funding from the European Union for the Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees initiative by the Government of Egypt and the United Nations.⁴³⁶¹ This will support migration challenges experienced by Egypt and contribute to the bilateral partnership between the EU and Egypt.

On 1 October 2024, the European External Action Service announced the details of Operation European Union Naval Force IRINI operation, indicating 98 suspect flights and 25 airports were monitored in September 2024, which is to be shared with FRONTEX and national authorities to disrupt migrant smuggling operations.⁴³⁶² This will allow border management agencies to better address trafficking operations and demonstrate enforcement efforts, contributing to the reduction of transnational organized crime in the Mediterranean.

On 3 October 2024, the Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh announced details of a EUR12 million regional project to build human and institutional capacity for border management in the region, in partnership with the ICMPD, by providing training and supporting detection services that prevent irregular migration.⁴³⁶³ This will improve efforts to counter transnational organized crime in the region, such as human trafficking, and prevent irregular departures.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Meeting committed to an action plan comprised of five dimensions, which aim at bolstering law enforcement and cooperation largely.⁴³⁶⁴

On 4 October 2024, the EU and the Government of Canada signed the "Agreement on the Transfer and Processing of Passenger Name Record (PNR) Data".⁴³⁶⁵ The agreement legalizes the sharing of PNR

⁴³⁵⁹ European prosecutors join forces to systematically fight organised criminal groups in new network, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 25 September 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024.

<https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/european-prosecutors-join-forces-systemically-fight-organised-criminal-groups-new-network>

⁴³⁶⁰ The European Union supports Bangladesh Integrated Border Management with Equipment to Strengthen Border Security, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh (Dhaka) 3 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024.

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bangladesh/european-union-supports-bangladesh-integrated-border-management-equipment-strengthen-border-security_en

⁴³⁶¹ Official Launch of the Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees, Delegation of the European Union to Egypt (Cairo) 2 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/official-launch-joint-platform-migrants-and-refugees_en

⁴³⁶² EUNAVFOR MED IRINI Activity Report for September 2024, The Diplomatic Service of the European Union (Rome) 2 October 2024. Access Date: 14 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eunavfor-med-irini-activity-report-september-2024_en

⁴³⁶³ The European Union supports Bangladesh Integrated Border Management with Equipment to Strengthen Border Security, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh (Dhaka) 3 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024.

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bangladesh/european-union-supports-bangladesh-integrated-border-management-equipment-strengthen-border-security_en

⁴³⁶⁴ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

⁴³⁶⁵ Canada and the European Union sign agreement to enhance border security, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/10/canada-and-the-european-union-sign-agreement-to-enhance-border-security.html>

information of passengers used in managing “pre-arrival risk assessments,” demonstrating partnerships between the EU and Canada.

On 7 October 2024, the European Commission adopted a proposal to digitize travel credentials for individuals travelling to and from the Schengen area.⁴³⁶⁶ This will allow increased border security and efficiency through advance checks to reduce migrant smuggling, once adopted by the Council and European Parliament.

On 14 October 2024, the Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna announced key information on the discussion at the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.⁴³⁶⁷ Discussion included topics on smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, reiterating the EU’s commitment to continuing to work with partners to improve cross-border law enforcement, particularly with third countries.

On 17 October 2024, President Michel announced the success of the meeting of the European Council, reaffirming the determination of EU members to improve the control of EU borders and combat organized crime and human trafficking.⁴³⁶⁸ President Michel noted convergent interests on border management and security amongst EU members.

On 19 October 2024, Ambassador Vesna Kos attended the European Parliamentary Association Event on EU-Council of Europe Cooperation.⁴³⁶⁹ She called for greater collaboration between the Council of Europe and the EU on various issues, including migrant smuggling.

On 21 October 2024, the Diplomatic Service of the European Union announced the details of the fourth annual Strategic Consultation meeting between the EU and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.⁴³⁷⁰ The meeting highlighted the intent for continued discussions on human rights and migration issues.

On 24 October 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 16 migrant smugglers in an operation with law enforcement authorities in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁴³⁷¹ The operation benefited from transnational analytical, operational, and financial support between agencies to take down parts of a criminal network smuggling Bosnian nationals to Croatia across the Sava River.

