Minister calls for stronger borders and investment in countries of origin to curb irregular migration

At an informal ministerial conference in Cyprus marking the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, Malta's Minister for Home Affairs and Security, Glenn Bedingfield, stressed that the Pact's success will depend on effective implementation, fair responsibility-sharing among EU Member States, and meaningful support to countries at the EU's external borders.

The minister noted that migration is becoming more complex due to geopolitical instability, changing migration routes and organised smuggling networks. He argued that the Pact should be complemented by stronger migration management, enhanced EU external action, effective returns and decisive action against smuggling.

A key focus of Malta's position is addressing the root causes of migration. The minister highlighted the need for greater investment in countries of origin, particularly in education, agriculture, clean water access and economic development. He argued that creating opportunities at home can reduce the need for people to undertake dangerous migration journeys.

In conclusion, the minister stated that reducing irregular migration requires not only stronger border controls but also stronger economic opportunities. He described investment and partnerships with countries of origin as a humane, sustainable, and effective long-term approach to managing migration.

Source(s)

- Ministry for Home Affairs and Security (12 June, 2026), [Press release by the Ministry for Home Affairs and Security: Stronger opportunities and stronger borders will curb migration numbers (PR261006en)], https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/DOI/Press Releases/Pages/2026/06/12/pr261006en.aspx

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