

EN

E-001795/2024

Answer given by Ms Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.3.2025)

EU funding for migration programmes in Tunisia is solely channelled via international organisations, Member States agencies and non-governmental organisations present on the ground.

The respect for human rights and dignity of all migrants, refugees and asylum seekers is a fundamental principle of EU's migration policy, in line with international law obligations.

The respect for fundamental rights is raised with Tunisian authorities in the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement¹ and the bilateral dialogue on the implementation of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership concluded in July 2023 and through relevant contractual obligations. The EU remains engaged to improve the situation on the ground and pursue a more structured dialogue with the authorities to establish a comprehensive and rights-based approach on migration.

Results have been achieved despite the challenging context in Tunisia: support to the national treasury in 2024; the resumption of macroeconomic discussions between the Commission and Tunisia in February 2024; a successful EU-Tunisia investment conference in June 2024 which allowed to launch EU projects worth EUR 900 million on energy, transport and small and medium-sized enterprises, and to sign a dedicated EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding on renewable energy². In addition, better irregular migration control led to a decrease in irregular arrivals from Tunisia to the EU by 80% in 2024 compared to 2023. There were also positive results related to assisted voluntary returns operated by the International Organization for Migration, which more than doubled compared to 2023, and on legal migration, notably in the framework of the Talent Partnerships³.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/euro-mediterranean-association-agreement-between-the-eu-and-tunisia.html>

² https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/mou-energy-ue-tunisie_en

³ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-resettlement-and-integration/talent-partnerships_en