



**European Union**  
Statement by

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United Nations Office and to other international organizations in  
Geneva**

**Council of the  
International Organization For Migration**

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**101<sup>th</sup> Session**

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**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

**COUNCIL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**  
101th Session  
(27 – 30 November 2012)

**EU statement**

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland<sup>†</sup> and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this declaration.

We extend our thanks to Ambassador Strohal for his skilful guidance and contribution to trustful relations between the membership of IOM and the administration. Let me also welcome the new members of the IOM and Ambassador

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

<sup>†</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

Hannan from Bangladesh as incoming Council Chair.

In particular, I would like to thank the DG for his frank and inspiring evaluation of IOM's evolving governance under his leadership. We have witnessed a comprehensive reform of all segments of the organisation and these efforts have already started to bear fruit. IOM has significantly advanced towards responding effectively to the complex migration challenges of this century.

IOM has taken important steps to enhance accountability and good governance. The Working Group on Budget Reform has achieved good results. We agree with its assessment that more needs to be done to address the chronic underfunding of the Organisation's core structure, and we look forward to a continuation of the efforts of the Working Group in the longer term, to seek efficiency gains and savings, and to broaden the IOM donor base.

The EU and its Member States commend IOM for the submission of another zero nominal growth budget. We are aware of potentially negative side-effects on administrative capacities and thus encourage IOM to carry out a risk assessment, and to share the results with its membership. We consider strengthened monitoring and evaluation capacities to

be indispensable for the identification and promotion of best practices.

Overall, we encourage IOM and its leadership to continue on its ambitious path beyond the upcoming election of the DG in June 2013, while maintaining its distinct spirit of transparency and cooperation with all stakeholders.

Mr Chairperson,

We have witnessed in past years the increasing challenges of balancing orderly and humane migration with preventing and combating irregular migration. The EU and its Member States support enhanced efforts to protect and assist vulnerable migrants, including in crisis situations and humanitarian emergencies.

On the humanitarian side, we value IOM's increased humanitarian engagement and commend IOM in particular for its important work as co-cluster lead in the Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster. We stress the importance of continued efforts to enhance leadership, accountability and coordination across the humanitarian system through active support for the implementation of the IASC Transformative Agenda.

IOM has worked hard and consistently throughout this year on reorganising its internal operating methods so as to match up to the evolving complexity of migration challenges in times of increased global mobility. The core focus during 2012 was on the elaboration of the migration crisis operational framework. We lend our full support to the resolution on this topic as submitted.

As a next step, we encourage IOM to work with partners towards the mainstreaming of identified operations into already existing policy frameworks or, where appropriate, to complement these in line with the IOM Constitution and the IOM Strategy.

The EU and its Member States encourage IOM to extend its internal policy response review towards other relevant sectors such as migration, development and environment-related mobility.

Mr Chairperson,

The upcoming High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development pushes us to approach future migration and mobility developments in a strategic way. The link between

migration and development is recognised both in the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, which sets the strategic framework for the external EU migration policy, and in the EU's new development policy framework, the 'Agenda for Change'.

In this context, the EU and its Member States commend the enhanced and more systematic contribution of the IOM to the High level Dialogue and other relevant UN bodies and processes, such as the GMG. In particular, we welcome the Memorandum of Understanding between IOM and UNDP, because it advances effective cooperation and synergy between the UN system and IOM in the field of migration and development.

The EU and its Member States are increasingly looking beyond the High level Dialogue on Migration and Development, with a view to adopting a more ambitious and holistic approach to address the complex link between migration and development, and by mainstreaming migration into the development agenda.

Mr Chairperson,

Based on an exchange of letters of July 2012, the EU and IOM decided to work towards a more strategic partnership. The EU

and its Member States stand ready to intensify their relations with the IOM as the international migration agenda evolves. We also support the strategic orientation of the Group of Friends of the IOM Chair, which, at the same time, should broaden its perspective beyond the HLD towards future landmark events and processes. We encourage IOM to support its membership in the preparations for the UN development summit in 2015.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.