

FAQ on EU-IOM strategic partnership

What is the EU-IOM Strategic Partnership?

To enhance their collaboration on migration, development, humanitarian response and human rights issues, three European Commission services (DG HOME, DG DEVCO, DG ECHO) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) established a framework for strategic partnership with IOM in July 2012.

The framework builds on a shared interest in bringing the benefits of well managed international migration to migrants and society. It also serves as a basis for exchange, development and structuring of the relationship between the EU and IOM.

The strategic partnership follows on the Framework Agreement that was signed by the EU and IOM in November 2011 to streamline contractual and administrative matters (see below).

What is a Senior Officials Meeting?

Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) are held within the framework of the EU-IOM Strategic Partnership to foster dialogue and cooperation on key policy issues, best practices, as well as legislative and operational initiatives.

The first SOM takes place on 3 May. The EU will be represented by Stefano Manservigi, Director General, DG HOME, Claus Sørensen, Director General, and Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director Strategy, Policy and International Cooperation, DG ECHO, Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director General, DEVCO, and David O'Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer at EEAS. IOM will be represented by Ambassador William L. Swing, Director General, and Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General.

The participants will exchange views on EU Mobility Partnerships, the 2013 UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Post-2015 Development Agenda, climate change and migration, as well as addressing migration and protection challenges in humanitarian and crisis contexts.

In addition to the yearly Senior Officials Meeting, two meetings are held each year between the EU and IOM at the Heads of Unit level.

What about day-to-day cooperation?

In 2011, the European Commission and the IOM agreed to facilitate the already existing day-to-day cooperation in the area of migration and mobility by simplifying and streamlining the procedure for contractual negotiations. Commissioners Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs) and Andris Piebalgs (Development) signed a Framework Agreement with IOM Director-General William L. Swing for this purpose.

IOM is a main implementing partner of the EU in the field of migration management, including with regard to the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility.

The EU, through DG ECHO, is a main humanitarian donor and key partner to IOM. Since the beginning of 2008, the European Commission's department for Humanitarian Aid and

Civil Protection (DG ECHO) has worked with IOM on the basis of a Framework Partnership Agreement for humanitarian aid Actions with International Organisations (FPA-IO).

The new EU-IOM strategic partnership (see above) provides for a regular exchange of views on comprehensive migration policies and related operational matters, including joint studies and research, and further strengthens the IOM-EU policy dialogue with regard to humanitarian assistance and emergency operations.