



## **Right to Reply Delegation of Hungary**

### **Working Session 13. Rights of migrants HDIM, 18. September 2018. Warsaw**

In reply to the remarks of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and the Human Rights Watch let me state the followings.

The consistent position of Hungary is that the migratory pressure on Europe has to be solved not by increasing the asylum related burdens of EU Member States, but primarily by achieving the more effective protection of external borders, tackling the root causes of irregular migration on the spot and strengthening the European asylum system against abuses. Nevertheless, Hungary provides protection to every person in need of that, in accordance with our obligations set out by international law and our national legislation.

The aim of Hungary is to help and promote the safe return of persons in need of international protection to their home countries. It is our conviction that the most beneficial for refugees is if they are accepted by the closest safe countries to their countries of origin from where, in case of appropriate conditions, they can return their homes. Within the framework of the Hungary Helps program, Hungary financed several projects in the Middle East aiming to help the return of refugees

As to the alleged ill-treatment of asylum seekers by Hungarian border authorities we firmly deny this presumption. The obligations and the regime of border police officers to fulfil the duties in service are by law, according to which, police officers must not recourse to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and shall always act with due respect for human dignity. During carrying out their measures, proportionality and the graduated approach is always applied.

We refuse the use of expressions such as „closed facility” and place of „detention” regarding transit zones. Any asylum seeker is free to leave the transit zone in the direction of Serbia at any time, even without withdrawing their applications. We believe that the procedure in the transit zone is in accordance with the EU Qualification Directive. As it allows the possibility for Member States to carry out the procedures in facilities set up along the borders.