



## 1. Flash on IOM Activities

### **EU & LAC. — Strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between the EU and LAC to establish management models on migration and development policies**

In the framework of *the Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration* between the European Union and Latin American countries (EU-LAC), IOM, in close partnership with the International Foundation of Public Administration and Policies (FIAPP), has begun **implementation of a three-year project contributing to cooperation on migration policies between EU and LAC.**

It also aims to strengthen regional capacity within LAC for a permanent exchange of information and good practices between interested countries in the region, as well as between these countries and the EU. The overall budget is 3 million EUR. IOM's specific areas of work in this project are the following:

1. **Promoting better knowledge of migration flows** via data collection, processing and sharing information on migration for countries with significant migration towards the EU, including the training and capacity building of national administrations to produce and update data and analyses.
2. **Supporting actions aiming at promoting the productive investment of remittances** by enhancing the capacity of recipient communities to make the best use of these monetary flows and involving Diaspora organisations in local development strategies.

For more information, please contact IOM Brussels, [tkeating@iom.int](mailto:tkeating@iom.int)

### **Guyana & Trinidad and Tobago. — IOM visit to Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago**

On March 14-18, 2011, the SRA for the Americas and the Regional Representative for North America and the Caribbean visited Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

In Guyana, meetings took place with the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, other high-level Guyanese officers and with CARICOM counterparts. Several issues were addressed during these meetings including: membership issues, Guyana's participation in the South American Migration Conference (CSM in Spanish). A request of IOM's advice on Disapora issues was presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Regarding CARICOM, the Secretary General has not yet been elected, but IOM was informed that several candidates are being considered and a final decision on this matter is expected soon.

In Trinidad and Tobago, meetings took place with the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Security. The Minister of National Security confirmed that his government is interested in continuing supporting the IOM office in Port of Spain. The imminent approval of a law on Trafficking in Person is seen as a very positive development.

### **Ecuador. — Visit of Eric Schwartz, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration.**

On February 27-28, 2011, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), Mr. Eric Schwartz, visited Ecuador and met with authorities from various ministries (Interior and Foreign Affairs), local provincial and municipal authorities, as well as with UNHCR, WFP, and IOM.

The visit of Mr. Schwartz gave IOM Ecuador a good opportunity to brief the Assistant Secretary General on IOM activities being implemented in Ecuador. Topics such as border management, counter-smuggling/trafficking, programmes for the prevention of violence and formation of gangs among migrant's children were notably presented to Mr. Schwartz.

### **Costa Rica. — The DG and the DDG met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica**

On March 1, the DG and the DDG met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, who thanked IOM's cooperation with his country. Some of the topics addressed were the following: the interest of Costa Rica in the relationship between the environment and migration, skilled migration programs and the new role of the Regional Office in San José according to the structural review approved by the Member States.

### **Colombia. — The DG and the DDG met with the Vice President of the Republic of Colombia.**

On March 1, the DG and the DDG met with the Vice President of the Republic of Colombia, Angelino Garzón. The Vice President of Colombia thanked IOM for the support to the Colombian government and stressed the importance of the strategic partnership with the Organization. The Vice President also expressed the importance of IOM support in the implementation of victims' compensation and land restitution laws. He also thanked IOM for its cooperation in the assistance to the demobilized children, IDPs and victims of floods. The ratification of the agreement on privileges and immunities between Colombia and IOM was also highlighted as a very positive step.

### **Uruguay. — The DDG met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay**

On March 2, the DDG met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Luis Almagro. The Foreign Minister of Uruguay thanked IOM for the support provided to his country. Among the topics covered was the importance of continuing to strengthen the link with the Uruguayans living abroad through the Department 20, the reintegration of Uruguayan returnees and border management issues. It was also requested to IOM the support to Uruguay as pro-tempore presidency of Mercosur in the second half of the year and for the participation of the country in the South American Conference on Migration.

