

13th meeting of the Budapest Group of Senior Officials held in conjunction with the final meeting of the project “Re-direction of the Budapest Process towards the CIS region”

29-30 June 2005, Vienna

Conclusions

1. The 13th meeting of the Budapest Group of Senior Officials was held in conjunction with the final meeting of the project on the “Re-direction of the Budapest Process towards the CIS region”, taking place in Vienna on 29-30 June 2005, hosted by Austria, under the chairmanship of Turkey, in its capacity as co-chair of the Budapest Process and gathered representatives of Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom (upcoming EU Presidency), Uzbekistan, as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Executive Committee, Euro-Asian Economic Community (EURASEC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), as Secretariat of the Budapest Process.
2. In his opening statement the Secretary General for Foreign Affairs of Austria underlined the importance of the more than ten years work of the Budapest Process and its achievements in furthering a comprehensive approach towards the prevention and control of irregular movements in the Euro-CIS region and welcomed the broadening of the Process as a result of the project on the Re-direction of the Budapest Process towards the CIS region.
3. The United Kingdom, in its capacity as upcoming EU Presidency, introduced the main priorities on the agenda of the Presidency which will build on achievements since the Tampere European Council, taking into account the Hague Programme and the European Neighbourhood Policy. These priorities are in three broad themes: stronger EU engagement with the rest of the world in migration issues, strengthening border security, including tackling organised immigration crime and practical co-operation to manage migration, including partnership with third countries.
4. Hungary, as Chair of the Budapest Group and Turkey, as co-Chair of the Budapest Group in their opening statements pointed to the need for further regional co-operation in addressing the various issues related to migration and emphasised the instrumental role of the Budapest Process in this regard.
5. The Secretariat recalled that the meeting has the overall aim of analysing the findings of the CIS project and agreeing on the ways to include and address the identified challenges in the framework of the Budapest Process, in an effort to continue the prevention and control of irregular movements through the Euro-CIS region. It furthermore recalled the main elements characteristic for the Budapest Process, an informal and flexible mechanism for the exchange of information and experience among countries of destination, transit and origin of irregular migration, based on the

principles of equality, sovereignty and partnership among States; and its open character, which involves a wide area of international actors.

6. Participating States were inspired by the presentation of University of California Professor Philip Martin on the challenges of *Managing Migration in the 21st century* and the experience of States in this regard in other geographical regions. He stressed the growing structural differences in development and the push and pull factors of international migration and pointed out to the long-term effects of the policy choices and the need to improve the effectiveness of migration control measures.
7. The findings of the 2004 Yearbook on Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking were presented as a concrete example of how the Budapest Process wide network of migration officials has been utilised for exchange of information and statistical data in the field of irregular migration.
8. Participating States welcomed the re-direction of the Process with the involvement of all the twelve CIS countries and endorsed the presented policy framework for the future activities of the Budapest Process. They took account of the increasing migration pressures from further East and recognised that migration flows created by these pressures, actually and potentially, affect all European States. It was again acknowledged that in doing this the developments within the EU, notably the New Neighbourhood Policy, the Hague programme and the BOMCA/ CADAP programme in Central Asia will continue to be taken into account.
9. Participating States further recognised the main findings of the project on the “Re-direction of the Budapest Process towards the CIS region”, as reflected in the draft country reports, which examined the state of the art as regard legislative and institutional framework in the related areas of regular migration, visa policy, border management, irregular migration, asylum, return and readmission, trafficking in human beings and the activities of relevant international organisations for each of the twelve CIS countries. They further acknowledged the relevance and usefulness of these findings for future work.
10. In their statements the participating States expressed their migration challenges in line with the conclusions of the meetings in St. Petersburg, 11-12 October 2004, Tbilisi 29-30 November 2004, Almaty, 19-20 May 2005, as well as the meeting of the Friends of the Chair held on 4 May 2004 in Budapest:
 - Prevention of irregular migration, in particular, trafficking and smuggling, through information campaigns; awareness raising on requirements for entry, stay; introduction of carriers liability; burden-sharing mechanisms;
 - Transit migration and its effects on all migration policy areas, through further information exchange and research to develop adequate policy responses and co-operation mechanisms;
 - Further development of visa policies and up-grading of visa issuing systems, instrumentalised as a way to address the challenges of immigration;
 - Document security: production of secure travel and identification documents, including the introduction of biometric features, while respecting international standards on personal data protection;
 - Border management in all its aspects; conceptually, technically, training, inter-agency co-operation, border delimitation and demarcation and simplified procedures for cross-border movements;

- Developing national systems for labour migration, including conclusion and implementation of labour agreements, supported by relevant statistical data;
 - Fight against trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation through training of police and judiciary, awareness raising, return and reintegration; protection of victims of trafficking;
 - Return and readmission: registration, identification, consular co-operation, procurement of travel documents, repatriation (voluntary, non-voluntary), reintegration, conclusion of readmission agreements;
 - Economic and social integration in the countries of destination: exchange of information and experience on regularisation campaigns; registration and documentation of labour migrants in an irregular situation; reduction of the informal sector through the introduction of employer sanctions;
 - Information exchange on legislation, policies and practices relating to the prevention and control of irregular migration among the relevant authorities of the participating States;
 - Reform processes of the migration and asylum systems, including legalisation and its implementation, enhancement of administrative structures, international co-operation;
 - Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as a result of conflicts, natural and man-made disasters, and the need for durable solutions;
 - Recognising the need to address the root causes of migration, remittances, brain drain, demographic and gender aspects of migration, affecting particularly countries of origin and further exploring the linkages between migration and development.
11. Recognising the transboundary character of migration, the participating States agreed to further develop collaborative efforts within the Budapest Process, in the framework of existing or new working groups or other pilot activities of the Process.
 12. Participating States reconfirmed their commitment to maintain the focus on South Eastern Europe and the particular situation of the countries in this region.
 13. Taking into account the recommendations adopted at the 2003 Rhodes Ministerial Conference, which built upon on previous Ministerial recommendations, participating States adopted the proposed Work Plan for the remaining 2005 and 2006 activities of the Budapest Process, including the activities within the WG on Harmonisation of Penalty Scales, WG on Irregular Movements and Asylum, Experience Exchange in the Reform Process of Migration Systems, WG on Admission Policies, WG on South Eastern Europe/ WG on Visa Policies, WG on Return and Readmission. They also called upon the Secretariat to continue consultations on the concrete topical and geographical modalities to adequately address those of the identified challenges, which have not yet been tackled in the present framework, such as the establishment of identity in migration procedures, etc.
 14. The Secretariat presented an overview of the financing situation for 2004 and presented the budget for 2005 and thanked those participating States already having made pledges towards the 2005 budget and appealed to participating States to render financial and other contributions to ensure the effective continuation of the Process.
 15. Participating States reconfirmed their commitment to ensure and safeguard the rights of asylum seekers and refugees.
 16. In their interventions, international organisations, present at the meeting, emphasised the complex migration dynamics in the CIS region, including forced displacement, and

the various efforts undertaken in other relevant fora and international frameworks to address them. In particular, the 1996 CIS Conference on issues of forced migration and protection and the follow-up process were mentioned as having produced achievements in this regard that should be built on. Participants recognised the benefits to be gained through improved co-ordination, through exchanging work plans and maintaining and fostering contacts among regional processes, notably the Bali and Söderköping processes and the succeeding activities to the CIS 1996 Conference-Process.

17. The participants thanked Austria for hosting the meeting and the Secretariat at ICMPD for the extensive substance preparations and excellent arrangements.