

17TH OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”

SECOND PREPARATORY CONFERENCE

TIRANA, 16-17 March 2009

Closing Statement by

H.E. Mr. Bujar Nishani, Minister of Interior of Albania

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I once again express my satisfaction and privilege to outline conclusions from this very important Forum, held in Tirana. The general concept of this Conference started with the presumption that by emphasising policies related to migration we will be able to reinforce beneficiary aspects of migration and reduce the potential risk for security. Today, in this closing session, after two days of intensive discussions, besides the confirmation of this conviction we also observed how strongly the topic “Migration Management and its linkage with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”, contributes to the compliance, continuance and consistency in our daily current events.

Migration, as a complex phenomenon and with new and variable challenges has made that a number of states, Albania among them, gathered today in this Conference, place particular attention to this phenomenon and manage it efficiently.

The political cohesion and its further improvement was one of the main issues of this forum. The existing stage of the economic and social development outline the necessity for a link of migration policies with policies of other domains, and we suggest to realise and implement, efficiently, “mix policies” and long term plans.

The specific analysis carried out through sections, dedicated in this mutual relation of migration, brought to our attention a number of important issues for specific linkage. We had the opportunity to see the analysis from a point of view which we are not used to see it often, and I would consider it as analysis from a positive point of view of migration: contribution of emigration for resource countries and for destination countries and not perceiving migration as a system strain for the welfare of a country.

Albania, but not only Albania had the possibility to make concrete this analysis from this point of view. Albania, as before mentioned has 700.000 (seven hundred thousand) Albanian citizens who work abroad, mainly in Italy and Greece. All these people, not only perform different and important functions for the economy of the countries where they work and live but statistics have showed that remittances send in the origin country are considered as

important, as part of the GDP. Income rates from migration were brought to this conference comparable to foreign investments and business.

Experiencing the affect from these inter - linkages, Albania has mediated and has made efforts to adapt policies regarding dynamics for migration development. This Conference discussed and launched very contemporary and coherent ideas with regard to the efficient use of incomes from migration. Considering this, these incomes not only would contribute to the increase of welfare for many families in need but also would serve in the form of investments as a factor for stabilisation. The policies adapted to these developments would improve and make the positive effect of migration that we have felt until today, more positive and make it more stable.

The focus of the discussion in relation to the migration, with the aspects and social politics and the mutual relationship with the environment, faces each of us with the commitments in order to prevent the potential consequences related to the security and stability. These mutual relationships, some of which are new in the analysis of our challenges, face us with cooperation in order to necessarily carry out an effective management of the migration.

The integration, reintegration and the social security of the emigrants in the countries of their origins and destination would require further improvement and attention so that the migration population and the potential one for migration would secure proper information in relation with the channels/immigration ways, requirements and other supportive services that are related to this movement. This would be considered as a positive affect to reduce migration for work purpose or irregular movement.

The prevention of the illegal migration through the common policies would effect directly in reducing the phenomenon that encourage the criminality and trafficking.

We need to ensure the continuation of this cooperation which involves all the stakeholders of this field and also to have the conviction that the achievement from concrete results will be made possible only through this cooperation and mutual concrete implementation.

As it has been outlined in this forum, all of us with a powerful and productive dialogue would make possible that the specific recommendations formulated in this forum be followed and addressed in continuation and be part of the final phase of this process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Concluding my speech, I would once again like to thank OSCE, for acting, in an excellent manner, as a forum for the expansion of dialogue between the Government and civil society, on migration issues. I would like to express the strong will of the Albanian Government for participation and active support to this process.