



**Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina
to the United Nations
at Geneva**

98th IOM Council Session
Geneva 24.11.2009.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Bosnia and Herzegovina Delegation congratulates you on your appointment as chairperson!

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Director General Mr. William Lacy Swing, new Deputy Director General Ambassador Laura Thompson and their team for the hard work aimed to make IOM as efficient as possible.

We hope that the new reformed IOM will continue being active in our country and that the reform means strenghtening and not reduction of its activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as in other countries.

We note with satisfaction more energy within the IOM which ensures future improvements making the organization even more efficient than before.

Bosnia and Herzegovina with estimated 2 million of different migrant categories, refugees, asylum seekers, labour migrants and others is very much interested in the activities of the migration organizations, especially IOM as a leading organization for migrations in the world.

IOM came to BiH at the moment it needed help. As a post conflict country, transit and country of origin and destination in migrations, Bosnia and Herzegovina was facing common Western Balkan challenges like human trafficking and smuggling.

IOM helped through different projects designed for that aerea like Training Course on International Migrations Law for Government officials focused on irregular transit migrations, trafficking, smuggling in human beings and security in migrations.

In the project from 2008 “Migration and Asylum Strategy 2008-2013 and its Action Plan” IOM assists and advises Government officials in charge of the Strategy.

We also have to mention the project from this year designed with the aim to support the development of institutional capacities of the border management agencies and strengthening of the border control.

Having in mind that the issues or problems that IOM is dealing with do not stop on the border of one country, Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the programs for the neighbouring countries as well as those of regional cooperation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has had excellent cooperation with IOM field office in Sarajevo in the past decade and we use this opportunity to thank the office and IOM in general, for that.

Thank you Mr. Chairman!