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IOM 92nd COUNCIL

Thank you

Allow me, first of all to congratulate you, Mrs Chairman, as well as the members of the Bureau for your election.

We also wish to welcome as new members of the International Organisation for Migration, the Republic of Montenegro and Nepal

Please note that we fully align ourselves with the statement of the EU Presidency.

Mrs Chairman, Mr Director General,

The Greek Government has taken a series of measures against the illegal migration and towards development of a program that will incorporate migrants in all aspects of the social life, through an appropriate legal framework and relevant actions.

More specifically:

- The relevant legislation prepared by the Ministry of Justice, deals with the contemporary ways of human trafficking, as well as with the sexual exploitation of vulnerable population groups such as women, foreigners and young people. The law also provides measures for the protection and assistance to the victims.

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- Further, under the Presidency of the Ministry of Justice, an interministerial committee for the co-ordination at the political level of the efforts against human trafficking has been established. A National Plan of action has been adopted.
- The Ministry for Internal Affairs provides the necessary rules for the administrative support of the victims, through the authorization of a Residents Permit for the period necessary for the incorporation of the relevant European Union Directive in the Greek legal system. This Permit is produced without an extra cost for the immigrant, its duration is of one year and it is renewable for equal time until the final judicial decision will be produced. During that period, the immigrant has the opportunity to work legally to get the necessary training and to get support from the social security services.

Furthermore, the Greek Government has included in the national immigration policy elements:

- Providing the possibility to the migrants to attend and participate to the education system, aiming at developing their language skills and at supporting them through programs of social security.
- Enhancing the social and professional integration of the second generation migrants,

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- Constraining illegal immigration and developing the criteria for the provision of asylum, in an effort to provide working positions for all the population, including legal migrants.
- Promoting programs for the incorporation of women immigrants so that their position.
- Promoting the adoption and legal evaluation of petitions for migration programs which will respond to the urgent as well as to the long term needs of women.
- Ensuring close co-operation with the countries of origin, aiming to manage the migration flow in a way that would benefit both parties.

On the other hand, a **legalization process** of tens of thousands of illegal immigrants is currently taking place in Greece, without prejudice to further relevant initiatives to legalize foreign nationals, who are illegally in Greece. The efforts of the Greek government to integrate foreign nationals into Greek society with full rights are also worthwhile mentioning.

Finally, the National Action Plan against the human trade that has been adopted by the Greek Government in May 2004 includes the provision of coordinating the various actions of different Ministries for the efficient application of the legal framework to support the victims of illegal immigration and to take legal actions against those who act illegally. The implementation of the immigration policy can succeed only through the co-

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operation with the relevant Ministries, the co-operation with the International Organizations, the intergovernmental co-operation and the co-operation with various NGO's.

Greece attaches great importance to international cooperation in managing migration and combating trafficking in persons. In this respect, Greece welcomes relevant initiatives in the regional and international level. Greece encourages, also, the International Organisation for Migration to further enhance its cooperation and coordination with other relevant International organizations and NGOs.

Greece aspires to a close cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration, recognizing the significance of its role in the management of migration and in combating trafficking in persons. With your permission, state as an example the voluntary repatriation of the victims of trafficking is offered in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, and in close contact with competent agencies in the countries of origin.

Closing my intervention, allow me to add that a few days ago, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece has announced yet another Greek initiative, complementing ongoing efforts to combat trafficking. This programme, named "HERA", which will be implemented in cooperation with OSCE, the Stability Pact for SE Europe and the European Centre for

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Public Law, aims at the comprehensive codification of the existing legal framework for Human Trafficking in ten countries of origin.

Thank you Mrs Chairman