

EN  
E-000544/2019  
Answer given by Mr Mimica  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(15.3.2019)

The Commission welcomes the European Court of Auditors' report<sup>1</sup> on the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), which recognises the relevance of the EUTF as a flexible tool providing support to partner countries in several areas.

The Commission took note of the recommendations of the Court and is taking the necessary measures to implement them. As regards the objectives of the EUTF, it considers that these should be sufficiently broad to be able to respond with the necessary flexibility to needs and challenges that have originated from the complex crises affecting the three regions<sup>2</sup> covered by the EUTF. Nevertheless, the three operational windows are constantly working to better identify specific objectives, targets and baselines.

In September 2018, the Board of the EUTF for Africa reviewed the strategic priorities of the Trust Fund to reflect evolving needs, emerging challenges and the availability of financial resources. It agreed to focus on six priority criteria for the Horn of Africa and Sahel/Lake Chad regions: (i) return and reintegration; (ii) refugees management; (iii) securitisation of documents and civil registry; (iv) anti-trafficking measures; (v) stabilisation efforts in both regions; (vi) migration dialogues. The North of Africa window will continue to focus on: (i) protection of vulnerable migrants, assisted voluntary return and reintegration and community stabilisation; (ii) support to integrated border management; (iii) support to labour migration and mobility; and (iv) support to improved migration governance.

The EUTF does not overlap but complements other instruments. For example, humanitarian assistance responds to the needs emerging from the conflict in Libya, while the EUTF responds to basic needs of migrants and refugees stranded in the country and their host communities.

---

<sup>1</sup> European Court of Auditors. Special Report n°32 “the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: Flexible but lacking focus”, 5 December 2018.

[https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR18\\_32/SR\\_EUTF\\_AFRICA\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR18_32/SR_EUTF_AFRICA_EN.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Horn of Africa, Sahel and Lake Chad region, and the North of Africa.