

99th Session of the IOM-Council
Statement by Ambassador Christian Strohal
Permanent Representative of Austria
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Director General, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,
Mr. Chairperson,

The Austrian Delegation aligns itself with the Statement by the European Union, and wishes to extend a warm welcome to the new members and observers.

At the outset, let me **express Austria's deep appreciation for the Director General's** committed leadership, his commitment to the principle of Member State ownership as well as his emphasis on partnership and dialogue. Thanks to his open-minded and collaborative approach he is rendering the organization even more efficient.

In his opening statement the Director General has drawn a comprehensive picture of the **current state of migration**, and has given an interesting outlook for the next five years. While people have been migrating for centuries, migration is increasingly becoming a global megatrend which is posing new challenges to States, international organizations and the civil society alike. The reasons why people migrate

are becoming ever more diverse, thereby changing existing migration patterns. We appreciate that the Director General continuously points to ongoing trends in the field of migration and raises awareness of the challenges ahead of us.

In this context Austria thanks the Director General for reminding Member States of **upcoming events** related to migration, which will lead to the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in the UN General Assembly in 2013. Austria encourages IOM to maintain its role as the lead migration agency, which is well based on its project-oriented nature, and to undertake any efforts with a view to further strengthening its capacity to serve migrants and Member States. IOM's current lead role should be maintained and reaffirmed.

Turning to the **state of the Organisation** and to the status of organizational reforms, Austria would like to express our particular **appreciation to Deputy Director General Laura Thompson** for her committed and prudent oversight of the **structure review**. Austria welcomes the timely implementation of the structure reform at Headquarters' level, and looks forward to its full implementation in the field. We count on IOM to continue updating Member States on a regular basis, and we invite IOM to present an evaluation of the reform, with a particular focus on the new project endorsement process, in due time.

As regards the **budget** Austria welcomes the fact that the Organization has proposed zero nominal growth for 2011. Bearing in mind the constantly strained administrative part of IOM's budget Austria is of the view that the momentum of IOM's 60th Anniversary next year could be used as a good opportunity to reach out to more governments as well as to the private sector and foundations in order to attract new donors. We encourage IOM to develop a comprehensive strategy in this regard.

IOM's 60th Anniversary next year is an opportunity to reaffirm IOM's role as leading migration organization, as well as to raise the global awareness of migration issues and the work IOM undertakes for the benefit of migrants. Austria welcomes the efforts by IOM to organize a high-level event as well as a series of events in the Member States, and is looking forward to cooperating with IOM as it develops its strategy in this regard.

Let me finally turn to **Austria's cooperation with IOM** at the national level, in particular with the IOM office in Vienna. The excellent and professional relationship is reflected in a number of different projects mainly in the area of voluntary return and combating trafficking in human beings; like others, Austria places high priority in this combat, both in the Foreign Ministry as well as the Ministry of the Interior. The close cooperation with IOM regarding these areas is highly appreciated by us. Equally appreciated is IOM's role as national contact point for the

European Migration Network and we thank IOM for their expertise in this regard.

In conclusion, let me thank the Director General, his Deputy as well as the dedicated staff of IOM for their commitment to offer invaluable help to migrants around the world, in order to manage migration in an orderly and humane way. Austria wishes the Director General and his team well in their efforts and expresses her full support for them. We look forward to continuing our excellent cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.