



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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1. Chairman, let me congratulate you for your election. I wish to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and his efforts to ensure administrative and financial excellence in the management of IOM. I wish the new Deputy Director General, Ms Laura Thompson, all the best in her new function. The European Commission associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by Sweden, on behalf of the European Union.

2. Today, I like to draw your attention to the Lisbon Treaty which will enter into force on 1 December 2009 and which will further strengthen the European Union's capacities to act in a concerted way in the areas of asylum and migration. It provides for an enhanced legal basis concerning a common immigration policy and solidarity between EU Member States in the management of asylum and immigration.

3. The Stockholm Programme will be the first important multi-annual policy programme of the European Union that fully reflects the new Treaty provisions. Foreseen for adoption by mid-December, it will create the policy framework for a reinforced EU dialogue and cooperation on migration with countries of origin and transit. It is based on the EU's Global Approach to Migration and its three main themes: 1) facilitating legal migration and the integration of migrants; 2) combating irregular migration and human trafficking; and 3) strengthening the synergies between migration and development.

4. Mr. Chairman, the European Commission fully supports the evolving international migration policy agenda. We are pleased about the progress made within the Global Forum on Migration and Development. At the meeting in Athens, we were invited to develop the concept of Migration Profiles further, towards an agreed international standard. The European Commission intends to take up this task, including with a view to stepping up policy coherence between migration and development.

5. Mr Chairman, the Commission appreciates the valuable work undertaken by IOM in implementing many Commission-cofunded projects that build on the Union's policies. We rely very much on such cooperation with IOM and we are look forward to deepening our fruitful cooperation. Thank you for your attention.