

**AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES
OF THE 2017 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON LARGE
MOVEMENTS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Palermo, Italy, 24 and 25 October 2017

I. INTRODUCTION

The OSCE Ministerial Decision no. 3/16 on the OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees addresses the issue of large-scale movements of migrants and refugees and anchors migration management to the OSCE agenda. The Decision makes a specific reference to "reinforcing activities leading to the exchange of best practices and enhancing dialogue and co-operation with Partners for Co-operation".

Against this backdrop, the 2017 OSCE Mediterranean Conference and in particular its High Level Political Segment will focus on the topic of large movements of migrants and refugees across the Mediterranean and on the challenges, such as security related issues, as well as opportunities they entail for countries on all shores of the basin and beyond, with a view to turning consequent emergencies and crises into opportunities for renewed regional and international co-operation.

The first session will delve into the increased risks for smuggling and trafficking in human beings arising from large movements of refugees and migrants. A special focus will be dedicated to vulnerable groups, such as minors/children.

The second session will be devoted to the opportunities arising from migration and the role of integration policies for growth, sustainable development, peace and stability.

The third session will delve into the core of successful integration as a common responsibility based on a two-fold approach, with a focus on combating all forms of intolerance, racism, xenophobia, and discrimination, also based on religious grounds.

The Conference will provide the Participating States and Partners for Cooperation with an opportunity to exchange views, experiences, best practices, and lessons learned with a view to exploring together successful cooperative approaches to the issues posed by increased migration and refugee flows both in transit and receiving countries. The Conference will also serve as a platform to further develop dialogue and enhance cooperation for the sake of enhancing security in the Mediterranean, in line with the OSCE principles and commitments.

Tuesday, 24 October 2017

9-9:30 a.m. Registration of participants

9:30 a.m.–12 noon High-Level Political Segment on advancing Mediterranean security and cooperation in an age of large movements of migrants and refugees: challenges, including security related issues, and opportunities.

Large movements of migrants and refugees are re-shaping our societies as well as the concepts of security and cooperation across the Mediterranean and throughout the OSCE area.

Migrants and refugees are often perceived as yet another source of instability. As trans-border and trans-national phenomena, migration and refugee flows may also be viewed as linked to international terrorism. A broad and comprehensive approach to security-related issues arising from large movement of migrants and refugees, including its root causes, is therefore urgently needed.

However, challenges and risks are only one side of the coin. They can be partially balanced by the opportunities arising from migration and refugees flows, especially when appropriate integration policies are in place.

Rather than being just a sea, the Mediterranean is a bridge, connecting peoples, societies and cultures across its shores.

Cooperation in migration management is the asset to address irreversible dynamics bound to deeply shape our societies, turning them into mutually beneficial opportunities.

Introductory remarks

Hon. Angelino Alfano, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

Hon. Sebastian Kurz, Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and OSCE Chairman in Office (TBC)

Amb. Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General

Ministerial Debate

12-12:30 p.m.

Photo opportunity

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Side event on the links between drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism in the Mediterranean region

Keynote speakers:

- Mr. Nicola Gratteri, Chief Prosecutor and Special Advisor to the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director;

- Amb. Assia Bensalah Alaoui, Ambassador at large of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco;
- Mr. Giuseppe Cucchiara, Central Director for Antidrug Services, Italian Ministry of Interior;
- Brig. Gen. Anwar Tarawneh, Anti-Narcotics Department Director of Jordan

Moderator:

Ms. Rasa Ostrauskaite, Coordinator of Activities to address Transnational Threats, OSCE Transnational Threats Department

1:30–2.30 p.m.

Lunch hosted by the OSCE Secretariat

2.30–4 p.m.

Session I: Countering smuggling and trafficking in human beings: a major common challenge in time of large movements of migrants and refugees

Crisis situations, conflict, displacement and humanitarian emergencies have increased the risk of trafficking in human beings, particularly for the purposes of labour and sexual exploitation. Often being denied legal pathways to orderly and safe migration, migrants and refugees utilise smugglers and other irregular means of gaining access to third countries, thereby heightening the risk of exposure to trafficking, torture, violence, and other human rights violations. Vulnerable groups, such as children on the move, a significant number of which unaccompanied, face greater risks of violence, deprivation and more frequently become victims of criminal syndicates that intend to exploit them. Taking stock of the OSCE's regional approach and the evolving policies of countries all around the Mediterranean basin, this session will discuss efficient protection measures and already existing good practices in the prevention and repression of trafficking along migratory routes and smuggling stemming from large-scale migratory flows.

