



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1165
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**EU statement on the Update on the migration-related
engagement of the OSCE and on the Presentation of the
Report by the Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee
on Migration, Mr. Filippo Lombardi**

The European Union thanks the Secretary General, Thomas Greminger, and the Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, Filippo Lombardi, for their reports.

The complex challenges related to migration are relevant to the OSCE. It is a multifaceted phenomenon that requires sustained and collaborative efforts not only by international organisations but also by individual countries. This global challenge can only be effectively addressed by the international community as a whole and in a cross-dimensional manner. We were pleased to have found consensus on an MC Decision on the OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees last year. Although we would have liked to see a more substantial text, this sends a strong signal about the importance we attach to addressing this phenomenon and of the complementary role we see for the OSCE and its executive structures in the global efforts led by the UN.

Mr. Secretary General, the EU appreciates the OSCE's continued engagement in the area of migration and in particular the valuable contribution its field operations can make on the ground. To name only a few examples, we welcome and fully support the capacity building activities carried out by the OSCE Secretariat in close consultation with other relevant actors on enhancing border management capacities and cooperation as well as addressing migration-related crimes such as smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.

In this context we highly value the role of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The simulation

exercises that have taken place in Vicenza serve as best practice examples on how to ensure a comprehensive approach to THB on the ground.

The OSCE provides a useful platform for dialogue and for sharing experiences and best practices in the field of labour migration, both among OSCE participating States and between participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

Ensuring the effective protection of human rights of migrants, with the particular attention to specific needs of those in vulnerable situations, including women and children is a priority for us. We also strive to promote elements of participation, interaction and cohesion by migrants and receiving societies.

HCNM's guidelines on integration of diverse societies as well as ODIHR's guidelines on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination could offer useful guidance for policy makers, law enforcement personnel, civil society and educators.

We welcome the OSCE's close cooperation with other relevant international organisations on the different aspects of migration, such as with IOM, UNHCR and UNODC. We are also convinced that this topic requires the close involvement of our Partners for Cooperation. The successful Mediterranean Conference last month in Palermo was an excellent platform to deepen our dialogue.

Mr. Lombardi, we have taken note of the comprehensive report by the Ad Hoc Committee on "Ensuring a coherent, shared and responsible governance of migration and refugee flows". We appreciate that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has also taken interest in this topic and is actively contributing to our deliberations. Parliamentarians can play an important role in influencing the public debate around migration. This should be done responsibly in order to enable an objective, facts-based discussion and to allay ungrounded fears.

Creating the appropriate conditions for people in their countries of origin – peace, security, environmental conditions, economic development, democracy and human rights, – is essential in order to find the right, sustainable, long-term responses so that people do not feel compelled or are not forced to leave their homes.

Mr. Chairperson, the EU's work on the governance of migration is beginning to yield results on ensuring safety and dignity for migrants and refugees, providing

protection to those in need of protection, stemming irregular flows and preventing dangerous journeys. Also, enabling migrants to stay closer to home and helping third countries to address the long term root causes of migration through economic development, job creation and sustainable development whilst enhancing returns and readmissions of migrants with no legal right to stay in accordance with international law.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.