⁴³⁶⁶ Commission proposes an EU Digital Travel application for easier and safer travel, European Commission (Strasbourg) 7 October 2024. Access Date: 10 October 2024. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_5047

⁴³⁶⁷ EU Statement delivered at the opening of the Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna (Vienna) 14 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vienna-international-organisations/eu-statement-delivered-opening-twelfth-session-conference-parties-united-nations-convention-against_en

⁴³⁶⁸ Remarks by President Charles Michel at the press conference following the European Council meeting of 17 October 2024, European Council (Brussels) 17 October 2024. Access Date: 30 October 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/10/17/remarks-by-president-charles-michel-at-the-press-conference-following-the-european-council-meeting-of-17-october-2024/>

⁴³⁶⁹ EU Ambassador Participates in the European Parliamentary Association Event on EU-Council of Europe Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 26 September 2024. Access Date: 14 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/council-europe/eu-ambassador-participates-european-parliamentary-association-event-eu-council-europe-cooperation_en

⁴³⁷⁰ Human Rights: EU and OHCHR held fourth annual Strategic Consultations, The Diplomatic Service of the European Union (Geneva) 21 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/human-rights-eu-and-ohchr-held-fourth-annual-strategic-consultations_en

⁴³⁷¹ 16 arrests as police target migrant smuggling across the Sava River, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Zagreb) 24 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/16-arrests-police-target-migrant-smuggling-across-sava-river>

On 24 October 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 11 individuals with suspected involvement in migrant smuggling in an operation with the Polish Border Guard within the Europol Operational Task Force framework.⁴³⁷² This collaboration between agencies resulted in the dismantling of a criminal network of Polish and non-EU nationals, smuggling Belarusian and Russian nationals into the EU through Poland.

On 28 October 2024, the European Commission and the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia signed an Administrative Arrangement to make North Macedonia an Observer Country in the European Migration Network and commit to collaborating in the network by exchanging current information on asylum and migration in North Macedonia.⁴³⁷³ This will reinforce regional cooperation and allow for informed policymaking within EU institutions on migration, asylum, and border management.

On 28 October 2024, the European Commissioner for Justice and the Minister of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a cooperation agreement with the EU's agency for criminal justice cooperation, Eurojust, to increase coordination with EU judicial bodies.⁴³⁷⁴ This will increase the efficiency of cross-border investigations and prosecutions on transnational organized crime and human trafficking, as well as the capacity for Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in investigations. It signals the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the EU's framework of standards for judicial cooperation.

On 29 October 2024, the European Council announced the success of the meeting of the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs where commitments on joint efforts to counter transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking of migrants, and improving border management were reaffirmed.⁴³⁷⁵ The meeting highlighted the importance of cross-border criminal justice cooperation to combat human trafficking and regional cooperation on border security.

On 5 November 2024, the Council of the European Union announced the adoption of an EU law that will regulate the conditions for criminal case proceedings to be transferred between member states.⁴³⁷⁶ This will improve the ability of EU member states to combat cross-border crime, such as migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

On 6 November 2024, the International Criminal Police Organization announced the rescue of 3,200 potential victims of human trafficking and identified 17,800 irregular migrants in Operation Liberterra II, a global operation.⁴³⁷⁷ The operation was coordinated by Interpol and supported by Europol, Frontex, EU4FAST, and others, along with projects funded by the European Commission, the EU, and other organizations. This

⁴³⁷² Network smuggling migrants via Belarus busted in Poland, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Warsaw) 24 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/network-smuggling-migrants-belarus-busted-in-poland>

⁴³⁷³ North Macedonia becomes observer country to the European Migration Network, European Commission (Budva) 28 October 2024. Access Date: 30 October 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/north-macedonia-becomes-observer-country-european-migration-network-2024-10-28_en

⁴³⁷⁴ BiH signs Eurojust agreement on judicial cooperation with the EU, Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina & European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Budva) 28 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bosnia-and-herzegovina/bih-signs-eurojust-agreement-judicial-cooperation-eu_en

⁴³⁷⁵ Joint press statement EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs, Council of the European Union (Budva) 29 October 2024. Access Date: 30 October 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/10/29/joint-press-statement-eu-western-balkans-ministerial-forum-on-justice-and-home-affairs-budva-montenegro-28-29-october-2024/>

