



**European Union**

**Statement**

**COUNCIL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION  
108<sup>th</sup> Session**

**(28 November – 1 December 2017)**

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**Item 11 – General Debate**

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**Statement by**

**Ambassador Carl HALLERGARD**

**Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations  
and other International organisations in Geneva**

**Geneva, 28 November 2017**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

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108<sup>th</sup> Session**

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**EU Statement**

**Item 11: General debate**

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

**2017** is ending as it started: with migration, including forced displacement, as a defining feature and major political priority. Greater global awareness of this reality is often mixed with profound misunderstanding of the dynamics at stake. **Addressing migration** is more than ever a challenge and a necessity. It is a global responsibility, which calls for collective commitments and solutions. Responding to mixed migratory flows requires countries of origin, transit and destination to forge genuine partnerships, on the basis of enhanced mutual support and solidarity, and for a number of situations it calls for an equitable and balanced responsibility-sharing within the international community.

In the last two years, our energy has been dedicated to responding, in a humane and effective way, to one of the most challenging phenomena of our times. We have been supporting the IOM - and UNHCR - in helping migrants and refugees in distress and assisting voluntary return for persons not in need of international protection. We commend IOM for its work in assisting migrants as well as supporting states to manage the migration situation along the central Mediterranean route. We have put in place the External Investment Plan that will mobilise €40 billion in private investments. We have been working with our African partners in addressing the root causes of irregular migration. Cooperation and partnership have always been and will remain our approach. With over 34,400 new resettlement pledges received so far, participating EU Member States have shown strong commitment to reduce irregular and dangerous migratory routes and offer safe and legal pathways, showing solidarity with host communities and countries outside the EU.

As other international organisations, **IOM has developed** its capacities to remain fit for purpose with the globalisation of migration issues, and unfortunately most recently, with the

multiplication of displacement crises, notably due to conflicts. While we share the satisfaction to witness a well-managed, steadily growing organisation, we cannot ignore that this development is also a sign of the unresolved challenges of the world.

In 2016, IOM has responded to these challenges by successfully **integrating into the United Nations family** as a related organization, and effectively, as the lead agency on migration, with a truly global mandate and technical and policy expertise in the field of migration, as spelled out in last year's New York Declaration, and in the ongoing preparation of the Global Compact for Migration. In that context, IOM and its governing bodies have a specific role to play. We reiterate our support for a strong role of the IOM in the GCM process, including its follow-up.

IOM remains a crucial partner for the EU as the global lead agency for international migration and an essential actor for addressing global migration and mobility challenges in partnership with others and with respect for specific mandates and roles. We commend the level of engagement and dedication whereby the IOM contributes tirelessly to addressing the current global migration crises, such as those affecting Europe and its neighbourhood more directly, and to improving the management of mixed migratory flows.

IOM benefits from significant financial support from the EU and its Member States, Together, we are the largest contributor to the operational budget of a steadily developing organisation. The EU also cooperates closely with IOM in the field of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people on the move, as well as other areas such as Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), and with a focus on complex regional migration situations such as North Africa funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

The EU encourages IOM to continue developing its expertise and operational agility in close coordination with its members and donors.

Thank you !