

MED5 Ministerial Summit

November 2025

JOINT DECLARATION

Preamble

1. We, the Ministers responsible for Interior, Migration, and Asylum of Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, and Spain, convened in Malta on 28 and 29 November 2025 to reaffirm our shared commitment to shaping a unified political vision addressing the most pressing challenges on the European migration agenda.
2. After a fruitful discussion, we agreed on the following points.

European Pact on Migration and Asylum

3. We reaffirm our strong commitment to the effective implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum.
4. We recognise the Pact as a pivotal opportunity to establish a coherent, fair, and resilient migration framework across the Union – one that strengthens solidarity, streamlines asylum procedures, and enhances border management, while upholding fundamental rights.
5. As frontline Member States, we underscore the importance of maintaining, throughout the implementation phase, the essential balance and coherence with the guiding principles of the negotiations - particularly the principles of effective solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility as enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
6. With this in mind, we reaffirm the importance of ensuring that the mandatory solidarity mechanism delivers on its promise – providing timely, effective, and needs-based support to Member States facing migratory pressure.
7. Moreover, we advocate for reinforced allocations to both the internal and external dimensions of asylum, migration, and border management in the current and the next MFF. Funds allocated for the internal dimension must take into account that the management of external borders is a responsibility borne by frontline Member States for the benefit of the entire Union.

External Dimension

8. We, the Med5 Member States, reaffirm our belief that strengthening the external dimension of the European Union's migration policy is key to address the challenges posed by irregular migration, in particular by preventing irregular arrivals and enhancing the rate of returns – voluntary where possible and enforced where necessary – for those who have no right to remain.

9. It is our firm belief that cooperation with key third countries of origin and transit should continue to be based on mutual trust and to the benefit of all parties involved. We therefore call on the European Commission to ensure the continued implementation of existing partnerships, while also working on establishing new comprehensive partnerships and enhanced cooperation with other key third countries. In this context, we reaffirm the importance of the full and non-discriminatory implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.
10. We recognize the importance of assisting transit countries under pressure, including by promoting and supporting, at the EU level, voluntary assisted returns from these countries to countries of origin, as part of a comprehensive external dimension strategy.
11. We recognise the need to address the root causes of irregular migration in countries of origin. This includes creating more work opportunities for young individuals in their home country while simultaneously exploring potential legal pathways to the EU that align with our labour market needs.
12. We are united in our resolve to disrupt smuggling networks that exploit instability and facilitate irregular migration towards the European Union, including their illicit activities in countries of origin and transit. We, the Med5 Member States, reaffirm our unwavering commitment to dismantling the modus operandi of these smuggling networks, bringing perpetrators to justice, and strengthening operational cooperation across Member States and with key partners, in order to maintain public order and safeguard national security. We also stress the importance of strategic communication and awareness campaigns in third countries to discourage irregular migration, in particular by countering the false narratives propagated by smugglers and other criminal networks, including via social media.
13. We also commit to close cooperation at the European level to combat human smuggling across all migratory routes and to strengthen the protection of the EU's external borders.
14. We welcome the Presidency's commitment to prioritising efforts within the Council on the proposal to facilitate the application of the safe third country concept, and on the proposal establishing a Union-level list of safe countries of origin. As Med5, we remain committed to constructive engagement in the legislative process.

Return and Innovative Solutions

15. We, the Med5 Member States, reaffirm our belief that an effective return system is an essential component of a credible, robust, and efficient migration framework. We support measures aimed at limiting abuse of asylum and migration systems, closing existing loopholes, and increasing the rate of returns of those who have no right to remain, in line with EU and international law. These measures are essential to ensure that the European Union's migration policy remains fair, humane, and sustainable.
16. We welcome the proposed Return Regulation as a key step towards greater coherence within the European Union's migration system, by establishing a unified European return system. By strengthening the link between efficient asylum procedures and the effective return of those not in need of protection, the proposal offers a solid basis for reducing abuse,

enhancing operational efficiency and easing the pressure on national infrastructure.

17. We, the Med5 Member States, reaffirm the importance of pursuing new solutions to address the complex challenges linked to irregular migration. We call on the European Commission to intensify its collaboration with interested Member States to explore the establishment of pilot projects, in full alignment with applicable EU and international legal frameworks, as additional tools to strengthen the Union's migration management capacity.

EU Agencies

18. We recall the importance of ensuring that the competent EU agencies, in particular the EUAA and FRONTEX, have the necessary resources to provide, upon request, support to Member States in implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum, managing the external borders, return and reintegration activities.
19. We reaffirm that FRONTEX must remain focused on its core mission of supporting Member States in managing external borders and facilitating returns. However, this must not come at the expense of national capacities or operational readiness.
20. We underline the importance of expanding FRONTEX's mandate to allow it to carry out returns directly from third countries. We also call for greater flexibility in the Agency's external engagement, including through more robust reintegration programmes and more attractive cooperation frameworks with third countries.
21. We also reiterate that enhanced border surveillance - both maritime and land, including pre-frontier aerial surveillance - is essential in combating migrant smuggling and preventing illegal border crossings. FRONTEX must allocate more resources to these efforts, including the surveillance of international waters, to ensure timely and effective support to Member States at the external border and to prevent irregular arrivals.

Conclusions

22. In conclusion, we take this opportunity to call on the European Union institutions and the other Member States to work with us towards the achievement of these objectives.
23. In this perspective, the Med5 countries look forward to the upcoming Home Affairs Council meeting of 8 December 2025.