

**COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

100th Session

(5 – 7 December 2011)

Statement by

H.E. Deputy Minister Piotr Stachańczyk

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Poland

on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Geneva, 6 December 2011

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Statement of the EU and its Member States

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

It is my privilege to take the floor at this 100th session of the Council of IOM on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro*¹, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate, Albania as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

The EU and its Member States applaud the Director-General for his leadership of the organisation. Likewise, we commend the staff of IOM for their dedicated work. We welcome the new members of the IOM and also Ambassador Strohal as incoming chair of the IOM Council.

Awareness of the growing importance of migration and its effective management has considerably increased over recent years. We commend the IOM for its relentless contribution to the process as leading organisation with a global focus on migration management. This 100th IOM Council marks the 60th anniversary of the organisation. It provides an opportunity to take stock and, more importantly, to look at opportunities and challenges ahead.

Mr Chairperson,

¹ **Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

The European Union is advancing on the development of a common migration and asylum policy so as to complement and facilitate the specific policy objectives of its Member States. On 18 November 2011, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a revised and enhanced “Global Approach to Migration and Mobility” as the overarching framework for the EU external migration policy. Regarding thematic priorities, the traditional three pillars of the Global Approach - legal migration, irregular migration, and migration and development - are to be complemented by a fourth pillar on international protection and the external dimension of asylum policy.

At the same time, the EU should strengthen the human rights of migrants as a cross cutting issue in countries where needed, through cooperation with its partners. IOM is a key partner in implementing the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility.

We are pleased to announce that, on 8 November 2011, a Framework Agreement between the European Union and the IOM was signed, aiming to facilitate the financial arrangements for their cooperation. In addition to rendering administrative procedures more efficient on both sides, it also forms a step towards a more strategic cooperation between the EU and IOM. Annual consultations at senior level will contribute to further information exchange and, as appropriate, the promotion of initiatives related to the implementation of the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility.

The EU and its Member States have always been staunch supporters of IOM's structure reform. We commend DG Swing and DDG Thompson for their unfailing commitment and timely conclusion of the restructuring process. We are now looking forward to the operationalisation of the reform, including the strengthening of the regional level. A first evaluation of the new structure should be provided at the next Council meeting in December 2012.

We are grateful to IOM for having avoided the usually difficult discussion on the growth of the administrative part of the budget. Nevertheless, we are aware that this accentuates the burden on an already strained administration. The work of the IOM

Budget Group must continue. The resolution on the adding of new Member States' assessed contributions instead of a rebate is an important, yet not sufficient step ahead. Additional means to ensure stable and predictable funding of IOM's core administrative structure are to be further explored. At the same time, we encourage IOM to intensify its outreach to new and untraditional donors and to explore new partnerships. We also propose that IOM develops a systematic approach to identifying and realising potential savings under the existing structures, and that regular updates are provided.

Mr. Chairperson,

Displacements due to conflicts or induced by climate change, natural disasters and other trends, including population growth, labour market trends, urbanisation and food insecurity, are increasingly compounding the challenges of migration and mobility management. The global economic crisis adds to the burden. In Africa, migration crises unfolded simultaneously in Ivory Coast, Libya and Sudan this year. Management capacities to cope with complex situations need to be enhanced. We therefore support the IOM Resolution on the establishment of an emergency migration funding mechanism and look forward to discussing possible cooperation modalities.

As a firm supporter of the humanitarian reform, the EU and its Member States encourage IOM's stronger engagement and input, notably in the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, inter-cluster coordination and with regards to the cluster for Camp Coordination and Camp Management in natural disasters. With a view to enhancing humanitarian leadership, a coordinated, rapid and consistently high-quality response, we call on IOM to continue to support the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Humanitarian Coordinators at field level as well as UN OCHA and UNHCR.

Mr. Chairperson,

Migration and mobility cannot and must not be addressed in isolation from its multiple geographical, political, economic and social inter-linkages. The upcoming UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Migration in 2013 marks an

important milestone towards effective institutional and policy response. The EU's engagement in the High Level Dialogue is important.

We also stand committed to contributing towards concrete outcomes of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, including through our cooperation with IOM. The GFMD provides an important platform to discuss migration issues in an informal and constructive manner.

Let me conclude by commending IOM for its comprehensive efforts to make its organisation fit for the challenges ahead and encourage it to continue them. Reform efforts already undertaken should now be complemented by enhanced focus on the documentation and promotion of lessons learned, notably against the background of increasing expectations for operational deliverables at global and regional levels. The migrants must remain at the centre of our endeavours.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson