

MC/2284

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NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION

**APPLICATION BY THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM (YFJ)
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 8 April 2009, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Secretary General of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) made a formal application to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 30 October 2009, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Ninety-eighth Session of the Council.
2. This matter falls under rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council which provides that the Council may admit, upon their application, international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees or human resources as observers at its meetings.
3. An appropriate draft resolution will be submitted to the Council when this matter comes up for decision.

Annex I

**LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 2009 FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM (YFJ) TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

I would like hereby to submit the application of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) for obtaining observer status with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The YFJ was established in 1996 and is made up of 99 Member Organisations: 38 National Youth Councils and 61 International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, which are federations of youth organisations in themselves. It brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe and represents their common interests toward the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations (the YFJ holds consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1998).

Representation, internal democracy, independence, openness and inclusion are among the main principles for the functioning of the European Youth Forum and its Member Organisations.

The work on equality and human rights undertaken by the YFJ focuses specifically on the most disadvantaged groups of young people, including young migrants, young women, young people with fewer opportunities etc. The YFJ has been developing a policy on migration and youth last year, tackling many different aspects such as integration of migrants, migration and development, labour migration, family reunification, health of migrants etc. Specific lobbying efforts have been carried out in relation to the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum and the European Directive on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals. The YFJ has also been cooperating with the IOM Brussels Office on a project dealing with sexual and reproductive health of young migrants.

Migration is clearly identified as a priority within the Human Rights area in the YFJ Work Plan 2009-2010, adopted by the Council of Members in November 2008. In particular, the YFJ will be striving to achieve greater participation and inclusion of young migrants and young people with migrant background.

On one hand the YFJ will be empowering young migrants and young people with migrant background to represent their interests. In this context, the YFJ will be facilitating the establishment and/or the consolidation of migrant youth organisations. On the other hand the YFJ aims at achieving greater inclusiveness of its Member Organisations and in particular at building their capacity to reaching out more to young people with migrant background.

In conclusion I would like to emphasise that the observer status will allow the YFJ to learn from the remarkable experience that IOM has in the field of migration, to explore further opportunities for cooperation, to liaise with other civil society organisations and to tackle specific issues having an impact on the lives of young migrants and young people with migrant background.

Being confident that this request will receive the due attention, I remain available to provide you with further information on the YFJ and its activities.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 2009 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM (YFJ)**

Sir,

I would like to refer to your letter of 8 April 2009 conveying the desire of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

I have taken note of the cooperation thus far between our two organizations, particularly with IOM Brussels, and YFJ's commitment to human rights issues for young migrants and young people with migrant backgrounds, as well as YFJ's desire to explore further opportunities for cooperation in the field of humanitarian assistance.

Necessary action will be taken for inscription of your request on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the IOM Council, to be held in Geneva from 23 to 26 November 2009. A document formally presenting your application will be distributed to all IOM Member States and Observers in the near future. You will receive a copy of it, together with further details and procedural information concerning participation in the Council session.

It gives me great pleasure to receive the request of the European Youth Forum for observer status. Allow me therefore to express my satisfaction at the prospect of furthering the relationship between our two organizations.

[Complimentary ending]