

Gracias Señor Presidente

Tomando la palabra por la primera vez, permítame usar esta oportunidad para expresar el placer de nuestra delegación por verlo, Señor Embajador, Juan Antonio March Puyol, como Presidente del presente Nonagésimo cuarto Consejo de la OIM y felicitarle calurosamente por su elección. Felicitamos asimismo a otros miembros del Buro.

[Thank you Mr. Chairman,

As I am taking the floor for the first time, let me congratulate Ambassador Juan Antonio March Puyol, Permanent Representative of Spain on his election as Chairman of the 94th Council, as well as you, Mr. Chairman, on your elction as Vice Chair. My best thoughts go also to other members of the Bureau.]

Poland welcomes the new members admitted to the Organization, namely the Republic of Burundi and Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as well as the three new observers – Africa Recruit, Refugee Education Trust and *Femmes Africa Solidarité*.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

Poland fully endorses the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the European Union. In this statement delivered in our national capacity I would like to limit myself to making some additional comments on the issues of specific interest for my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

The shortages in labour market in Europe and growing need for new employees, resulting therefrom, have changed our approach to and evaluation of migration. We do not see it as a threat, but as unavoidable phenomenon in the modern world and, indeed, as a factor that could enrich our societies. Therefore, when identifying a new approach to the migration issues within the context of the global economy, we should focus our efforts on improving the management of legal migration flows between countries of origin and receiving countries, which are willing to prevent and combat irregular immigration.

This new approach is already enshrined in our new legislation. It has been introduced by the amendment to the law on foreigners, which entered into force on 20 July 2007. Institutional aspects of the amendments have been already hinted to by our delegation during the discussion on the World Migration Report 2008.

From the point of view of the impact on migration, the purpose of the new law is liberalization of the approach to the immigration within the framework determined by the EU legislation. The law facilitates the employment procedures for some foreigners, and aims at the same time at minimizing the threat of irregular migration. The new law contains so-called abolition provisions, facilitating the legalization of residence of those foreigners, who meet specific conditions, including one of interrupted residence at least from 1 January 1997.

Mr. Chairman,

Prevention and combating irregular migration remains the priority for our country, not only through the protection of borders and conclusion of readmission agreements, but most of all through supporting legal migration. This could be done by dissemination of knowledge on the channels of legal migration, facilitating remittances, improving mechanisms of recognition of migrants' qualifications.

First Conference of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (Brussels, July 2007) proved – based on the examples of cooperation among the stakeholders – that establishment of close linkages between migration and development of receiving countries and countries of origin is an appropriate approach. In this context, the exchange of information and experience, is of special importance for the success of such a cooperation.

The Government of Poland participates in the EU discussion concerning the improvement of conditions of legal transfer of persons between the EU and third countries. We share the position that the promotion of circular migration and conclusion of partnerships for mobility will allow more effective management of migration, and in particular will help us in solving

~~problems of irregular immigration.~~

As it was stated by the EU Presidency, the European Union has further consolidated its "Global Approach on Migration" and has developed its external dimension, through starting to extend it to the Eastern and South-Eastern regions of the EU. We welcome this development. ~~We are looking forward to the results of the discussion on practical aspects of the Global Approach. We are of the view that the involvement of IOM in preparation and implementation of projects relating to mobile partnership would be very valuable for partner countries participating in such projects.~~

Mr. Chairman,

Poland highly appreciates the co-operation with IOM – both at national and international level – as an effective instrument of information sharing and assistance. In this context I would like to stress the excellent cooperation between Polish governmental institutions and local IOM Office in Warsaw, especially with regard to to voluntary returns covered by projects and programmes implemented by the Office.

The continuation of the project implemented within the framework of the agreement concluded in 2005 between the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and Warsaw IOM Office allowed for facilitating in the first half of 2007 of voluntary returns of 375 migrants, which – in comparison to previous years – marks considerable growth. ~~The programme is co-financed by the Government of Poland and European Refugee Fund 2005.~~

Mr. Chairman,

We have stated repeatedly at this forum that IOM should serve as a platform for information and best practices exchange between countries, civil society and business community. It is and it should be a source of practical expertise and assistance in migration matters. We note with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by the Director General and the Organisation aiming at redefinition of place and role of IOM and its adaptation to new challenges and tasks. We

encourage you to continue these efforts.

Poland supports the EU position on the structural reform of the IOM, aiming inter alia at strengthening the cooperation, as well as at more effective implementation of IOM's mandate and use of its financial resources. We welcome the adoption in June of the IOM strategy document and we are looking forward to its further integration into the work of the Organisation.

Let me assure you Mr. Chairman and Mr. Director General of Poland's continuous support towards IOM and our commitment to its purposes and goals. We stand ready to contribute substantially to shaping our common future.