

**Question for written answer E-000914/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The Samoa agreement and migration control

Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement deals with the issue of migration, particularly the repatriation of migrants to their home countries, but it has been described as 'largely ineffective'¹².

The Samoa agreement deals with migration particularly in Articles 70 to 75 (title VI, part II), in addition to Annex 1, which relates to returns and readmissions.³

1. 'In 2022, 73,600 non-EU citizens were returned to a non-EU country. This corresponds to 17% of all return decisions issued during the year, decreasing from 18% in 2021.⁴The rates of return were particularly low for some countries signatory to the Cotonou Agreement, such as Côte d'Ivoire (2.7%) and Guinea (4.3%). In light of these figures, what is the Commission's assessment of the effectiveness of the Cotonou agreement, particularly Article 13?
2. How will the Commission ensure the Samoa agreement can be used to address migration successfully (see the above quotes)?

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¹ <https://www.devex.com/news/exclusive-european-commission-battles-to-sell-post-cotonou-deal-at-home-98903>

² 'Whereas the Cotonou Agreement included only one largely ineffective article on migration, the new text is far more detailed, including an annex with timelines for sending unsuccessful migrants back to their home countries.'

³ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8372-2023-REV-1/en/pdf>

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe_en