

## **Statement by Vice-Minister Dr. Johannes Kyrle**

**Ministry for European and International Affairs  
Head of the Austrian Delegation to the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM  
Council  
6 December 2011**

Mr. Chairperson, Director General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

[I am honoured to deliver this statement on the occasion of the 100th Session of the Council, which marks the Organisation's 60th Anniversary.]

Austria aligns herself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

At the outset let me express Austria's **sincere appreciation for the committed leadership of the Director General**, as well as for the dedicated work of IOM staff.

Austria would also like to welcome the new Members joining at this session.

Your interest is clear evidence of the global relevance of this Organisation as well as of the importance Member States attach to issues of migration.

**2011 has been a significant year for IOM.**

The Organisation has turned 60 and has completed a **major internal reform process**, with a new and leaner structure enabling the Organisation to function even more efficiently.

We sincerely thank the Deputy Director General for her commitment and oversight of the Structure Review, thanks to which the implementation could start on time.

**But 2011 has also been an unusually challenging year for IOM.**

Political conflicts in West and North Africa as well as natural and man-made disasters such as in the Horn of Africa or Pakistan have shown that humanitarian emergencies strongly affect migrants and migration.

Thanks to its large experience, IOM reacted swiftly and effectively – in turn, it was provided substantial financial support from the donor community in recognition of its humanitarian activities.

It would not be exaggerated to say that **in 2011 the international community was able to witness IOM at its best.**

Austria believes that the recent, highly successful operations **provide an excellent opportunity for IOM to make itself known even better** and to reach out to **non-traditional partners** .

We believe that efforts by the Administration to establish new partnerships and to attract non-traditional donors should be further strengthened.

This is all the more imperative given the continuously overstretched budget of the Organisation.

Apart from IOM's operational focus, **Austria welcomes the Organisation's activities with regard to the global migration debate and research on migration.**

The World Migration Report as well as other publications by IOM are proof of its wealth of knowledge and experience that are worth sharing with the international community.

Austria believes that IOM could do even more in this regard.

**Austria encourages IOM to make its voice heard in the global policy debate on migration,** and more particularly on migration management and the future of migration.

This debate is timely and necessary.

Austria encourages IOM to **assert itself as the international organisation dealing with migration,** in particular in the preparations for the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in the UN-General Assembly in 2013.

This dialogue offers the opportunity to put the spotlight on migration issues and on how to address future opportunities and challenges related to migration.

In this regard we welcome the High Level Segment in this Council, which also underlines IOM's role as a key venue for the international debate on migration.

Finally, let me turn briefly to **Austria's cooperation with IOM.**

Austria is working closely with IOM as a key partner, in particular with regard to voluntary return and reintegration.

IOM is also a significant partner for Austria in the fight against human trafficking.



We appreciate IOM's global expertise and we are interested in enhancing our cooperation even further.

To us, it is important that IOM stays a flexible partner – a partner that is able to react quickly and adequately to the needs of Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me congratulate the International Organisation for Migration on its 60th Anniversary.

60 successful years give rise to optimism with regard to the future work of the Organisation.

With an ever-increasing number of migrants world-wide, the challenges ahead are manifold.

Based on recent experience, we are confident that IOM will live up to these challenges and play the central role Member States expect it to play in the field of migration.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.