⁴³⁷⁶ Fighting cross-border crime: Council adopts EU law about transfer proceedings, Council of the EU (Brussels) 5 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/11/05/fighting-cross-border-crime-council-adopts-eu-law-about-transfer-of-proceedings/>

⁴³⁷⁷ Global raids rescue 3,200 potential victims of trafficking and identify 17,800 irregular migrants, International Criminal Police Organization (Glasgow) 6 November 2024. Access Date: 14 November 2024. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2024/Global-raids-rescue-3-200-potential-victims-of-trafficking-and-identify-17-800-irregular-migrants>

international effort benefitted from the joint cross-border coordination and cooperation to curb human trafficking and illegal migration.

On 12 November 2024, the Delegation of the EU to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina announced the donation of approximately EUR173,234 worth of IT equipment from the EU to the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the State Investigation and Protection Agency.⁴³⁷⁸ This will enhance the capabilities of border security in Bosnia and Herzegovina through international cooperation.

On 14 November 2024, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan announced key information on the discussion at the roundtable on transnational threats affecting the EU and Kazakhstan, exchanging strategies to strengthen border security and combat human trafficking.⁴³⁷⁹ This was a major step in enhancing EU-Kazakhstan cooperation and collaboration to manage illegal migration and transnational organized crime.

On 14 November 2024, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation announced the arrest of a major supplier of small boats to migrant smugglers in a joint investigation facilitated by Eurojust and Europol between Belgian, UK, and Dutch authorities.⁴³⁸⁰ The investigation benefitted from the cross-border cooperation between agencies, as part of an effort to combat migrant smuggling in the English Channel. On

16 November 2024, the European Parliament announced that a provisional deal had been reached with the European Council on the 2025 EU budget, allocating an additional EUR10 million to border management projects and an additional EUR2 million to the Asylum and Migration Pact.⁴³⁸¹ This will improve the implementation of commitments to enhance border security and manage migration in the EU.

On 19 November 2024, the Delegation of the European Union to Albania announced the adoption of a Security and Defence partnership between the EU and Albania.⁴³⁸² This will strengthen EU-Albania cooperation on integrated border management, promoting increased border security.

On 19 November 2024, the Diplomatic Service of the European Union announced the signing of a Security and Defence partnership between the EU and North Macedonia.⁴³⁸³ This will strengthen EU-North Macedonia cooperation on integrated border management, promoting increased border security.

⁴³⁷⁸ European Union donates IT equipment to Border Police BiH and SIPA, Delegation of the EU to Bosnia and Herzegovina & EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo) 12 November 2024. Access Date: 27 November 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bosnia-and-herzegovina/european-union-donates-it-equipment-border-police-bih-and-sipa_en

⁴³⁷⁹ Astana Hosted a Roundtable on Transnational Threats Affecting the EU and Kazakhstan, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan (Astana) 15 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kazakhstan/astana-hosted-roundtable-transnational-threats-affecting-eu-and-kazakhstan_en

⁴³⁸⁰ Supplier of small boats to human smugglers arrested, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Amsterdam) 14 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/supplier-small-boats-human-smugglers-arrested>

⁴³⁸¹ EU Budget 2025 deal: EP reinforces EU programmes and manages borrowing costs, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20241111IPR25334/eu-budget-2025-deal-ep-reinforces-eu-programmes-and-manages-borrowing-costs>

⁴³⁸² Albania: New Security and Defence Partnership with the EU to strengthen capabilities and cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Albania (Tirane) 19 November 2024. Access Date: 27 November 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/albania/albania-new-security-and-defence-partnership-eu-strengthen-capabilities-and-cooperation_en

⁴³⁸³ North Macedonia: New Security and Defence Partnership with the EU to strengthen capabilities and cooperation, The Diplomatic Service of the European Union (Skopje) 19 November 2024. Access Date: 27 November 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/north-macedonia-new-security-and-defence-partnership-eu-strengthen-capabilities-and-cooperation_en

On 21 November 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 25 migrant smugglers in a joint investigation by Germany, Austria, Bosnia, Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, the UK, and other European states, within the framework of a Europol Operational Task Force.⁴³⁸⁴ The dismantling of the criminal network spanning 20 countries into the EU benefitted from the cross-border collaboration between countries and the Joint Investigation Team facilitated by Europol to organize judicial cooperation.

