



**2nd PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR
THE 17TH OSCE ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

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

**Hotel “Tirana International”,
Tirana, 16 - 17 March 2009**

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Albanian Government allow me to welcome you and to express my particular satisfaction for attending and opening this very important Conference.

I would like to express my gratitude for the participation of honoured representatives in this Conference, to discuss today in Tirana, issues that this Conference presents. I would also like to greet International Organisations, Civil Society and business and Academic Community for attending this Conference.

A special thank goes to OSCE, Greek chairmanship and Mr. Alexandros Tsiatsiamis (ÇJAÇJAMIS), the management of this Conference, for having organised and prepared the so comprehensive platform and documents for this Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme of this Conference “Migration Management and its linkage with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region” is an issue of very interest for this forum and it is of special importance for Albania.

With the globalisation and demographic changes we are facing a new area and dynamic movement of international peoples.

This theme addresses one of the most important issues for the region and for Albania which for years has been facing migration challenges, establishing in this way a very strong experience which has taught us the migration is a complex and multidimensional problem.

Migration will remain our common challenge and this is why this forum is going to identify the most relevant issues to be analysed.

The first preparatory Conference of this forum confirmed that proper steps to enforce existing norms, standards and commitments can be achieved only through the political will, enhance of dialogue and closer co-operation with the partner organisations.

Effective migration management encourages legal migration which along with improvement for the migrants' standard of living bears social and economic impacts not only for the origin country but also for the destination and transit country. As the result, migration management is effective and stable through the partnership among destination, transit and origin countries, at the regional level and bilateral one.

Illegal activities and all types of trafficking, committed from criminal networks must be attacked. Improvement of channels for the legal migration and reduce of illegal migration shall attack all illegal activities with linkage to this phenomenon. To this regard, joint effective border management and inter institutional cooperation play a very important role. In this framework Albania is implementing the strategy and its action plan for the integrated border management, including demands for the State Police new law.

Altogether, we should establish new policies and common mechanisms regarding border management aspects, common data bases and other aspects related to migration such as: reduce of poorness, social welfare, security, affect of migration to the environment, employment, education, integration and social re - integration, ect.

Continuous qualitative and quantitative analysis is a very important tool for the decision making. Formulation of migration policies should be realised upon correct evaluations on the economic reality including predictions on the labour trade needs.

Effective migration management will be realised through a good combination of comprehensive political tools and mechanisms for control. We should adapt a comprehensive, cross dimensional and up to date approaches, always responding to existing challenges. These approaches should focus on migrants'

rights and protection. This would enable us to avoid, in time, negative consequences from non effective migration management.

This two days Conference will analyse, in details, the above mentioned issues. It will analyse the co-ordination between migration, economic, social, and environmental and security policies and the way how the cohesion of these policies increases the impact for development as the result of migration.

Financial crises that we are facing today create a context where the long term welfare cannot be considered as such. We have to be prepared to jointly react to any challenge.

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.

I wish you good success and also wish that these two days of this Conference will bring us effective and productive discussions that can be translated to an operational reality, in order to achieve required outcomes from standards.