



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

The Ambassador

Banjul, 25 March 2022

The Honourable Dr. Momodou Tangara
Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad
Marina Parade
Banjul

The Honourable Minister Yankuba Sonko
Minister of the Interior
Bertil Harding Highway
Kanifing

Subject: *Engagements following the lifting of the moratorium on returns and readmission*

Dear Honourable Ministers,

Allow me to reiterate the European Union's welcoming of the lifting with immediate effect of the moratorium on returns by charter flight announced in the Note Verbale received from your Ministry, dated 17 March 2022, and to further elaborate on proposals for further engagement included in this Note.

We are confident that in this new context, The Gambia will uphold its commitments under the agreed "Good Practices between the Government of the Republic of The Gambia and the European Union for the efficient operation of the identification and return procedures of persons without authorisation to stay", its Operational Conclusions and the modalities agreed therein, and the timely delivery of landing authorisation of charter flights by the competent Gambian authorities. The Gambia can count on the continuous EU support for facilitating the effective implementation of those agreed Good Practices.

In order to work towards a consolidated and constructive cooperation between both sides, and to achieve a sustainable, predictable and reliable readmission process, the Delegation - on behalf of the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs - would like to reply favourably to the proposed meeting between experts on the Gambian Government side and on the European Union side put forward in the Ministry's Note Verbale.

The European Union proposes to hold such meeting on 4 April 2022, as a visit at senior official level of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs will take place in the region in that period.

Furthermore, I would like to welcome the invitation in the Ministry's Note Verbale to hold a meeting (Joint Working Group) in accordance with point 12 of the "Good Practices". While the EU side does not believe that we should be engaging in a review of the agreed "Good Practices", the meeting would provide for an opportunity to assess cooperation on readmission and to discuss possible improvements in the implementation of the "Good Practices", including future identification missions and flights.

The EU would be grateful if your Ministry could put forward several possible convenient dates for this meeting, taking into account taking into account the imminent Easter break which will have implications for the availability on the EU side (from 14 to 18 April included).

Yours sincerely,



Corrado Pampaloni
Ambassador

