DECLARATION OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

AND

THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND SECURITY OF THE NETHERLANDS

Whereas the Ministry of Interior of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Justice and Security of the Netherlands, hereinafter referred to as the Signatories, reaffirm their longstanding, strong bilateral relation.

Whereas the Signatories, observing the historical links between Italy and the Netherlands including as founding fathers of the EU, and the shared challenges and interests in the area of migration, express the wish to deepen their relation and partnership on migration in the areas of mutual interest.

Whereas the Signatories reaffirm their common aim, as emphasized through the European Council informal meeting attended by among others the Signatories, of curbing irregular migration to the EU, fostering returns and the protection of migrants including by countering trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

Whereas the Signatories reemphasize the necessity of EU coordination and collaboration on the internal and external dimensions of migration for a well-functioning EU asylum and migration system and to tackle bilateral migration challenges. The Signatories underline the importance of the full implementation of the EU Asylum and Migration Pact and the continued strengthening of the EU asylum and migration system.

Whereas the Signatories intend to promote a "route-based approach" by strengthening cooperation with key third countries of origin and transit.

***

The Signatories express the wish to continue their coordination in multilateral fora such as the UN to represent and safeguard the common interest on migration.

In line with the EU Asylum and Migration Pact’s entry into force on 12 June, the Signatories express their joint intention to cooperate closely at operational level to ensure enabling measures for implementation, such as ensuring adequate reception capacity.

The Signatories express their intention to strengthen Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programs from transit countries to countries of origin.

Furthermore, the Signatories intend to cooperate actively to coordinate these initiatives at the European level, promoting them as strategic benchmarks within the framework of EU migration policy. By fostering enhanced coordination with European institutions and partners, the aim is to scale up the impact and resources dedicated to these programs.

Specific focus will be placed on intensifying cooperation and logistical support through recognised international partners for voluntary returns from Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria, ensuring safe, dignified and effective return process for migrants who do not meet the requirements for international protection.

To advance the full implementation of the asylum border procedures, in line with the Pact, the Signatories express their intention to closely coordinate with one another and their willingness to discuss additional support, for example through projects, in the area of return should this become desired.

The Signatories intend to develop their collaboration in further detail during the coming months and by a structural dialogue with yearly bilateral senior officials' migration consultations.

This Declaration of Intent does not constitute an international agreement which may lead to rights and obligations under international law. No provision of this Declaration of Intent is to be understood and performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the two Signatories.

On behalf of the Ministry of Interior of the Italian Republic	On behalf of the Ministry of Justice and Security of the Netherlands
Matteo Piantedosi MINISTER OF INTERIOR	*Bart van den Brink* MINISTER OF ASYLUM AND MIGRATION