



EASO attends Senior Officials Meeting on the implementation of the Joint Valletta Action Plan in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



On 14-15 November 2018, EASO participated as an observer in the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The SOM took stock of progress on the implementation of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) as an outcome of the Valletta Summit on Migration in November 2015.

The meeting gathered representatives from African and European countries and organisations which are a party to the Khartoum and Rabat Processes, as well as from observer countries and organisations. Key speakers included the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs Workneh Gebeyehu, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Dimitris Avramopoulos, both chairs of the Rabat and Khartoum Processes, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which is gearing up for the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration in Marrakech on 10-11 December 2018.

Commissioner Avramopoulos highlighted the importance of all five domains of the JVAP: addressing root causes of migration; promoting legal migration; providing protection and asylum; fighting against smuggling and human trafficking; and return, readmission and reintegration. The current state of play of the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa was discussed in view of its four objectives of job creation, stability and security, resilience of vulnerable groups including refugees, and migration management.

The way ahead for the JVAP was also brought to the table, including the need for its assessment and possible revision to ensure it is up-to-date with current migration-related developments. Both EU and African countries stressed the need for irregular migration to be replaced with regular migration, accompanied by the creation of opportunities for African youth in their home countries to reduce the need to seek opportunities abroad.