

ROMANIA

***Statement at the 90th session of the Council of the International
Organization for Migration***

Geneva, November 29 - December 2, 2005

***Held by Mr. Ioan Iclenzan- Dimitriu,
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Administration and Interior***

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**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to join my voice to those of the previous speakers and to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for assuming this important task. Likewise, we thank you for the opening Statement.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the outgoing Bureau for its activity and commitment.

In this regard, the delegation of Romania avails itself of this opportunity to convey its special appreciation for the activity carried on by the members of the IOM Office in Bucharest.

We highly appreciated the IOM prompt reaction in providing support and technical assistance as a response to the recent humanitarian calamity, which occurred in Pakistan, in October 8, 2005.

Mr. Chairman,

With reference to the Report of the Global Commission on the International migrations from October 2005, presented by the UN Secretary General, my delegation supports the view that, having in mind the growing complexity of internal migratory movements, migration needs a global, interdisciplinary approach, in close connection with the development policies and the security strategies.

This approach provides for an in depth analysis of the migration issues from the perspective of concrete elements, such as border management, migrants' family reunification, integration within the respective recipient societies, combating trafficking in human beings and the assisted return to the origin countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me stress certain aspects of our national approach of some complex issues concerning migratory movements.

Romania is strongly determined to actively contribute to the international efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. In this respect, we would like to thank the IOM for its substantial assistance granted to the Romanian authorities in rendering more effective their actions in this field.

With support from the IOM Office in Bucharest, the National Office for the *Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and for the Monitoring of Victims' Assistance* was set up in 2004. The concrete steps taken for the protection of the victims and of unaccompanied minors, both being victims of THB, were highly appreciated by the

visiting OSCE Special Rapporteur on combating THB and by the representatives of the US State Department alike.

With assistance from the IOM Office in Bucharest and the UK Presidency of the EU, Romania has developed important programs and a campaign against illegal migration.

Similarly, we support the objectives of the forthcoming Austrian Presidency of the EU, as well as the recent initiatives on financial and technical European assistance Program on illegal migration and asylum (the Vienna Process's) promoted by the IOM Office in Vienna.

Romania is firmly determined to strengthen the protection measures against trans-boundary organized crime and illegal migration, in line with EU standards in this field. We are fully aware of the responsibility that we will have as of January 1, 2007, regarding the border-control of one of the largest EU frontiers and we are getting ready to assume this responsibility.

Romania also participates in initiatives focused on EU neighbourhood policy and transposing the Hague Program, as well as Salzburg Group, Brdo Process and Budapest Process.

Romania has actively been involved in regional initiatives and projects for cooperation in the field of combating illegal migration, within the framework of the SECI Centre, South Eastern European Cooperation Process (SEECP) and Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSECO).

Launched in 2002, in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SPSEE), the transfer of Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) under the regional ownership of the SEECP was welcomed by the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their Meeting in Bucharest, on 22 October 2004, during the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of the Process, as a clear sign of the readiness of the South East European countries to take over responsibility for the processes in this field.

The Romanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe is willing to organize, in early 2006, a conference on trafficking in human beings, in order to promote the timely entry into force of the Council of Europe's Convention on action against trafficking in human beings. A substantial input by the IOM will be highly welcomed, as a sign of increased co-operation between the two organizations.

Romania will be also in charge of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization for the next six months (1st November 2005 – 30th May 2006). Under the Romanian Chairmanship of BSECO, a Memorandum of Understanding between the BSECO and the IOM will be concluded, in order to increase the cooperation between the two organizations in areas of common interest, such as combating illegal migration and THB and facilitating inter-state co-operation on border control and assistance for the migrants' voluntary return.

Mr. Chairman,

Further on this line, Romania reaffirms its support for the activity of IOM and stresses the important role in the field of assistance worldwide.

Romania supports the view expressed by the IOM Director General, Mr. Brunson Mc Kinley, for examining the opportunities in order to set up a financial intervention mechanism in favour of migrants in vulnerable situations. It is our view that such a financial instrument would provide a concrete response to those migrants in need of urgent assistance.

We also welcome the decision adopted by the UN General Assembly regarding the establishment of a high level standing dialogue on the inter-connection between migration and development issues, during 2006. In this respect, we share the view that transnational and circular migration flows represent an important tool for the development of both the countries of origin and the destination countries.

Thank you very much for your attention.