On 25 November 2024, the EUBAM in Libya announced the completion of a Risk Management Training program in partnership between the Libyan Customs Authority and EUBAM.⁴³⁸⁵ The program aimed to enhance border management and security through cross-border cooperation.

On 28 November 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 26 migrant smugglers and the seizure of EUR11 million in assets in an investigation by France supported by Luxembourg, Portugal, the UK, and other EU and non-EU states, in the Indian subcontinent.⁴³⁸⁶ The dismantling of the migrant smuggling criminal network spanning the Indian subcontinent, the UK, and North America benefitted from the cross-border cooperation facilitated by Europol.

On 11 December 2024, the European Commission proposed measures to strengthen border security and counter hybrid threats, particularly at the EU's external borders with Russia and Belarus.⁴³⁸⁷ Additionally, the EU will allocate EUR170 million to enhance border surveillance, improve telecommunication networks, deploy mobile detection equipment and counter drone intrusions at the borders with Russia and Belarus.

On 12 December 2024, the European Council announced the adoption of two new regulations for air passengers arriving in the EU, with airlines having to provide all passenger information to authorities before passenger arrival to allow for advance checks.⁴³⁸⁸ This will improve the EU's border security and ability to fight transnational crime.

On 13 December 2024, Europol announced the arrest of 796 people in connection with organized crimes such as human trafficking and migrant smuggling as part of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats Joint Action Days South East Europe 2024.⁴³⁸⁹ The operation benefitted from cross-border cooperation between 26 countries, coordinating numerous investigations and arrests to combat transnational organized crime.

⁴³⁸⁴ 25 arrests in EU-wide operation against Syrian migrant smuggling network, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Berlin) 21 November 2024. Access Date: 29 November 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/25-arrests-in-eu-wide-operation-against-syrian-migrant-smuggling-network>

⁴³⁸⁵ EUBAM Libya supports Libyan Customs Authority to Strengthen National Staff's Capabilities, EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (Tripoli) 25 November 2024. Access Date: 29 November 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eubam-libya/eubam-libya-supports-libyan-customs-authority-strengthen-national-staff's-capabilities_en

⁴³⁸⁶ France arrests 26 for smuggling migrants from Indian sub-continent, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Paris) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 29 November 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/france-arrests-26-for-smuggling-migrants-indian-sub-continent>

⁴³⁸⁷ Commission proposes measures to strengthen border security and counter hybrid threats, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2024. Access Date: 21 December 2024. https://commission.europa.eu/news/commission-proposes-measures-strengthen-border-security-and-counter-hybrid-threats-2024-12-11_en

⁴³⁸⁸ Passenger information: EU adopts regulations to improve border security and fight terrorism, Council of the European Union (Strasbourg) 12 December 2024. Access date: 28 January 2025. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/12/12/passenger-information-eu-adopts-regulations-to-improve-border-security-and-fight-terrorism/>

⁴³⁸⁹ 796 arrests in massive EU action against organized crime, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Sarajevo) 13 December 2024. Access date: 2 February 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/796-arrests-in-massive-eu-action-against-organised-crime>

On 16 December 2024, the Head of the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina Luigi Soreca allocated EUR1.1 million to Bosnia and Herzegovina to enhance border infrastructure and inter-agency cooperation.⁴³⁹⁰ This will improve the efficiency of border management and aid in combatting irregular migration.

On 19 December 2024, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan released details on the roundtable on transnational threats affecting the EU and Kazakhstan. Discussions centered on security concerns such as human trafficking and migrant smuggling, reaffirming the need for cross-border collaboration through joint efforts.⁴³⁹¹ This strengthens the commitment between the EU and Kazakhstan to cooperate on issues of migration and security.

On 23 January 2025, Europol announced the dismantling of an international human trafficking network in Hungary and Germany in a joint operation by the German Criminal Inspectorate and the Hungarian National Bureau of Investigation THB Unit with support from Europol.⁴³⁹² The operation benefitted from the coordination between agencies, facilitated by Europol, to combat international human trafficking.

