



Funded by the
European Union



EMN Hungary High-Level Presidency Conference “For more effective returns”

25-26 November 2024

ENSANA Thermal Margaret Island Hotel, Budapest (Hungary)

Draft Concept Note

Version Date: 29 October 2024

1. RATIONALE AND AIMS

For the migration and asylum system and the Schengen area to function properly, it is crucial that a humane and effective return policy is in place so that people without the right to stay in the European Union (EU) return.

Ensuring swift procedures, which are both effective and guarantee the respect of fundamental rights, for the return of people without a legal right to stay in the EU, is part of such a credible return system. Improving the quality and effectiveness of return procedures, therefore, remains high on the political agenda.

To achieve this, there is a need for clear rules and procedures that must be built on solid legal ground, providing for fair and effective procedures, closely interlinked with those related to asylum, including at the external borders of the EU. The effectiveness of returns depends on national rules, procedures and capacity as well as cooperation with Frontex as the operational arm of returns for EU Member States. At the moment, there are challenges in relation to the fragmentation of the management of returns at national and EU levels among several authorities. Furthermore, lengthy and fragmented asylum and return procedures remain a challenge for smoothly and swiftly returning those people without a right to stay. A well-functioning return system is one of the key elements of the success of the EU's acquis implementation. A functioning domestic and common EU return system must be matched with strategic cooperation with third countries to enable smooth readmission.

The purpose of the EMN Hungary High-Level Presidency Conference is to provide food for thought, concrete ideas and good practices to enable more effective and efficient implementation of returns.

2. DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1 (25 November 2024)	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:20	<p>First segment: Political introduction</p> <p>Official opening of the conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sándor PINTÉR, Minister of the Interior ▪ Ylva JOHANSSON, European Commissioner for Home Affairs
10:20 – 11:00	<p>Setting the scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DG HOME representative ▪ Frontex representative ▪ Hungarian government representative (TBC)
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Thematic panel 1 – How to make return procedures work: Effective returns, comprehensive decisions and mutual recognition</p> <p>The EU return system is a cornerstone of the EU migration and asylum management policies. A well-functioning EU return system serves as a deterrent for irregular migration and helps to ensure the credibility of the overall migration and asylum management system. As such, returns are an essential element of the comprehensive approach to migration.</p> <p>Under this panel, Norway is invited to share its practices in simplifying and accelerating the asylum and return processes, its methodologies for making comprehensive decisions that streamline these processes, ultimately leading to more efficient outcomes. Afterwards, EU Member States are invited to share their experience in mutual recognition of return decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NO representative (TBC) ▪ HU representative (TBC) ▪ MS representative (TBC) <p>Moderator: DG HOME representative (TBC)</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Thematic panel 2 – The preparation of the new return border procedure</p> <p>The objective of the new border procedure is to streamline, simplify and harmonise the procedural arrangements of the EU Member States regarding third-country nationals whose application has been rejected in the context of the asylum border procedure. It would eliminate the risks of unauthorised movements and send a clear signal to smugglers.</p>

	<p>Under this panel, Frontex and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) are invited to present an overview of the current return situation based on the number of third-country nationals currently below 20% of the asylum recognition rate and arriving irregularly at the external border and the number of returns of third-country nationals following a negative asylum decision. Afterwards, EU Member States are invited to share the first assessment of the pilot exercise in the implementation of a border procedure at their external border. NL is invited to present its extensive experience with the border procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Frontex representative (TBC) ■ EUAA representative (TBC) ■ IT representative (TBC) ■ RO representative (TBC) ■ MS representative (TBC) <p>Moderator: Gergely BAJNÓCZI (IMEX co-chair, Head of Unit, Hungarian Police)</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Thematic panel 3 – Innovative solutions in the area of return policy</p> <p>Despite the importance of return policy for effective migration governance and good functioning of the asylum systems, the numbers of effective returns remain low. Therefore, different options, including innovative solutions, are being discussed.</p> <p>Under this panel, EU Member States, the Migration Research Institute and the UNHCR are invited to present their approaches to innovative solutions in the return policy area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Migration Research Institute representative (TBC) ■ IT representative (TBC) ■ UNHCR representative (TBC) ■ MS representative (TBC) <p>Moderator: MS representative (TBC)</p>
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap up

Accompanying programme	
18:30 – 21:00	Sightseeing cruise on the Danube and dinner

Day 2 (26 November 2024)	
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Thematic panel 4 - Possibilities offered by comprehensive and coherent return and reintegration systems (incl. counselling)</p> <p>The objective of this panel is to discuss approaches on how using both positive and negative incentives could encourage returns and the role comprehensive and coherent systems in EU Member States play in this regard.</p> <p>Under this panel, IOM, ICMPD, Frontex, Austria and Cyprus are invited to share their experience and approaches to encourage and promote return.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frontex representative (TBC) ▪ ICMPD representative (TBC) ▪ IOM representative (TBC) ▪ AT representative (TBC) ▪ CY representative (TBC) <p>Moderator: DG HOME representative (TBC)</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:45	<p>Roundtable – Digitalisation to support the common EU system for returns – A vision for the future</p> <p>Under this panel, the objective would be to get ideas from EU Member States for the digitalisation of the EU return system to support the efficient management of return, and to explore the possibility of a coherent EU-wide digital system to manage return and readmission for the future.</p> <p>Within this panel, EU Member States are invited to share their advanced digitalised system and highlight the benefits of a digital approach and explore new opportunities in managing return cases efficiently. Frontex is invited to showcase the RECAMAS system, and the European Commission/ICMPD the RIAT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DG HOME representative (TBC) ▪ Frontex representative (TBC) ▪ MS representative (TBC) <p>Moderator: Adrienn NÉGYESI (IMEX representative, Ministry of Interior of Hungary)</p>
12:45 – 13:00	Closure of the conference
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch

3. TARGET AUDIENCES

- EMN NCPs, EMN Steering Board Members
- EU and national policy makers
- EU agencies
- ICMPD, UNHCR, IOM

4. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The event is taking place in person. Online participation will not be possible.

- **Venue:** Budapest ENSANA Thermal Margaret Island Hotel
- **Languages:** English-Hungarian
- **Contact:** emh@bm.gov.hu
- **Website:** [European Migration Network \(EMN\) Hungary Presidency Conference \(25-26/11/2024\) / Európai Migrációs Hálózat \(EMH\) Magyar Elnökségi Konferencia \(2024.11.25-26.\) | Eseményregisztráció](#)

To attend in person, please register [here](#) until **7 November 2024**. A confirmation will be sent within a week after your registration.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Please note that participants are requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements.

The organisers recommend the following hotels for accommodation:

- ENSANA Thermal Margaret Island Hotel (venue of the conference).

Please be informed that rooms have been pre-booked at the ENSANA Thermal Margaret Island Hotel. If you wish to stay at the hotel, please book your room by 4 November via this link:

<https://booking.ensanahotels.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=14785&nights=1&checkin=11/24/2024&group=BELU241125&lang=en-us&currid=47&adults=1&childAges=>

In the proximity of the venue:

- Danubius Hotel Helia
- Verdi Budapest Aquincum Hotel

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME ON 25 NOVEMBER EVENING

- Sightseeing cruise on the Danube and dinner