



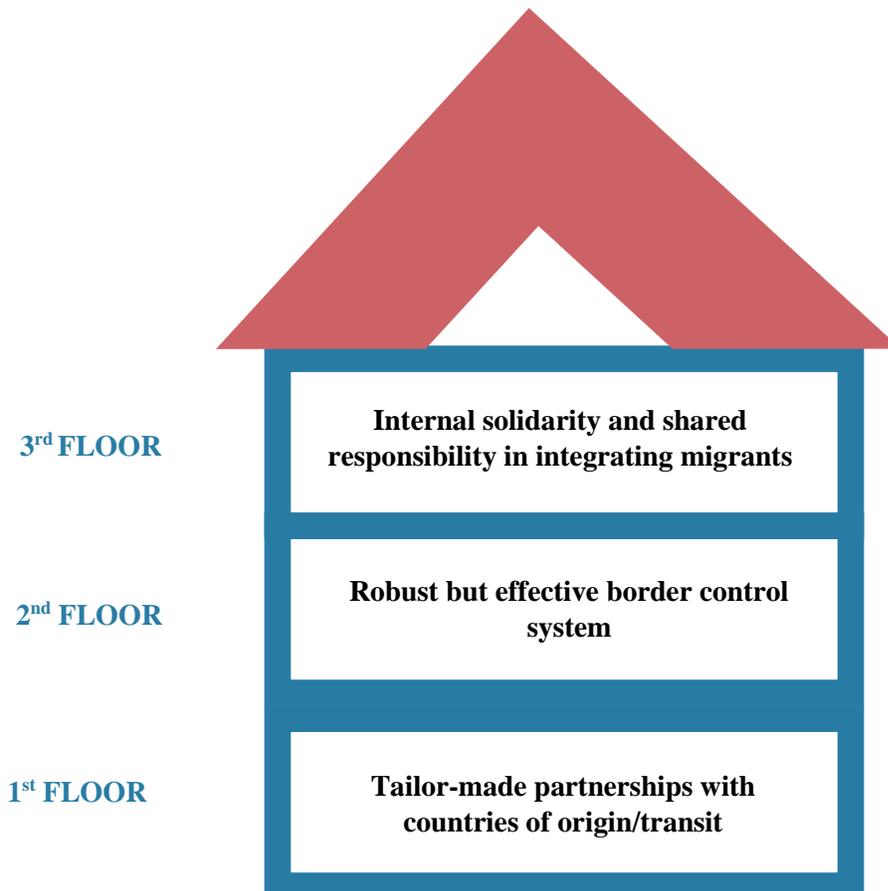
The New Pact on Migration and Asylum in brief

“Managing migration is not about finding a perfect solution but a solution acceptable to all”.

Commissioner Ylva Johansson

On September 23rd 2020, the European Commission [released the Communication on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#), the EU’s response to [migration challenges in the recent period](#). The Pact is built on elements developed during the years and lessons learnt from [previous reforms](#) proposed by the European Commission in 2016 and 2018. The purpose is to provide a start for comprehensive and common migration and asylum policy. The main idea is to make a balance between responsibility and solidarity among the Member States via better planning, effective procedures and deepening of the international partnerships. Mutually beneficial partnerships with third countries of origin and transit of migrants are presented as the key to successful policies. In that sense, the Western Balkans is seen as requiring a tailor-made approach, both due to its geographical location and the future in the EU. Turkey and North Africa are also claimed to be important partners to the EU.

The New Pact is symbolically described as a [house with three floors](#):





Developing a common European framework for migration and asylum management is a response to the urgent need to have effective policy coordination and implementation, as well as responsibility and solidarity mechanisms within the EU. The common framework will make procedures at the border more consistent and more efficient, and also ensure a consistent standard of reception conditions. One of the key points of the Pact is that member states would have to either accept asylum seekers, arrange for sending back those who are rejected asylum, or offer financial assistance on the ground to frontline EU states. Supporting children and the vulnerable is given high priority as well as combating gender based violence. Recasting the [Return Directive](#) is expected to significantly improve the management of return policy, with the leading role of [Frontex](#) in the common EU system for return. Upgrading [Eurodac](#) is envisaged as a tool for more efficient tracking of unauthorized migration, tackling irregular migration and improving return.

Putting in place a **robust crisis preparedness and response system** is expected to provide an effective protection against the risk of crisis. Its objective is to ensure that the EU can respond to key migration trends, via using an evidence-based approach. [A new Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint](#) that would encompass crisis management tools and set out the key measures and protocols that will ensure preparedness at the EU and the national level, will be developed. The Blueprint will monitor the capacities of member states to handle the risk of crisis and organize a coordinated response to it. A new legislative instrument to provide measures in the crisis situations will be developed too. It will offer flexibility to member states to react to crisis while maintaining solidarity among them.

Integrated border management requires stepping up the effectiveness of EU external borders, reaching full interoperability of IT systems, a common European approach to search and rescue as well as a well-functioning [Schengen area](#). This calls for coherence of all relevant legal, financial and operational instruments within the EU and its external partners and also of IT systems. The visa procedure will be digitalized by 2025. Search and rescue are planned to cover primarily the Mediterranean Sea, while strengthening of the EU cooperation with countries of origin and transit to prevent irregular migration is planned. The European Commission will present a [Strategy on the future of Schengen](#), in order to make Schengen stronger and more complete.

Reinforcing the fight against migrant smuggling is an important issue in the [2021-2025 EU Action Plan](#). Its emphasis is on combatting criminal networks as well as enhancing cooperation and supporting the implementation of the legislation against migrant smuggling, along with modernizing the relevant regulations. The new Action Plan also stimulates the cooperation between the EU and its external partners. First, it envisages the EU support to their capacity-building in terms of law enforcement frameworks and operational capacity as well as encourages effective action by police and judicial authorities. Second, it envisages the EU support to improved information exchange with third countries and action on the ground as well as information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration.

Working with international partners is considered as the most appropriate when in the form of bilateral engagement, combined with regional/multilateral commitment. Comprehensive, balanced and tailor-made partnerships, which are adjustable over time, are seen as delivering mutual benefits. The EU's neighbours are given a particular priority, but the approach of balancing the provision of support to refugees with fostering sustainable development-oriented solutions is urged. The EU plans to contribute to capacity building in its partner countries in terms of their migration governance. Working closely with countries of origin and transit is seen as a prerequisite for a well-functioning system of returns, readmission and reintegration, developing legal pathways to Europe.

Attracting skills and talents to the European Union is a counterbalance to the EU's shrinking and ageing population. Two mechanisms are envisaged for the purpose of attracting highly skilled talent into the EU: launching Talent Partnerships and reforming the [EU Blue Card Directive](#). These are to facilitate the admission of workers of different levels of skills to the EU, as well as intra-EU mobility of third-country workers already in the EU. The international mobility of students and researchers will advance human capital development through migration in order to achieve the positive economic impact of well-governed migration.

Supporting integration of migrants for more inclusive societies will be the key part of an [EU Action Plan on integration and inclusion for 2021-2024](#). It will draw on relevant policies and tools in the areas of social inclusion, employment, education, health, equality, culture and sport, while encouraging multi-level cooperation between stakeholders in the Member States.