

Budapest Process
17th Senior Officials Meeting
Ankara, 17 November 2011

Summary/Conclusions



1. On 17 November 2011 the 17th meeting of Budapest Process Senior Officials was held in Ankara, Turkey, chaired and hosted by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with ICMPD.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to reflect upon the first year of implementation of the third phase of the Budapest Process, which was decided in November 2010, and to discuss the strategic outlook from now to 2013.
3. The meeting brought together representatives of 25 countries (Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and Ukraine) as well as the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), the European Commission, Frontex, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as the Secretariat of the Budapest Process.
4. Turkey, as the Chair of the Budapest Process, opened the meeting and described its vision for the future and announced that a ministerial meeting, marking the 20th anniversary of the Budapest Process, will be organized in Istanbul in spring 2013. The opening statement was followed by welcoming remarks by the co-chair, Hungary, and ICMPD as the Secretariat.
5. Following the welcome addresses, the Secretariat gave an overview of achievements and lessons learned during 20 years of migration dialogue following the Berlin Ministerial Conference in 1991 (since 1993 the Budapest Process), especially focusing on developed dialogue tools that are available also for future work.
6. The Secretariat furthermore presented the implementation of the first year of the third phase of the Budapest Process and gave an overview of the project *Fostering cooperation in the area of migration with and in the Silk Routes Region* ("the Silk Routes project") that started in September 2011.

7. Afghanistan made a short presentation on the recent situation as regards migration in the country. The Afghan representative, Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Security, put particular emphasis on the need for vocational training of the Afghan youth.
8. The Chairs of the Working Groups (Turkey as Chair of the Silk Routes Region Working Group and Bulgaria as Chair of the Black Sea Region Working Group) presented their thematic priorities for 2012 (the presentation by Croatia, chair of the South-East European Working Group, was delivered by the Secretariat).
9. Following the presentations by the Chairs, the Secretariat laid out plans and proposals for the period 2012-2013;
 - a. a proposed Budapest Process training programme covering 18 months aiming at providing practical peer to peer training on migration (notably migration related crime), targeting especially officials from Silk Routes countries however accessible to all Budapest Process countries,
 - b. a project proposal, covering the extended Silk Routes Region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria), to be submitted to the EC following the call for proposals under the Thematic Programme for cooperation with third countries in the areas of Asylum and Migration and
 - c. the strategic outlook until 2013 including the financial viability.
10. In the following *Tour de Table*, all participating countries, as well as organisations, shared their views on the implementation of the third phase and priorities for the future. The participating countries expressed commitment to the continuation of the existing working group structure with three regional working groups.
11. All present participating countries furthermore expressed strong support to the presented work plans, objectives and priorities and the proposed actions (the Budapest Process training programme and the new project proposal on the extended Silk Routes Region). Several countries expressed interest in providing in-kind assistance and expertise for the training programme and in taking active part in the ongoing and planned Silk Routes projects.
12. In general, the wish for further concrete work within the framework of the Budapest Process was expressed. Numerous countries support a framework in which small pilot projects can be implemented jointly by interested countries. Especially projects linking migration officials and frontline officers in relevant countries as well as real-time information exchange efforts would be welcome.
13. Several countries also expressed the importance of including the following themes in the planned activities: voluntary returns and readmission, unaccompanied minors, multilateral cooperation in border management, internal migration, asylum seekers and trafficking in persons (including protection of victims and access to legal aid). Some countries also suggested that NGOs should be included in project activities and trainings.
14. Some participating countries as well as international organisations called attention to the importance not to duplicate or overlap with other ongoing activities in the regions covered by the process. Regarding the Silk Routes Region, Australia offered to provide information on Australia's activities within the framework of the Bali Process.
15. Belarus expressed an interest to host trainings within the framework of the proposed Training Programme in the International Training Center under the Home Office Academy.

16. China underlined the shared responsibility of countries of origin, transit and destination as far as irregular movements are concerned and expressed furthermore that the international community should honour its commitments and give assistance and support to the Silk Routes countries. China indicated that they would study the proposed Silk Routes project II to be submitted to the EC.
17. Frontex will further assess which kind of activities could be supported during project implementation. This would concern mainly sharing of migration data as well as identifying trainers with border management related expertise.
18. ICMPD supported the establishment of migration observatories (*caravanserais*) as proposed by the Chair, which would enhance regional cooperation and could also promote cooperation with European countries through liaison officers and data exchange.
19. Switzerland and Turkey confirmed their Budapest Process contributions for 2012. The Netherlands announced that future Dutch funding would be available for concrete project initiatives of their interest.
20. Donor countries of the currently running Silk Routes project discussed possible use of additional funds raised (extension of covered countries, project duration or activities) and agreed to include Iraq and Iran in the project.
21. The following conclusions were made:
 - a. Bulgaria, chairing the Black Sea Region Working Group, will host a meeting (possibly on document security) in Sofia in October 2012.
 - b. Croatia, chairing the Southeast European Region Working Group, will host a meeting in Zagreb in the first half of 2012.
 - c. The third meeting of the Silk Routes Working Group will be organised in Georgia in June 2012.
 - d. In line with requests from several countries, Turkey will work together with the Secretariat on engaging Iraq and Iran in the work of the Silk Routes Region Working Group.
 - e. The proposed work plans of the Working Groups and the training programme 2012-2013 are endorsed.
 - f. The present structure of the Budapest Process with a geographical focus on three regions is to continue in the period 2012-2013.
 - g. A ministerial meeting, marking the 20th anniversary of the Budapest Process, will be held in spring 2013 in Istanbul.
22. The Chair thanked all delegates for their active participation in the meeting and entrusted the Secretariat with the task of summarising and sharing the meeting results. The participants thanked the Chair for hosting and chairing a successful and productive meeting.