On 27 January 2025, Europol announced the arrest of 30 human traffickers involved in a Chinese criminal organization in Spain and Croatia, in an operation conducted by the Spanish National Police and the Croatian National Police as part of a Europol taskforce.⁴³⁹³ This investigation benefitted from cross-border cooperation between experts and agencies, to combat illegal immigration and human trafficking.

On 3 February 2025, Europol announced the expansion of the Secure Information Exchange Network Application from 3000 to 3500 partner.⁴³⁹⁴ This enhances the cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies as well as provides tools to better combat transnational crime, strengthening the capabilities of the European Union to increase security.

On 6 February 2025, the Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation released details on the first meeting of the General Directors of Criminal Investigations and Intelligence involving Europol, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, GCCPOL, and EU member states, with discussions centering on shared security concerns such as human trafficking.⁴³⁹⁵ This aided in enhancing cross-border cooperation on tackling transnational crime networks involved in human trafficking, through the exchange of expertise.

On 7 February 2025, the Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation released details on the Industry and Research Days organized by Europol, allowing national law enforcement officials and Europol to connect with

⁴³⁹⁰ The EU supports BiH Border Police with additional equipment worth £1.1 million, Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina & European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo) 16 December 2024. Access date: 10 February 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bosnia-and-herzegovina/eu-supports-bih-border-police-additional-equipment-worth-%E2%82%AC11-million_en

⁴³⁹¹ Astana Hosts a Roundtable on Transnational Threats Affecting the EU and Kazakhstan, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan (Astana) 19 December 2024. Access date: 28 January 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kazakhstan/astana-hosted-roundtable-transnational-threats-affecting-eu-and-kazakhstan-0_en

⁴³⁹² Violent human traffickers halted in Germany and Hungary, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 23 January 2025. Access date: 2 February 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/violent-human-traffickers-halted-in-germany-and-hungary>

⁴³⁹³ 30 arrested in crackdown on Chinese human trafficking ring in Spain and Croatia, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 27 January 2025. Access date: 2 February 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/30-arrested-in-crackdown-chinese-human-trafficking-ring-in-spain-and-croatia>

⁴³⁹⁴ Casting a wider net: 3500 authorities now linked via Europol, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 3 February 2025. Access date: 10 February 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/casting-wider-net-3-500-authorities-now-linked-europol>

⁴³⁹⁵ First meeting of the GCC-European Directors General of Criminal Investigations, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Abu Dhabi) 6 February 2025. Access date: 10 February 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/first-meeting-of-gcc-european-directors-general-of-criminal-investigations>

the newest advancements in security technology, contributing to the Europol Tool Repository.⁴³⁹⁶ This allows access to innovative tools that aid in border security and management for countries across Europe through cross-border collaboration.

On 10 February 2025, the Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation released details on the national workshop on principles of Integrated Border Management Strategy organized by the EU-funded Border Management Programme in Central Asia hosted in Turkmenistan.⁴³⁹⁷ These workshops aimed to familiarize Turkmenistan state institutions involved in border security and migration control on the integrated approach. The workshop aids in addressing the role of national agencies in combatting cross-border crime, illegal migration, and human trafficking.

On 13 February 2025, the EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya announced that fourteen members of the Libyan border security authorities participated in a training program run by the European Union Border Assistance Mission in Libya.⁴³⁹⁸ This will improve Libya's integrated border management and security capabilities.

On 14 February 2025, the Delegation for the European Union to Ukraine announced the allocation of equipment to Ukraine's State Customs Service with ten Automated Weighing Wireless Systems and training on their use as part of the EU Support in Strengthening Integrated Border Management in Ukraine project.⁴³⁹⁹ This allows the enhancement of border security and the simplification of the customs process by linking vehicle information to its weight data.

On 21 February 2025, Europol announced that it had halted an international criminal organization forging official documents in Poland and Ukraine in an operation by the Polish Border Guards with support from Europol.⁴⁴⁰⁰ This operation benefitted from cross-border cooperation between agencies to end an organized crime group facilitating illegal immigration and migrant smuggling.

