

Concluding remarks by
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The OSCE efforts to promote the establishment and effective implementation of labour migration policies in countries of origin and destination are an integral part of its central mission. Progressive thinking and deeper understanding of the migration related issues increase the political significance of migration, with all what it implies with regard to security and sustainable development in the OSCE region. To better serve the aims of the recommendations made at the OSCE 13th Economic Forum in Prague and political decisions adopted by the Ministerial Councils held in Ljubljana in 2005 and in Brussels in 2006 the Handbook on Establishing Effective Labor Migration in Countries of Origin and Destination and its second edition, known as Mediterranean version, were produced and made available to the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

We are very pleased that also during the Greek Chairmanship labor migration is placed at the top of its policy agenda.

Recalling the recognition of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality of 2004 that gender equality contributes to comprehensive security, which is a goal of OSCE activities in all three dimensions and that effective gender-mainstreaming is one of the required strategies to achieve both de jure and de facto equality between women and men, we can rightly say that such a perspective has been opening new horizons of closer relationship between gender equality and labour migration policies. The shift from the concept of non-discrimination to a positive understanding of integrating gender equality in the very centre of all political concerns is deeply linked to the aims of this seminar. And we should not forget that specific policies focused to elimination of inequalities experienced by women migrant workers are not an option but an obligation.

During these two days the way in which women's issues and gender perspective were and/or should be envisaged in labour migration policies in countries of origin and destination, as well as in bilateral and multilateral agreements, were explored. We gave a lot of attention to the provisions which would regulate and administer all aspects and stages of migration aimed to promote safe migration and ensure the protection of the rights of women migrant workers. We asked very pertinent questions and shared valuable experiences and innovative practices used in development of labour migration policies in a fashion that would ensure equality of policy results for both, women and men.

Identifying the current situation of migrant women workers or those wishing to migrate and envisaging the impacts of dynamic changes, including consequences of the global financial crisis, helped us to understand related problems and to become part of their solutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by saying that we are very glad and honored to host the seminar in Slovenia, as we see it as a continuation of work set in 2005 when migration and integration were the thematic focus of our OSCE Chairmanship. This seminar has been a very important attempt to inspire the finalization of the OSCE Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies.

I wish you all good trip home.