



United States Mission to the OSCE

Reply to the Secretary General's Update on Migration-Related Issues

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 17, 2016

I just wanted to thank the Secretary General for this update of activities, particularly since our Special Permanent Council meeting this summer. I think, you know, the Secretariat is to be commended for the way that it has engaged with the very good work that has been led by our distinguished Swiss colleague, which I think really was a model for how we can tackle a particular issue by bringing together experts, by having a set of conversations and coming up with some specific ideas of how we take that work forward.

We certainly continue to see opportunities like the ones that you've outlined for the executive structures to be deeply engaged in various aspects of this, I'd say, broad current issue in our area and are happy to continue that conversation with you and with other colleagues around the table about how we can all support those kinds of concrete, practical activities going forward.

We also share your view that it would be useful to have the decision that the Chairmanship has put in front of all of us for the Ministerial at Hamburg and that that could help, kind of, mobilize energy in taking the practical work forward by giving it a political impetus. And, again, thank you for your wide-ranging briefing. And I think this kind of update is really useful in helping us understand how we can support the work of the field missions as well as the offices here in Vienna that are working on different aspects of the issue.

Thank you.

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