Moderator: Amb. Madina Jarbussynova, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Speakers

- Mr. Oleg Kravchenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus;
- Amb. Ahmet Yıldız, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey;
- Mr. Vincent Cochetel, Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Route, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- Rear Adm. Enrico Credendino, EUNAVFOR MED Operation Commander;
- Dr. Heracles Moskoff, National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Greece;

- Sen. Pascal Allizard, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs;
- Presentation on "Operation Odissea" by Mr. José Luis Pérez Fernández, Inspector, Head of Group IX of the Central Brigade against Human Trafficking, Commissary General for Foreigners and Borders, Directorate General of Police, Spain and by Mr. Mustapha Hajjam, Controller General of the Directorate General of National Security, Head of the Central Office of Interpol, Morocco

4–4.30 p.m.

Coffee break

4.30–6 p.m.

Session II: The economic and social potential of migration and the role of integration policies for inclusive growth, sustainable development, peace and stability

The public debate tends to focus on the emergency posed by unregulated large movements of migrants and refugees, especially challenges related to reception and border management. Yet, as a structural phenomenon that is set to affect human societies for the long term, migration management requires long-term approaches to unlock its too often overlooked economic, social, and cultural potential. In this context, integration provides an all-encompassing paradigm that can help connect short-term needs to long-term perspectives, highlighting the benefits stemming from sound migration policy. The session will showcase some local and national perspectives of how migrants and refugees have positively contributed to the development of receiving societies and vice versa, as well as offer an opportunity to link diverse regional experiences with integration from the OSCE area and the Mediterranean region to ongoing discussions about the adoption of a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration in 2018.

Moderator: Amb. Vuk Zugic, OSCE Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities

Speakers:

- Ms. Amal AbdelMawgoud AbdelHakam, Undersecretary, Central Department for Foreign Relations, Ministry of Manpower, Egypt;
- Min. Plen. Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies;
- Mr. Arnon Mantver, Chairman of the Board of the Centre for International Migration and Integration (CIMI), Israel;
- Dr. Sebastian Müller, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany;

- Hon. Filippo Lombardi, Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration;
- Amb. Kairat Sarybay, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the OSCE

Wednesday, 25 October 2017

9.30–10 a.m. Registration of participants

10 a.m.–12 noon Session III: Successful integration, a common responsibility based on a two-fold approach: encouraging social inclusion of migrants and refugees and combating intolerance, racism, xenophobia, and discrimination, also based on religious grounds.

Integration necessitates several conditions to be in place in order to progress, but it will never be fully successful if it is one-sided: both new comers and the receiving communities need to engage in a process of knowledge, exchange, and adaptation that will inevitably transform society as a result. As the respective responsibilities involved are the subject of intense debate, a focus on basic principles guiding and supporting integration processes is much needed in an international context. In particular, a discussion offering diverse perspectives, including those of youth, from the OSCE area and the Mediterranean region can help identify common ground between sending, transit, and receiving countries as well as diaspora and expatriate communities, identifying elements of a balanced approach safeguarding the rights of all involved. Such discussion should highlight the connections between the integration of migrants and refugees and the broader fight against racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination also based on religious grounds.

Moderator: Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Director of ODIHR

Speakers:

- Mr. Harlem Désir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media;
- Amb. Lamberto Zannier, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
- Prof. Adnen El Ghali, Researcher on Migration and Development, University of Tunis, Tunisia;
- Amb. José Luis Pardo Cuerdo, Ambassador at Large for Migratory Issues, Spain;
- Mr. Federico Soda, Director of the Coordinating Office for the Mediterranean, International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- Mr. Matteo Pugliese, OSCE Special Representative on Youth and Security;
- Representative from Algeria (TBC)

12 noon–12.30 p.m.

Concluding remarks

Hon. Enzo Amendola, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation of Italy

Amb. Radomir Bohac, Permanent Representative of the Slovak
Republic to the OSCE

12.30–2 p.m.

Closing lunch