



# EU STEPPING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST MIGRANT SMUGGLING

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

#MigrationEU #SecurityEU | 28 November 2023

## Migrant smuggling is a global and common challenge that requires common solutions:

Migrant smuggling is a criminal activity that disrespects human life and impacts EU internal security in the pursuit of profit.

- More than **90% of the irregular migrants** who reach the EU **came through the smugglers**.
- In 2022, around **331 000 irregular entries** were detected at the EU external borders.
- Over **15 000 migrant smugglers** were identified in 2022, as reported by Frontex.
- In 2023, until end of September approximately **281 000 irregular border crossings** were detected at the external borders of the EU.
- Migrant smuggling generated over **€200 million for criminals** in 2019 in the maritime routes leading to the EU, with the average cost close to **€3 000 per smuggled person**.
- Migrant smuggling resulted in a staggering humanitarian toll of over **28 000 people having drowned or missing** in the Mediterranean Sea since 2014.

### STRENGTHENING EU PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST MIGRANT SMUGGLING:

1. The Directive on preventing and countering the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and stay in the EU
2. The Regulation to reinforce Europol's role in the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings
3. Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling





## New legislation will:

- help effectively prosecute and sanction organised criminal networks responsible for migrant smuggling;
- harmonise legislation and penalties; the most serious cases of aggravated offences such as causing loss of life to be punishable by a maximum imprisonment of at least 15 years.
- expand the jurisdiction to cases in which non-EU nationals lose their lives (e.g. boat sinking in international water);
- require Member States to have the relevant law enforcement and judicial authorities, to ensure effective prevention, investigation and prosecution of offenders;
- improve the data collection and reporting from the Member States.

### SPECIFICALLY ON EUROPOL, IT WILL:

Establishing the European Centre against Migrant Smuggling for EU-level investigative and operational action;

Reinforce Europol as the EU criminal information hub on migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings by improving the exchange of information between Member States, Europol, other EU agencies (Eurojust, Frontex) as well as third countries;

Reinforce Europol's operational, analytical, technical, forensic and financial support to Member States to prevent and combat migrant smuggling, including through the EMPACT framework;

Reinforce Europol's capabilities for strategic analysis to enhance migrant smuggling situational picture.