On 25 February 2025, Frontex's Executive Director Hans Leijten and European Commission's Acting Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs, Beate Gminder, signed a working arrangement to strengthen cooperation in migration management.⁴⁴⁰¹ The agreement focused on enhancing information sharing about migration patterns across the EU, strengthening the Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint Network, and supporting the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

On 23 February 2025, the Delegation of the European Union to Jordan announced that the EU funded Integrated Border Management Training Centre in Aqaba had been officially handed over to Jordanian

⁴³⁹⁶ Europol hosts its second Industry and Research Days, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 7 February 2025. Access date: 10 February 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/europol-hosts-its-second-industry-and-research-days>

⁴³⁹⁷ Turkmenistan hosts national workshop on principles of Integrated Border Management Strategy, Delegation of the European Union in Turkmenistan (Ashgabat) 10 February 2025. Access date: 16 February 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/turkmenistan/turkmenistan-hosts-national-workshop-principles-integrated-border-management-strategy_en

⁴³⁹⁸ EUBAM Enhances Libyan Border Security with Intensive Training, EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (Tripoli) 13 February 2025. Access date: 16 February 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eubam-libya/eubam-enhances-libyan-border-security-intensive-training_en

⁴³⁹⁹ EU Strengthens Ukraine's Customs Control with Advanced Dynamic Weighing Technology, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine (Kyiv) 14 February 2025. Access date: 16 February 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/eu-strengthens-ukraine%E2%80%99s-customs-control-advanced-dynamic-weighing-technology_en

⁴⁴⁰⁰ Criminal group forging over 12000 official documents halted in Poland, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Warsaw) 21 February 2025. Access date: 21 February 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/criminal-group-forging-over-12-000-official-documents-halted-in-poland>

⁴⁴⁰¹ Commission and Frontex sign working arrangement to strengthen cooperation on migration management, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 4 March 2025. Access Date: 10 March 2025. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-and-frontex-sign-working-arrangement-strengthen-cooperation-migration-management-2025-03-04_en

authorities.⁴⁴⁰² This project is part of a new Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership that will enhance capacity for border management in Jordan and security cooperation between agencies in the EU and Jordan.

On 25 February 2025, the Europol announced the conclusions from the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group with members of the European Parliament, discussing Europol's progress and further efforts to curb migrant smuggling.⁴⁴⁰³ This report underscores the EU's commitment to and progress towards countering irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

On 28 February 2025, the Europol announced the results of an international operational action targeted at detecting and dismantling human trafficking networks focused on exploiting Ukrainian nationals.⁴⁴⁰⁴ This action benefitted from transnational cooperation between twelve countries, facilitated by Europol and focused on disrupting networks using online platforms.

On 3 March 2025, the Europol announced that Frontex's Executive Director and the European Commission's Acting Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs have signed an agreement to strengthen a partnership on migration management.⁴⁴⁰⁵ This transnational cooperation will improve coordination for migrant crises and enhance border management.

On 5 March 2025, the Council of the European Union announced that it has established an approach to introduce an entry and exit digital border management system in member states.⁴⁴⁰⁶ This will enhance border security by recording information on non-EU nationals entering and exiting member states.

On 6 March 2025, the Europol announced the signing of an agreement between the European Union and Brazil to increase cooperation between the Europol and Brazilian authorities through exchanging operational information.⁴⁴⁰⁷ This will improve partnerships for curbing transnational organized crime and human trafficking.

On 14 March 2025, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas and the G7 foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, following the 2024 G7 Action Plan.⁴⁴⁰⁸ This will enhance cooperation between member states to curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling.

⁴⁴⁰² EU-Funded IBM Training Centre in Aqaba Officially Handed Over to Jordanian Authorities, Delegation of the European Union to Jordan (Aqaba) 23 February 2025. Access date: 10 March 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jordan/eu-funded-ibm-training-centre-aqaba-officially-handed-over-jordanian-authorities_en?s=201

⁴⁴⁰³ Europol engages with European lawmakers at the 16th JPSG meeting in Warsaw, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Warsaw) 25 February 2025. Access date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/europol-engages-european-lawmakers-16th-jpsg-meeting-in-warsaw>

⁴⁴⁰⁴ Digital sprint to disrupt sexual exploitation of Ukrainian nationals, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 28 February 2025. Access date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/digital-sprint-to-disrupt-sexual-exploitation-of-ukrainian-nationals>

