



Republic of North Macedonia  
Ministry of Interior

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**Address of the Deputy Minister of Interior**  
**of**  
**the Republic of North Macedonia**  
**Astrit Iseni, PhD**  
**at the 115th Session of the IOM Council**

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**Distinguished audience,**

At the very beginning, I would like to thank you, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia, for the invitation to participate at this 115th Session of the IOM Council. It is a particular pleasure for me to be here in the heart of Europe, in the city of Geneva – the city of peace and multiculturalism.

Although North Macedonia is a small country, it has a large number of foreigners with regulated temporary or permanent residence. The basic mechanism for their legal migration to the Republic of North Macedonia is the Law on Foreigners, as well as the instruments provided for therein. The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the diplomatic and consular missions, the Employment Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth are the competent state institutions.

The basic criterion for harmonizing “temporary” and “permanent residence” within the framework of legal migration is the EU legislation. In terms of migration flows management, I would like to emphasize that there have been no significant changes in this area. Besides the Ministry of Interior and the Border Police, as its integral part, the system also includes other competent state institutions, as well as relevant UN agencies. There is active cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations and associations. All activities undertaken in the area of migration management are in accordance with international standards and EU policies and with full respect for fundamental rights. The recent accession to the European Migration Network is a confirmation for this. Namely, the process was completed at the end of October this year - with the signing of the Administrative Arrangement between the European Commission and the Ministry of Interior on 28.10.2024 on the margins of the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum. We have officially become an observer country in the European Migration Network, and on 24.10.2024 we participated in the Network's Steering Committee Meeting held in video format.

Capacity building for migration management is planned and implemented in accordance with national needs and interests, but also in accordance with EU policies

and standards, considering the Recommendations contained in the European Commission's Progress Reports, as well as the experience of EU countries. The main strategic documents in this area are the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management, the National Strategy for Combating Illegal Migration and Cross-Border Crime, the Migration Policy Resolution and the Rule of Law Roadmap.

International cooperation is an important link for strengthening migration management capacities – both in the area of information and experience exchange, as well as in the area of operational cooperation and expert and technical support. In this context, regional projects financially supported by the European Commission and implemented through Frontex and other relevant partners, as well as national projects designed and tailored to our needs, have been implemented. Here, I would like to mention the Frontex Joint Operation, which started on 19.04.2023, which aims to prevent illegal crossings and cross-border crime. In this context, and as an excellent example of international cooperation, I would like to highlight the International Joint Operation on the Southern Border, which was the beginning of the Frontex operation and in which 8 European countries participated, 7 of which were EU Member States, and which lasted from December 2015 to April 2023.

Certainly, we need the support of our partners to facilitate regular migration. In this sense, the IOM could help facilitate access to more easily observe the rights and obligations of vulnerable categories and young people, facilitating access to the system and institutions, especially when it comes to potential victims of human trafficking.

Distinguished audience,

The Republic of North Macedonia continuously fosters bilateral and international cooperation in the field of migration, and we remain committed to building new partnerships. Furthermore, we remain committed to implementing all procedures within our jurisdiction, the final goal of which ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration.

Thank you.