



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Permanent Delegation
to the International Organisations in Geneva

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Eckart GUTH, Ambassador,
Head of the Delegation of the European Commission
to the International Organisations in Geneva**



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Mr Chairman,

1. First of all, allow me also to thank the Director General, Mr Swing, for his inspiring presentation on the committed work of the IOM and its staff.
2. The European Commission associates itself with the comprehensive statement delivered by France, on behalf of the European Union, which we whole-heartedly support, in line with our respective legislative, policy and funding competences.
3. Now let me briefly refer to our Global Approach to Migration, which underpins the European Pact on Immigration and aims at ensuring that the external migration policy of the European Union is conducted in a coherent and coordinated way, notably with regards to its three core policy strands, which are : first, to strengthen legal migration governance, secondly, to prevent irregular migration, whilst taking due care of the rights of asylum seekers and persons in need of international protection and, thirdly, to strengthen the link with development.
4. The setting up of integrated policy and institutional mechanisms is being promoted with partners at bilateral and regional levels and recent EU immigration patterns show that this task is becoming more comprehensive every day. Indeed, in 2006, migration to the EU came, in equal parts, from the rest of Europe - that is from outside the EU - from the American, Asian and African continents.
5. Against this background, the European Commission has two major roles to play: on the one hand, it is helping with the management of labour migration and labour market processes on the territory of the Member States and, on the other hand, it is supporting global migration policy developments internationally, in line with its external and development policy mandates, including via the International Organisation for Migration.
6. Fulfilling the tasks and mandates of a regional and global actor requires some financial engagement. That is the reason why, over recent years, the European Community has strengthened its commitments and, adding up various financial contributions, it is estimated that the European Commission provides more than 600 million € annually for migration and related policy fields, inside and outside the EU.
7. One of the prime concerns of the European Commission is to develop policy instruments and tools which can be put to use by the Member States of the European Union. Pursuing this in isolation is not effective. IOM Members

and IOM play important roles in catalysing, supporting and fostering quality based consultation processes, in line with evolving parameters.

8. Finally, let me reiterate that, in all its work on migration, the European Commission attaches the highest importance to the respect for democratic principles, human rights including minority rights, and for fundamental freedoms.
9. Mr Chairman, we look forward to enhancing our fruitful cooperation and dialogue with the IOM. Thank you.