

THE EU APPROACH TO MIGRATION FROM EASTERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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A. TODAY

European Immigration Pact

- a) Endorsed at the highest political level the current policy approach
- b) First time ever since the seminal European Council of Tampere

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B. OTHER RECENT POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

1. General principles of migration and asylum
 - a) Three fundamental goals of EU policy
 - b) Comprehensiveness and equilibrium
2. Policy Plan on Asylum
 - a) Towards a Common European Asylum system
 - b) Avoiding a negative impact on refugees' access to protection in the EU.
3. The « Global Approach to Migration »
 - a) Confirmed the usefulness of the specific instruments
 - b) Required the EU to engage with all key regions

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B. THE MULTIDENSIONAL NATURE OF THE EU APPROACH TO MIGRATION (AND ASYLUM)

1. Promotion of legal migration

- a) Preventing the exploitation of migrants
- b) Obtaining the types of migrants most needed
- c) Means :
 - hiring in origin,
 - supporting centres that advice migrants,
 - promoting schemes of circular migration,
 - encouraging mobility and bona fide travellers.

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2. Integration of legal migrants

- a) Contribute to, and participate fully in society
- b) While preserving their own culture
- c) Means:
 - the protection of their fundamental rights,
 - access to health and services and to education,
 - provision of languages and culture,
 - social mediation,
 - facilitating the access to accommodation and to family support services,
 - community building to manage tensions,
 - favourable policy of family reunification

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3. Granting of asylum

- a) To all those unable to obtain protection
- b) Challenge: Identify those in real need and ensure their access
- c) Means:
 - clear set of criteria for qualifying as a refugee (in conformity with international refugee law, 1951 Convention)
 - including principle of non refoulement,
 - minimum standards for the receptio
 - social and legal counselling
 - integration

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4. Discouragement of irregular migration

- a) Balance between openness, improving one's lot and maintaining standards
- b) Preventing exploitation of migrants
- c) Impossibility of absorbing all migrants
- d) Means:
 - * border management cooperation,
 - * of operational information exch.,
 - * border/migration officials training,
 - * assistance to ratify/implement international instruments,
 - * readmission agreements

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5. Migration and Development

- a) Emigration to be a positive force for the development of origin countries
- b) Specific means:
 - help reduce the cost of safely sending remittances, schemes for circular migration and the transfer of knowledge,
 - prevention of brain drain,
 - incentives for the return of skilled migrants,
 - involvement of the communities of migrants' diasporas

C. ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION

- C1) Assistance to transformation and progress (economic, social and environmental)
- European Development Fund: 22,700 million €
 - ENPI: 11,200 million €
 - BCI: 10,100 million €
- C2) Applying the “European Consensus for Development” by focusing on:
- Employment issues
 - Governance
 - Demographic developments

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D. OTHER FUNDING

- a) 190 million € to strengthening external borders
- b) 132 million € to assisting refugees and facilitating Migrants' integration
- c) 50 million € Thematic Programme for cooperating with third countries
- d) The EC/UN project on Migration and Development
- 15 million €
 - Implemented by UNDP plus other UN agencies and the IOM
 - Will support local NGOs and local administrations
 - To emphasize and further links between migration and development
 - 16 beneficiary countries

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E. THE EASTERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN REGIONS BEYOND THE EU

- Area of particular interest for the OSCE
- Also for the EU: some neighbours, some candidates for membership
- Cooperation in line with broader strategic concerns including European Neighbourhood Policy and the Enlargement process
- Substantial political and financial resources:
 - a) Mechanisms for dialogue and coordination: Black Sea Cooperation Platform, migration missions, JHA Subcommittees
 - b) Mobility Partnerships: Moldova, Georgia

- c) Financial Assistance:
- * ENPI
 - * Enlargement Instrument
 - * Thematic programme for cooperation with third countries 2008
 - targeted project – UNHCR
 - Call for Proposals:
 - 20 million €
 - countries/sub-regions
- d) Areas of particular concern:
- * originally: security (border control and control of irregular migration), legal migration
 - * now: also migration and development (remittance, diaspora, voluntary

Concluding remarks

- a) Progressive effort to achieve:
 - Increasingly common immigration policy
 - Close partnership with the countries of origin and transit of migrants.
- b) Many responsibilities now established at EU level
- c) EU is the only regional entity in the world with:
 - Common principles and practices
 - Global approach to migration
- d) Comprehensive + balanced approach seems to ensure largest possible benefits for
 - The EU and its partners countries
 - European societies and its immigrants