

**Statement by the Delegation of Hungary at the
OSCE Special Permanent Council on Migration**

ENGLISH only

Vienna, 20 July 2016

Thank you, Mr. Chair

I align myself with the statement of the European Union, and allow me to complement it with a few comments in my national capacity.

Migration continues to remain the key challenge of these days; Hungary is convinced that it is essential to seek common and coherent solutions, which focus on tackling the root causes, including ending the war in Syria and Iraq and stabilizing the situation in Libya. Support also needs to be offered to Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq to look after the refugees on their territories.

We reiterate the importance of the protection of the European Union external borders, proper border management, effective return policy and emphasize our openness to discuss and agree on proposals promoting these objectives. We will continue to stick to our international commitments and to apply human rights standards, as we have done in the past; we will continue to provide protection to everyone, who is genuinely fleeing from war.

We appreciate that the Western Balkans route is finally getting the attention – also in OSCE fora - that we have been advocating for a long time. Due to the fact, that the human trafficking and smuggling on the Western Balkans route is still a major concern we consider it necessary to increase significantly the assistance provided to the affected countries.

Coming to the **possible OSCE contribution**, first of all we would like to join previous speakers by thanking Ambassador Wilt for chairing the Informal Working Group and also for his comprehensive report, which we consider to be a useful basis for further discussion.

The organization's existing tools and commitments, across all three dimensions are valuable to address the various aspects of this crisis, and to complement the efforts and activities, which are undertaken by Participating States and other relevant international actors.

Although the report contains a meaningful list of recommendations we would like to highlight the following ones, in line with the Hungarian priorities:

- We agree that we should intensify our efforts to **fight against crime** related to the migration and refugee crisis. In this context we attach great importance to the activities of Ambassador Jarbussynova, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. We welcome the project "Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes", launched this year, to which we have contributed financially.
- We also stress the importance of the **judicial border management and police cooperation** along migratory routes. By sharing experience and best practices we could strengthen the effectiveness of border management and the fight against crime. By organizing joint trainings for police officers and border guards, the OSCE could positively contribute to this process.

- With regard to the **OSCE autonomous institutions**, we should see that in the past – and during recent crisis – they could carry out valuable work due to their strong existing mandates. We stress that these mandates need to be preserved.
- Nevertheless we believe that the main added value of the OSCE is its **field presence**. The OSCE field missions along the migratory route in the Western Balkans already made valuable work by providing real time information on the current situation. We thank them and encourage further work within their existing mandates, and also encourage the CPC to give assistance to such activities.

Finally let me once again thank Ambassador Wild for his valuable work and the German Chairmanship for organizing this Special PC, and look forward to further discussion.