⁴⁴⁰⁵ Frontex signs working arrangement with the European Commission to Strengthen Cooperation on Migration Management, European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Warsaw) 5 March 2025. Access date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-signs-working-arrangement-with-the-european-commission-to-strengthen-cooperation-on-migration-management-FFUOUf>

⁴⁴⁰⁶ Council establishes position for the progressive launch of a new digital border management system, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 5 March 2025. Access date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/05/council-establishes-position-for-the-progressive-launch-of-a-new-digital-border-management-system/>

⁴⁴⁰⁷ EU and Brazil sign international agreement to fight organised crime and terrorism, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 6 March 2025. Access date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/eu-and-brazil-sign-international-agreement-to-fight-organised-crime-and-terrorism>

⁴⁴⁰⁸ G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, G7 Information Centre (Charlevoix) 14 March 2025. Access date: 21 March 2025. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/250314-declaration.html>

On 20 March 2025, the Europol announced the arrest of 7 migrant smugglers operating in the English Channel.⁴⁴⁰⁹ This operation benefited from cooperation between authorities in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Eurojust and Europol to dismantle the network smuggling Middle Eastern and East African migrants.

On 21 March 2025, the Europol announced that it had helped dismantle a criminal network that had smuggled migrants from Spain to France in a joint operation with the French National Police and the Spanish National Police.⁴⁴¹⁰ The operation benefited from the cross-border cooperation facilitated by Europol to make arrests and seize vehicles.

On 27 March 2025, the Council of the European Union announced details of the 20th EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting.⁴⁴¹¹ The meeting reaffirmed commitments to joint cooperation against organized crime, migrant smuggling, human trafficking and the continued implementation of the Border Management Programme in Central Asia.

On 2 April 2025, the European Parliament announced the adoption of the priorities for the 2026 EU budget, emphasizing investments in migration, border security and increased implementation of the Asylum and Migration Pact.⁴⁴¹² This reaffirms past commitments by EU members towards border management and humane conditions for migrants.

On 4 April 2025, the Delegation of the European Union to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva announced that senior officials from the International Organization for Migration and the European Union had met for the Eleventh Strategic Cooperation Meeting on Migration under the EU-IOM Strategic Cooperation Framework.⁴⁴¹³ They reaffirmed commitments to strengthening migration management policies to curb illegal migration, migrant smuggling, and human trafficking.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment of enhancing cooperation by promoting a three-pronged approach, in partnership with countries of origin and transit, focusing on efforts to enhance border management and enforcement and curb transnational organized crime involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking of persons. The EU has demonstrated strong actions in both commitment dimensions and enhanced cooperation through the building of partnerships in each dimension. It has facilitated partnerships to counter migrant smuggling and participated in operations that dismantle transnational organized crime. Enhancing border security by participating in forums and training programs, that increase border management capabilities. The EU has provided, alongside partnerships with countries of origin and transit, surveillance technologies, training, and supports for commitments to increase border security and counter transnational organized crime. Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Maya Tran

⁴⁴⁰⁹ 7 arrests for facilitating migrant smuggling across the English Channel, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 20 March 2025. Access date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/7-arrested-for-facilitating-migrant-smuggling-across-english-channel>

⁴⁴¹⁰ Network smuggling migrants between Spain and France busted in Marseille, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Marseille) 21 March 2025. Access date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/network-smuggling-migrants-between-spain-and-france-busted-in-marseille>

⁴⁴¹¹ Joint communiqué – 20th EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting, Council of the European Union (Ashgabat) 27 March 2025. Access date: 2 April 2025. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/27/joint-communique-20th-eu-central-asia-ministerial-meeting/>

⁴⁴¹² EU budget priorities for 2026: resilience and preparedness, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 2 April 2025. Access date: 8 April 2025. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20250331IPR27554/eu-budget-priorities-for-2026-resilience-and-preparedness>

⁴⁴¹³ EU, IOM Senior Officials in Brussels for Eleventh Strategic Cooperation Meeting on Migration, Delegation of the European Union to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva (Brussels) 4 April 2025. Access date: 8 April 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-geneva/eu-iom-senior-officials-brussels-eleventh-strategic-cooperation-meeting-migration_en