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### **OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, 22 September - 3 October 2014**

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### **EU Statement for Working Session 16: Migrant Workers and Integration of Legal Migrants**

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Mister/Madame Chairperson,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and report on the situation of migrant workers, refugees and displaced persons within the OSCE Area, to which the European Union remains fully committed.

The European Union has paid increased attention to a well-managed legal migration, taking into account the Member States' competence for their respective labour markets, capitalizing on the integration of migrant workers and legal migrants as a growth opportunity both for the Countries of origin and for the Countries of destination of migratory flows.

A deepened dialogue and cooperation with third Countries of transit and origin of migratory flows is essential to support the integration of migrant workers and legal migrants in the Countries of destination. The overall strategic framework of the EU external action in the migratory field is the "Global Approach to Migration and Mobility", which, inter alia, calls for special attention to be given to the protection and empowerment of vulnerable migrants, such as unaccompanied minors, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and victims of trafficking. Moreover, the EU is committed to the conclusion and the effective implementation of Mobility Partnerships (MP) with strategic third Countries: the recent signing of MPs with Morocco and Tunisia, the imminent conclusion of a MP with Jordan are illustrative examples of the EU's commitment. The EU plans to launch as soon as possible negotiations with Egypt, Lebanon and – when political conditions will allow it – with Libya. The EU is also actively involved in the Regional Processes, which have been conceived to create a



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stable platform of dialogue with Countries of origin and transit of migratory flows, while also seeking to prevent irregular migration.

In the field of labor migration, the EU emphasizes the importance of valuing the socio-economic contribution of migrants, based on the idea that immigration can be a driver for economic development. Therefore, the EU will promote and take part to a Senior Official Meeting in the EUROMED framework, to be held in Rome next December 19<sup>th</sup>. Specific attention will be paid to the issue of better information about the ways of legal migration, also considering “circular migration”, of the labor-matching between departure and destination Countries of migratory flows and of the link between migration and development, with a special focus on the role of diaspora as an enabling factor for growth. Furthermore, a peculiar attention should be paid to strengthen the access to the labor market of young women and men with a migrant background, in particular in the moment of transition from education to job placement.

In the field of integration of legal migrants, the EU reaffirms the principles stated in the “European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals” and, in particular, the centrality of promoting the active participation of migrants in the labour market to the socio-cultural life and the decision making process, through a genuine “bottom-up” approach and by reinforcing inter-institutional cooperation among different levels of governance. Importantly, the European Agenda also stresses the importance of practically implementing the principle of equal treatment and of preventing institutional as well as every-day discrimination against migrants. Furthermore, empowerment of migrants is guaranteed by their effective access to all relevant information.

Thank you for your attention

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ARMENIA align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.