1. The memorandum of understanding on migration matters signed by Malta with Libya is a non-binding bilateral instrument. The Commission is working closely with Italy and Malta to address migration challenges in the Mediterranean, including as regards cooperation with southern neighbours, in particular with Libya.

2. The Commission has stated that Libya does not currently meet the conditions to be considered a ‘place of safety’ for disembarkation. However, the Commission recalls that the implementation of search and rescue obligations is a national responsibility under international law. Such interventions, including the designation of a safe port of disembarkation, are coordinated by the national Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres with no operational involvement of the Commission. However, the Commission urges all actors to fully respect the relevant rules, including the principle of *non-refoulement*, and to act in a spirit of genuine cooperation.

3. The EU supports border management programmes in Libya through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUR 57.2 million). This includes support to the Libyan Coast Guard and the General Administration for Coastal Security to prevent further loss of lives in the Mediterranean and to crack down on migrant smuggling networks.