

Address by H. E. Mr. Eduardas Borisovas,
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Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva

at the Ninety-sixth session of the Council of
the International Organization for Migration

3 December 2008

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director General,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Lithuania fully aligns itself to the statement by the ambassador of France on behalf of the European Union.

I would like to join congratulations to Mr. William Lacy Swing that were here expressed on your election to the post of the Director General. I am convinced that your immense experience both in bilateral and multilateral issues will be a great asset to the Organization and the whole international community. Yesterday you referred to us as the IOM family. Hence, I would like to welcome you becoming member of this family.

I want also extend my congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the non-governmental organization December 18 in obtaining the observer status in the Organization.

Also, sincere thanks go to the outgoing Bureau of the IOM Council which was presided by Ambassador Garrigues. I would like to welcome Ambassador Mundaraín Hernández of Venezuela on his election to the post of the Chairman of the Council. My congratulations are also extended to Ambassador Kitajima of Japan, Ambassador Jazaïry of Algeria, and Mr. Weidinger from the Austrian Mission on becoming members of the Council's Bureau.

Mr. Chairman,

Lithuania being a country of origin, destination, and transit of migrant is in particular interested in international actions in this area. Migration being such complex issue can only be addressed when national actions are joined with the international ones. Therefore, we support the priorities of the new Director General, which were presented during his election campaign and reiterated in the presentation yesterday.

Indeed, Lithuania does agree that the Member States must have stronger feeling of ownership of the Organization. This feeling could only be created by our greater involvement at different areas of operation planning and implementation that could only be achieved through transparent and inclusive processes. The other priority that was expressed concerns promotion of partnerships, which we regard as indispensable tool in developing cooperation on migration issues. We were in particular encouraged by the proposal to coordinate more extensively with other organizations, in

particular UNHCR. We would hope that this will allow more efficient utilization on recourses as possible duplication of activities will be avoided. Also, as we understand, different actors will be involved in these activities, not only international organizations, but also non-governmental organizations and representatives of businesses. We also support proposals regarding improvements in human recourses management which is a challenging issue in the Organization that is spread all over the world.

We are convinced that the priorities will be reflected in the work of the Organization and implementation of its strategy document adopted one year ago. They all are consistent and mutually reinforcing each other. Thus the line to strengthen the international cooperation and by that the Organization will be maintained. Also, this will help to reduce negative impacts and to develop benefits of migration.

Different forms of migration may either create instability in societies, create tensions, brain drain and other negative effects or they can benefit societies in receiving countries, immigrant communities, and the countries of origin. We are convinced that the Organization under the new leadership will provide opportunities in this regard, in particular in providing more extensive possibilities in protecting people who due to different reasons leave their homes and seek better possibilities elsewhere, as well as further elaborating on links between migration and development. We also would like to ask to retain attention at a need for fight against human trafficking that may be associated with migration.

Lithuania would expect that under leadership of the new Director General the Organization will retain its integrity as international structure. Thus, we are hesitant to support the idea to formalize mandate of the Deputy Director General by adopting the IOM Council resolution. We are convinced that the IOM has achieved many successes and it should continue to do so working as one team under the sole leadership of the Director General.

Mr. Chairman,

We want to recognize the assistance that Lithuania has received though the IOM bureau in Vilnius. Dedicated and highly qualified staff is focussing on the most pressing needs and presently even shares its expertise in other countries.

Once again, I want to wish the new Director General and all the team at the Organization all success I their undertakings.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.