### **El Salvador. — The DG and the DDG met with the Vice Minister for Salvadorans Living Abroad**

On February 14, the DG and the DDG met with the Vice Minister for Salvadorans Living Abroad, Juan José García. The Vice Minister thanked IOM, on behalf of the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for the support provided to El Salvador. During the meeting, the Vice Minister introduced the government's plan to support both Salvadorans abroad and migrants in the country. The importance of a census of Salvadorans in Belize that the government is organizing with IOM's support was outlined. The situation of migrants in transit to the United States was also an important topic of conversation. The Vice Minister expressed the government's interest in reactivating the agreement related to the secondments of Salvadorian officers to IOM HQs.

### **Brazil. — The Regional Representative for the Southern Cone met with Brazilian Officials**

The Regional Representative for the Southern Cone was in Brazil on February 23rd – 24th to meet with the Under Secretary for Brazilian Communities Abroad, the Special Ambassador for Migration Matters and other high-level officers of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil. The meeting started a process of regular exchange and consultation between GOB and IOM. Brazil's participation in the South American Migration Conference and IOM's experience in counter-trafficking and return programmes, as well as other institutional topics, were discussed in the meeting.

### **El Salvador. — OCAM approves new legal framework to strengthen migratory management and regional integration**

On February 21- 23, 2011 was held the XXXIII Regular Meeting of the Heads of Migration in Central America, which included the participation of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

The II Regional Workshop was organized in this framework. This workshop is part of the Project Support to the Regional Integration by Strengthening the Immigration Management in Central America, funded by the EU and executed by IOM.

The aim was to establish a regional legal framework among the countries of Central America to improve migration management. The results were positive, and a **Community Regulation for "Strengthening of Migration Management" was approved**, which will be presented to the board of ministers responsible for the SICA for approval.

### **El Salvador. — PRM Official visit of a Children and Youth Returnees Project in El Salvador**

Christine Manríquez, Programmes Analyst of the State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) visited the beneficiaries of the Children and Youth Returnees Project in El Salvador. She was received by IOM Chief of Mission in El Salvador, Norberto Girón, who expressed his satisfaction with the achievements of the project.

## **2. Flash on Migration News in the Americas**

### **OAS. — Launching of the Database of Migration Legislation in the Americas (MILEX).**

On February 16, 2011, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS) officially launched the Database of Migration Legislation in the Americas (MILEX).

*The virtual platform that allows access to the migration legislation database is available here: <http://www.migracionoea.org/milex/english/index-1.html>*

Source: [OAS](#)

### **Mexico & USA. — Mexican women immigration doubled in the Mexican and US borders**

According to the National Institute of Migration (INM), the percentage of Mexican women migrants in hopes getting the chance to cross over the U.S.-Mexico border increased by 100% last year. The percentage of foreign women migrants is still as 16%.

### **Mexico. — An annual increase in remittances of 5.8% in dollar terms**

Remittances in Mexico are going on with its gradual and moderated growth initiated in the

### **GRULAC. — Nicaragua has assumed the coordinating role of the Latin American Group**

Nicaragua has assumed the coordinating role of the Latin American Group (GRULAC by its acronym in Spanish) for IOM in Geneva for the period January – June 2011. Each semester this regional group changes the chairmanship, and a new country is tasked with the coordination on the basis of alphabetical order. The GRULAC plays an active and positive role in IOM as one of the Regional Member States Groups that currently interacts with IOM. The other Regional Group is the African Group. IOM supports traditionally the participation of a GRULAC representative in one of the annual meetings of the RCP's and in the Inter-American Course on International Migration.

second quarter of 2010. According to the Bank of Mexico, revenues from remittances to Mexico in January totalled 1,401.8 million dollars, marking an annual increase of 5.8% in dollar terms.

Source: [La Jornada](#) ; [BBVA Research](#)

### **USA & Cuba. — The White House eased restrictions on visas, remittances and travel**

On January 14, President Barack Obama eased restrictions on visas, remittances and travel under the US embargo on Cuba.

Source: [El mundo.es](#)

### **Nicaragua. — 750 000 Nicaraguans in Costa Rica benefit from streamlined procedures.**

Since January 17, 2011 Nicaragua embassy in Costa Rica emits birth certificates, criminal records and migratory processes to the Nicaraguan migrants, avoiding them trips to Managua.

Source: [Radio La Primerísima](#)



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