

103rd Session of the IOM Council

Austrian Statement

Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi

Mr. Chairperson,

Austria aligns herself with the statement of the European Union and its Member States. We welcome the new Members Fiji, Iceland, Turkmenistan and the Marshall Islands joining at this Council. The constantly growing number of the membership is clear evidence of the Organisation's success.

At the outset let me express Austria's sincere **appreciation for the leadership of the Director General and the Deputy Director General**, as well as for the dedicated work of IOM staff in the field and at Headquarters. At the last Council Session in June this year, you Director General, were re-elected, on which we congratulate you once more. We look forward to how the priorities of your second mandate, namely "*continuity, coherence, and change*" are being implemented, and we are interested in regular briefings in this regard.

2013 has been an important year for IOM, as the second **High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development** took place in October. Austria welcomes that the role of IOM as the world's leading Organisation for Migration was broadly acknowledged at the HLD. We

would also like to congratulate IOM on her active and substantial engagement in the preparation of the HLD. As the only globally leading Organisation for Migration, IOM has contributed significantly to a discussion, which was based on substance, was held in a constructive spirit, and which contributed to confidence-building regarding migration issues among Member States and other major stakeholders.

But the work is not over. The HLD has created a momentum for migrant-centred discussions in a spirit of trust, a momentum that has to be used in order to continue the process of exploring major opportunities and challenges in relation to migration, also with a view to the post-2015 Agenda. We believe that IOM has a unique potential to contribute significantly to the follow-up of the HLD and to inspire discussions by bringing in its wealth of experience.

In this regard, we also welcome this year's World Migration Report, which offers a fresh and interesting look at the relationship between migration and development, putting migrants at the centre of the debate.

We note that IOM has voiced particular interest in discussing further the issue of **migration governance and, in particular, the relationship of IOM with the UN**. While we welcome the establishment of a Working Group at the Standing Committee in October in this regard, we consider important that this Working Group discusses all the issues on the table,

including cost implications, in a frank manner, without anticipating any future status of IOM. The IOM Administration should actively participate in this Working Group, as input from the Organization will be needed as a basis for constructive and transparent deliberations. For Austria it is crucial that the “comparative advantage” of IOM, such as its flexibility and operational capacity, are maintained regardless of any potential future change in its status.

Let me now turn to the **budget**. Austria sincerely thanks Ambassador de Crombrugghe for his excellent skills in steering the Working Group on Budget Reform in a constructive and inclusive manner. Thanks to his commitment a consensual solution could be reached at this Council, which we welcome, as this reform has been long overdue. We hope that the Resolution adopted on Tuesday will form the basis for a sustainable and long-term reform of the budget structure of IOM. At the same time, we encourage the Administration to continue its cost saving and efficiency measures, as well as to enhance its outreach activities with regard to non-traditional donors and the public sector. We further ask the Administration to continuously update the membership on the implementation of the budget reform.

Check against Delivery

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, let me express Austria's full support for IOM's work for the benefit of migrants worldwide. IOM is and will stay an important partner for Austria. We are confident that IOM will live up to current and future challenges and play the central role Member States expect it to play in the field of migration.