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Conference Services

Please find attached the presentation by Mr. Jean-Pierre Garson, Head of Non-Member Economies and International Migration Division, OECD, delivered to the Side Event with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, 13th OSCE Economic Forum, Prague, 23 -27 May 2005.

OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM, PRAGUE 23-27 MAY 2005
Side event with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation

MIGRATION FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA,
REMITTANCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**I. Migration trends from the Mediterranean area
towards OECD countries**

- Among OECD countries France is the country with the highest proportion of immigrants from Maghrebian countries in the total annual inflows (36% in 2002), followed by Spain (10%) and Italy (8.8%).
- This proportion is declining in Spain, in Italy and in Denmark. In the first two countries, however, the absolute number increased substantially.
- The same trends concern migration from Turkey and the former Yugoslavia.

2

- Turks represent more than 25% of the total foreign population in Germany (13% of the foreign-born population), against almost 15% in the Netherlands (11.3%) and 12% in Denmark.
- Foreign residents originating from the former Yugoslavia are more numerous in Germany, followed by Switzerland and Canada. Residents born in former Yugoslavia represent 35% of the total foreign-born population in Austria, 17.4% in Switzerland, and around 13% in Sweden.
- Foreign residents from Morocco are predominantly settled in France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium.

3

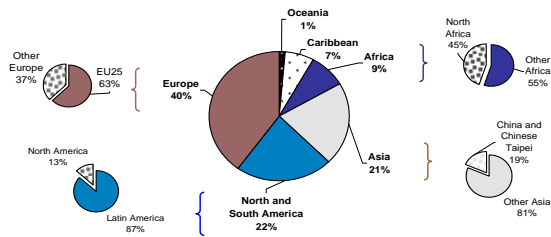
Share of foreign-born from selected Mediterranean countries as a percentage of the total foreign-born population in selected OECD countries

Country of residence:	Country or region of origin:	%
Austria	Former Yugoslavia	35.0
	Turkey	12.5
Belgium	Maghreb	12.7
Switzerland	Former Yugoslavia	17.4
Germany	Turkey	13.0
Spain	Maghreb	15.8
France	Maghreb	39.1
Hungary	Former Yugoslavia	11.3
Netherlands	Maghreb	10.1
	Turkey	11.3
Sweden	Former Yugoslavia	12.9
Turkey	Former Yugoslavia	11.6
Total OECD	Maghreb	3.9
	Former Yugoslavia	3.0
	Turkey	2.6
	Egypt	0.4

Source: OECD Database on the Foreign-born and Expatriates, last censuses years, around 2000.

4

Foreign-born by region of origin in OECD countries, percentages



Note: "Other Europe" and "Other Africa" include data for not stated European countries and not stated African countries, respectively.
Source: Trends in International Migration, OECD, 2005.

5

- Foreigners from Turkey and Maghrebian countries are more vulnerable to unemployment

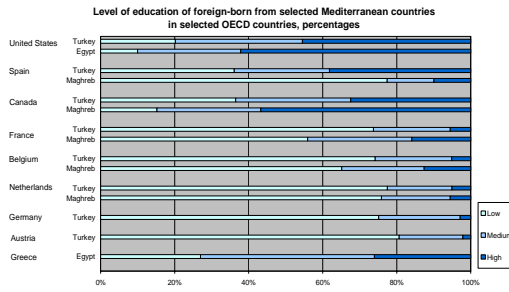
Participation rate and unemployment rate of foreigners from selected Mediterranean countries in selected OECD countries, 2004

Country of residence:	Country or region of nationality:	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
Austria	Turkey	54.4	19.1
Belgium	Maghreb	39.9	40.1
	Turkey	44.3	34.7
Spain	Maghreb	70.8	19.7
France	Maghreb	58.1	27.2
	Turkey	53.1	23.5
Italy	Maghreb	69.1	10.3

Source: European Labour Force Survey, 2004.

6

- The level of education of foreign-born from Turkey, Maghrebian countries and Egypt is higher in the US and Canada than in most OECD European countries.

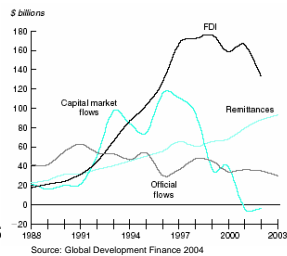


Source: OECD Database on the Foreign-born and Expatriates, last censuses years, around 2000.

7

II. Migration, remittances and economic development

- Globalisation of migration and globalisation of the economies
- Migrants remittances have recently grown in volume (estimates: 126 billion US \$ in 2004)
- Middle East and North Africa received 17 billion US \$ in 2004



Source: Global Development Finance 2004

8

The current context: remittances as a subject of political debate

- In some emigration countries, including in North Africa and the Middle East, remittances exceed the volume of official development aid (ODA). In certain cases it also exceeds FDI and/or exports.
- Although remittances contribute to improve the living conditions of migrants and their families, it seems less evident that they have had a positive impact on the economic development of the sending countries

9

The impact of remittances on the economic development

Prerequisites for enhancing the efficiency of remittances in an economic development perspective

- Difficult to attract and orient remittances towards the economic development of sending countries. Diversity in the personal characteristics of immigrants and in the ways in which they make use of their savings
• Implementing sound macroeconomic policies and policies of good governance in the sending countries
• Emigrants want to be able to make free use of their savings

10

Horizontal lines for notes

Ongoing initiatives at local and bilateral levels : the key factors

- Initiatives directed to all economic agents and not only towards emigrants
• Financial and economic risks are important, so it is important to create regional structures to overcome these difficulties in creating local development strategies and related financing methods (Portugal, Morocco)
• A great proportion of migrants have not been involved in the economic and financial networks of their country of origin
• Dissemination of information on regional development programme is an important element to attract remittances

11

Horizontal lines for notes

Beyond Remittances:

- The scale of remittance transfers allows emigrant workers to improve not only the living conditions of member of their families but also the welfare of other people who have remained in the home country
• Impact of remittances on the reduction of poverty and improvement of education and health care
• While any policy directed towards the liberalisation of capital movements in sending countries will attract more remittances, it would be a mistake to arbitraly channel emigrants' savings into projects that do not interest them or whose profit picture they do not understand

12

Horizontal lines for notes

- Key factors to accelerate economic convergence and, over the long term, reduce incentive to emigrate
- Modernisation of infrastructure and increase investment in human capital
- The launching of active programmes to attract foreign capital to projects (including those carried out by emigrants in their home countries)
- The issue of the relationship between globalisation, migration and development deserves to be further investigated in the broader context of international economic and political relations

13
