

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AT GENEVA



Statement of His Excellency

Mr. Zdzisław RAPACKI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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IOM

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Mr. Chairman, Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation fully associates itself with the EU statement delivered yesterday by distinguish delegate of Sweden. It is not my intention to add to its valuable content, but simply to briefly present some national perspective.

The financial crisis has pushed people out of work and force them to find employment in “borderlands” and beyond. Poland currently is not only country of origin but also country of destination for migrants particularly from eastern countries.

We recognize that the important aspect of migration policy is to facilitate the integration of migrants through promoting their active participation in civic society and capacity building. Poland in cooperation with IOM Office in Warsaw implements programmes and projects, which will bring a positive contribution to economic, social and development dimension.

Throughout active and competent integration of migrants in civic society, Polish Government wishes to enhance multicultural dialogue and establish a platform of cooperation between migrant associations and various Polish institutions. Programme “*Intercultural School in a Multicultural City*”, addressed to school environments, helps to strengthen the two-way integration process of migrants in Poland and to foster understanding and acceptance within the host society towards migrants.

The issue of the public health safety in present pandemic situation is a major concern for Polish Government. To provide appropriate healthcare for migrants entering the European Union border area project *Increasing Public Health Safety alongside the New Eastern European Union Border Line* will be implemented with collaboration of the governments of Hungary and Slovakia as well as the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and FRONTEX. In connection to the project, the campaign to improve medical services for asylum seekers has started in Poland. The aim of this project is to improve the quality and efficiency of medical services through raising awareness of asylum seekers on prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive health, medical care during pregnancy and child care.

As Director General noted in his report, we live in an era of the greatest human mobility in recorded history. To manage this global migration process

more rational, coordinated and efficient and to limit its negative effect, Poland implements the project *Exchange of Information and Best Practices on Irregular Migration and Smuggling of Migrants Linked to Cross Border Organized Crime*. The intention of this project is to contribute to European and international efforts by improving the national officers' knowledge of the phenomenon and the most recent legal and technical tools to combat it. Counter Trafficking 2009 campaign was launched in Poland on the third EU Anti-Trafficking Day focused on fighting human trafficking for forced labour.

All above mentioned projects are co-financed by the European Integration Fund.

Poland assists Voluntary Returns Programme. The Action Plan 2009 is builded upon the activities implemented in the previous years and it will expand. This procedure further strengthens a functional mechanism for the voluntary and orderly return of unsuccessful asylum seekers and irregular migrants from Poland to their countries of origin in safety and dignity, by providing information on the situation in countries of origin, pre-departure arrangements and return transportation assistance. According to Polish experience voluntary return is the solution less costly than forced returns. It is advisable to continue the voluntary return, the more that partners involved in the implementation of Action Plan in Poland (IOM, the Office for Foreigners, Border Guard) are positive about both the program itself and co-operation between them.

In the context of the structure reform of IOM, Poland would like to underline a very good cooperation with the IOM Office in Warsaw.

Poland would like to assure of our willingness of support for the reforms announced and presented by the Director General in his report to the Council.