

## Budapest Process, 16<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting

Istanbul, 3 November 2010

### Summary/Conclusions

1. On 3 November 2010 the sixteenth Senior Officials Meeting of the Budapest Process was held in Istanbul, Turkey, chaired and hosted by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and decide on the future direction of the Budapest Process, following the communication from the Chair, Turkey, on 14 May 2010 announcing a third phase of the Budapest Process.
3. The sixteenth Senior Officials Meeting brought together representatives of 27 countries (Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom) as well as the European Commission, the International Organization for Migration, INTERPOL, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as the Secretariat of the Budapest Process.
4. The meeting was opened by Turkey, as the Chair of the Budapest Process. The opening statement was followed by welcoming remarks from Hungary, as the Co-chair, and ICMPD, as the Secretariat.
5. As an introduction to the discussions the Secretariat presented an overview of the history, structure and functioning of the Budapest Process. To illustrate also other important initiatives working on migration in the same or partly the same geographic region, the delegations of Australia, Poland and the Russian Federation presented overviews of the Bali Process, the Building Migration Partnerships (Prague process) and the Joint Commission of State Partners to Agreement on Cooperation of State Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on Fight of Illegal Migration respectively.
6. The Chair, Turkey, presented the proposed third phase of the Budapest Process as well as on the structure and vision for the new Working Group on the Silk Routes Region. Located at the intersection of continents and at the crossroads for both southern as well as eastern migratory flows, Turkey is in a key position to initiate cooperation within this Working Group due to its long-term friendly relations with countries along these routes.
7. Presentations on structure of the working groups and vision for the work followed by the chair of the Working Group on the Black Sea Region, Bulgaria, and the chair of the Working Group on the South-East European Region, Croatia.
8. In the following *Tour de Table*, all participating countries, as well as organisations, shared their views on the proposed new direction and priorities for the future. Participating countries unanimously endorsed the *Third Phase of the Budapest Process*. Participants were very positive to the geographical division proposed with three regional working groups, the Working Group on the Black Sea Region, the Working Group on the South-East European Region and the Working Group on the Silk Routes region. Several delegations furthermore expressed support to the continuation of the Working Group on Return and Readmission.
9. The Secretariat presented options and proposals for the future financial management of the Budapest Process as well as project ideas. A number of countries confirmed their contributions for 2010 and 2011; Finland, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.
10. The following conclusions were made:
  - a. The Budapest Process will enter a *third phase* in accordance with the proposal of the Chair, Turkey, of 14 May 2010.
  - b. A geographical division will thus be applied, with three regional working groups; the Working Group on the Black Sea Region, the Working Group on the South-East European Region and the Working Group on the Silk Routes region.

- c. The thematic Working Group on Return and Readmission should be maintained. The Chair and the Secretariat will reflect on the possible new topics for this Working Group, such as return of unaccompanied minors, identification of vulnerable groups. Also the future chairmanship of the Working Group will be further discussed.
  - d. The Budapest Process methodology, which has proven to be very useful in the past, should be maintained. This involves adherence to the basic principles of flexibility, informality and states meeting on equal footing.
  - e. A flexible and adaptable structure should be kept in order to continuously be able to adjust to current needs and priorities of the participating countries.
  - f. Different dialogues and initiatives should be working in synergy, complement each other and seek cooperation and exchange of experiences in order to avoid overlaps. This was also noted as one of the reasons behind the new structure proposed by the Chair of the Budapest Process, as well as the purpose for asking the representatives for several such initiatives to present their work at the Senior Officials meeting.
  - g. In addition to traditional topics of the Budapest Process, such as illegal migration, return and readmission and asylum, topics such as labour and legal migration, and links between migration and development should be continuously included in the work.
  - h. The appropriate way to ensure the financial stability of the Budapest Process is a combination of funding sources; joint state funding of a small secretariat structure together with projectised funding for additional meetings and larger follow-up projects.
  - i. The implementation of the abovementioned basic principles should be explained, used and respected in the cooperation also with the new partner countries within the newly established Working Group on the Silk Routes Region, chaired by Turkey.
  - j. Migration is historically a fact of life and indeed, most persons have a family history at one point affected by migration. The root causes of migration and the links to development should accordingly be discussed and addressed.
  - k. The human rights of the migrants should be respected and necessary protection provided even to migrants in an irregular situation. A balance should be struck between the need to migrate and the need for migration.
11. The Chair thanked all participating countries for their support to the new structure and direction of the Budapest Process.
12. The participants entrusted the Secretariat with the task of summarising discussions and conclusions as well as to circulate results.
13. Participants thanked Turkey for the warm hospitality as host and chair of the meeting and ICMPD, as the Secretariat, for the organisation and the substance preparations.

----