

**COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

99th Session

(29 November to 2 December 2010)

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Dimitris ILIOPOULOS

on behalf of the European Union

Geneva, 29 November 2010

Check against delivery

Geneva, 29 November 2010

**COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

99th Session

(29 November – 2 December 2010)

EU statement

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is my privilege to take the floor at this 99th session of the Council of IOM on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

The EU thanks the Director-General for his opening remarks and congratulates him on his leadership, in particular with regard to his efforts to enhance IOM's overall performance. The EU would also like to welcome the new members Botswana, Central African Republic, Lesotho, Swaziland and Timor Leste who joined the organisation.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the basis of the Lisbon Treaty and the Stockholm Programme, the European Union plays an increasing role in the area of migration where it shares competences with its Member States. The Common European Immigration Policy complements and facilitates Member States' specific policy objectives.

¹ *Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

There is a fundamental distinction between legal migration and irregular migration, as reflected by the EU Treaties and related legislative and policy instruments, including the Stockholm Programme. Legally residing immigrants from third countries shall benefit from rights comparable to those of EU citizens. Irregular migration often goes hand in hand with the trafficking and smuggling of human beings, tragedies at sea, human rights violations and exploitation at work. Being fully committed to fighting these negative phenomena and to promoting respect for fundamental human rights, we thus attach high importance to combating irregular migration including through cooperation with countries of origin and transit.

In the recent past, the EU has advanced in the area of irregular migration especially at its Southern and Eastern borders. Progress was also made on visa liberalisation and readmission in cooperation with various countries. Concerning legal migration, the EU has continued to create flexible admission systems that are responsive to the migration priorities, as determined by each Member State, including through the presentation of a proposal on EU legislation for seasonal workers.

The EU's Global Approach to Migration attempts to develop a balanced and comprehensive framework for cooperation with non EU-countries. Its three main prongs cover organising legal migration, combating irregular migration and promoting better synergies between migration and development, notably in view of contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. IOM is an important actor in the implementation of policies in these fields.

Mr. Chairperson

Subsequent to IOM's reorganisation at headquarters level, next steps, such as the implementation of the structure reform in the field and the revision of the project cycle, deserve our full attention. We invite the Administration to continue providing regular feedback on the implementation of the reform and submit a comprehensive evaluation report at the appropriate time.

In the light of the economic and financial crisis, we commend IOM for not proposing to have its administrative budget increased in 2011. This should allow full focus on

the reform of the budget structure. Our shared objective is to optimise the way IOM uses its financial resources to allow the organisation to respond to international migration management challenges in the most effective and efficient way, in line with the IOM Strategy.

The 2010 IOM Council is seized to adopt a resolution on the review of the IOM Strategy. The EU thanks IOM for its implementation report and invites IOM to continue reporting on progress at regular intervals, including on the conformity of IOM projects with the Strategy. We look forward to reviewing the Strategy again in three years' time.

The EU welcomes the intention of the IOM to organise a High Level meeting on the occasion of IOM's 60th anniversary in November 2011. This event should further contribute to fostering IOM's capabilities as a leading global organisation with a focus on migration management.

Mr. Chairperson

The EU encourages IOM to continue supporting effective partnerships with other international organisations, NGOs and the private sector, including with a view to fully exploring innovative policy approaches.

Migration is a key feature of today's globalizing world. Displacement and humanitarian needs are increasing against the background of problems such as conflicts, climate change, natural disasters and the economic and financial crisis. As a firm supporter of the humanitarian reform, the EU encourages IOM's continuous engagement and input, notably in the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, inter-cluster coordination and with regards to the cluster for Camp Coordination and Camp Management in natural disasters. We encourage IOM to mainstream costs related to cluster leadership into its budget, as part of the budget reform. This may require some stronger prioritisation by the organisation. The EU calls on IOM, to continue to support UN OCHA, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Humanitarian Coordinators at field level, in view of further promoting effective humanitarian response. The EU urges IOM to bring forward an internal

strategy which includes a definition of humanitarian assistance that is based on the fundamental humanitarian principles, builds on lessons learned from recent actions, and supports the international humanitarian system.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the timely submission of IOM's 2010 World Migration Report with its emphasis on "migration capacity building". As emphasised at the 4th Global Forum on Migration and Development in Puerto Vallarta, there is a wide-spread need to develop and adapt migration management capacities in line with evolving national, regional and global requirements. The EU welcomes IOM's contribution to promoting migration profiles as an effective tool that helps fostering evidence based migration policies.

The EU also takes note of the good efforts of the GMG to enhance the value added of key UN actors in this area. We specifically welcome WHO and UNIFEM as new GMG members.

Mr. Chairperson,

In a globalising world, migration cannot and must not be addressed in isolation from its multiple geographical, political, economic and social inter-linkages. Underpinned by its long-standing tradition of international and development cooperation, the European Union is moving ahead on the elaboration and promotion of relevant migration dialogues and policy tools through inter-regional and bilateral cooperation. At the same time, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and Regional Consultative Processes as well as inter-regional fora on migration questions increasingly contribute to the maximisation of mutual benefit within and between regions. The EU funded ACP Observatory is one of the good examples of how to strengthen evidence based policy frameworks. As IOM takes the lead on implementing important parts of the project, the EU trusts that its effects will spread beyond the specific regional context.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson