



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

**MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION WHOSE
RETURN OR REMOVAL HAS BEEN POSTPONED IN LINE
WITH OSCE COMMITMENTS, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL
STANDARDS AND GOOD PRACTICES**

Conference

Riga, Latvia

22-23 March 2017

OSCE/ODIHR Meeting Report



**Warsaw
March 2017**

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MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION WHOSE RETURN OR REMOVAL HAS BEEN POSTPONED IN LINE WITH OSCE COMMITMENTS, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STANDARDS AND GOOD PRACTICES

**Conference
Riga, Latvia
22-23 March 2017**

MEETING SUMMARY

The conference was organized with the aim of improving practice by increasing the knowledge and awareness of government officials, through expert discussion and exchange, of good practices relevant to managing situations where the removal or voluntary return of irregular migrants has been postponed. Organized by the OSCE Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in co-operation with the Latvian Contact Point of the European Migration Network, within the Latvian Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, the conference brought together 76 participants (47 women and 29 men), primarily officials responsible for migration management issues from Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and Ukraine. Experts from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UNHCR Regional Representation for Northern Europe, the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and from civil society organizations and academia, also participated.

The meeting was structured with an introductory session, followed by four working sessions (please see Annex I for the agenda) covering different aspects of the issue.

The conference began with opening remarks from Mr. Dimitrijs Trofimovs, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, and from Ms. Christine Hirst, Deputy Head of the Democratization Department at ODIHR. Mr. Trofimovs welcomed participants, noting the range of countries attending, and underlined the Latvian authorities commitment to open and positive collaboration on migration issues. Ms. Hirst thanked Latvian partners for their support in implementation of the event, which she noted is part of ODIHR's response to the migration and refugee challenge in recent years, responding to the 2016 OSCE Hamburg Ministerial Council decision encouraging increased activities to address the greater needs in this area.

The introductory session reviewed recent policy developments and existing commitments relevant to the postponement of the return of irregular migrants. Mr. Juris Gromovs of ODIHR took the floor for ODIHR, providing an introductory outline of relevant OSCE commitments and international standards relevant for the question of return of migrants in an irregular situation. Highlighting key points from the OSCE Athens¹ and Hamburg decisions², including the responsibility to strengthen capacities to address migration-related problems, he

¹ 17th OSCE Ministerial Council, Athens, 1-2 December 2009 (Decision No. 5/09 on Migration Management)

² 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council, Hamburg, 8-9 December 2016 (Decision No.3/16, OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees).

noted the need for dialogue, exchange of good practices and common approaches. Given that common approaches are very much lacking in this particular area of postponed return processes for irregular migrants, Mr. Gromovs encouraged participants to share their perspectives and experiences during the event.

Mr. Fabian Lutz of the European Commission followed, presenting various key aspects of the EU Return Directive³, and noting that various reasons may delay the return of an irregular migrant, and that there are very limited statistics available, with rough estimates that there are 300,000 persons in such situations each year in the EU. He discussed the role of case law in influencing policy development, including in relation to the rights accorded to migrants pending return – highlighting that differentiation is increasingly made between cases where justified reasons for non-return exist (for example, health, family, appeal in process, crisis in country of origin, etc.), and cases where they do not. Mr. Lutz also noted that policies differ widely across the EU, and that the need to ensure that pressure to deter irregular migrants should be balanced against human rights guarantees, including the two principles of necessity and proportionality in relation to detention, reflecting on the good practice of regular review and follow up on cases of postponed return. Mr. Vittorio Furci represented ICF/EMN, presenting the key points of the recent study on return of rejected asylum-seekers, including a brief statistical overview from 2015, when 1.2 million first time applications were received, leaving 564,000 persons who should return following processing with a 47% rejection rate. Highlighting the political importance of returning failed asylum-seekers to ensure consistent incentives and disincentives, Mr Furci identified challenges to return as including: lack of co-operation from migrants or countries of origin; lack of documentation; medical issues; unaccompanied minors; fragile security situations in countries of origin, etc. Further research on the effectiveness of return is ongoing and will be published in 2017.

Working Session I addressed the legal and practical situation of irregular migrants pending return or removal, including common obstacles and best practice. Ms. Anželika Alika of the Latvian State Border Guard presented issues and frameworks relevant locally, noting Latvia's particular position as a largely transit country and the absence of specific legal procedures for non-removable third country nationals. Representing the Polish Border Guard Headquarters, Ms. Iwona Przybyłowicz outlined the Polish system, including decision-making procedures, highlighting frequent challenges in identification and the use of cultural and language experts to help overcome these. Ms. Liī Mahlberg shared recent statistics from the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board on illegal entries, deportations and asylum applications and discussed the challenges of detention and unauthorised departure. Ms. Kristel Lee Høgslett presented the approach of the Norwegian National Police Immigration Service, which places a particular emphasis on establishing identity as a first step, including obligations on migrants to contribute to their identification and police powers to gather information and use some intelligence sources to help establish identity. Ms. Høgslett and other speakers highlighted the important role of co-operation and return and readmission agreements with countries of origin – and equally the challenges faced by authorities when institutions in the country of origin are unwilling to co-operate. The session also noted the use of new technologies to assist in identification processes, citing the video conferencing project in use by Poland, Belgium and Luxembourg, and reference to EU databases. Speakers also noted the value of institutions'

³ Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals, OJ L 348, 24.12.2008, p. 98–107.

partnerships with other actors, notably Ombudspersons institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as international organizations (IOs) such as IOM and UNHCR, in providing specific services during processing and postponement, as well as support for return and reintegration.

Working Session II saw discussion of national policies and practices dealing with migrants who cannot be returned. Mr. Jean-Marc Kirsch described the recent move of responsibility for implementation of removals to the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an internal reform seeking to address the obstacle of lack of knowledge and information about countries of origin by reassigning state capacities. Ms. Deborah Weinberg presented the work of the independent public service, the Belgian Federal Migration Centre 'Myria', which has specific responsibilities in relation to migration, and discussed the challenges of dealing with migrants in specific circumstances in the absence of clear regulation or guideline (e.g. clarity on 'medical' or 'humanitarian' grounds, statelessness, action in the case where a non-returnable migrant has committed an offence). Mr. Tomas Čepulkovskis of the Lithuanian State Border Guard Service outlined the stages of the identification process in Lithuania, noting the significant increase in cases in the past two years and the gap in regulation of action once a person is released from detention. Mr. Tomas Čepulkovskis also reaffirmed good practices from the previous session, such as signing of co-operation agreements with countries of origin, establishing closer co-operation with responsible officials from other countries, and co-operation with domestic NGOs to deliver social assistance to migrants in need. Mr. Marcel Colun presented UNHCR's work on these issues, welcoming the longstanding co-operation with the OSCE, and encouraging participants to refer to existing guidance and standards⁴. He underlined the need for states to be better prepared for large-scale flows of people, and reminded participants of the need for protection-sensitive entry systems which include differentiated processes for different groups and for a comprehensive approach to return with an emphasis on sustainability. Noting UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion nr.96, which states that "efficient and expeditious return of persons found not to be in need of international protection is key to the international protection system as a whole" and "the credibility of individual asylum systems is seriously affected by the lack of prompt return of those who are found not to be in need of international protection"⁵, Mr. Colun provided some examples of ways in which UNHCR can assist these processes.

Working Session III addressed the rights of migrants pending return, including for example family unity, health care, employment, education and accommodation. Mr. Tobias van Treeck represented IOM Helsinki, discussing the Finnish comprehensive approach to migration and the role of IOM as a longstanding service provider for assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR). Underlining the importance of the voluntary and reintegration elements of such assistance, Mr. van Treeck advocated for a move away from 'crisis mode' to sustainable solutions, for offering AVRR to all categories of migrants needing assistance, and for adjusting services and support to different groups. Mr. Stefan Kessler of the Jesuit

⁴ Including, in particular, the following documents: "Agenda for Protection", UNHCR, 3rd edition 2003, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/globalconsult/3e637b194/agenda-protection-third-edition.html> [accessed 6 April 2017]; - "The Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: 10-Point Plan in Action", UNHCR, 2016 update, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/the-10-point-plan-in-action.html> [accessed 6 April 2017]; "Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally: UNHCR's proposals to rebuild trust through better management, partnership and solidarity, December 2016, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/58385d4e4.html> [accessed 6 April 2017].

⁵ UNHCR Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, Conclusion on the return of persons found not to be in need of international protection No. 96 (LIV) – 2003, contained in United Nations General Assembly document A/AC.96/987 and document no. 12A (A/58/12/Add.1).

Refugee Service provided a detailed overview of the German ‘temporary suspension of deportation’ tolerated status and the various options and restrictions this brings, highlighting the complexity of regulation and practice for migrants and the important role which work permits can play. Dr. Neža Kogovšek Šalamon of the Peace Institute of Slovenia provided a valuable reminder of the fundamental rights to which all migrants, regular or irregular, are entitled, and warned against the dangers of criminalization of language and discussion around irregular migration. She highlighted the importance of ensuring key rights, such as access to education and healthcare, of being aware of migrants’ vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, and of the risks of allowing systems to create ‘legal limbos’ which result in further problems and vulnerabilities for migrants.

Working Session IV discussed guarantees for vulnerable persons, focussing on child migrants and unaccompanied minors. Ms. Turid Heiberg of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea Region noted the established use in European law of the ‘best interests’ principle and its relevance to both initial assessments of a child migrant’s needs and to a subsequent determination. She noted the importance of multi-disciplinary engagement on child cases, bringing together the range of trained professionals required, and highlighted the important work done on developing guidance on such cases, including the Guidelines⁶ and practical guide for caseworkers and case officers on the transnational child protection⁷ developed by the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat in 2015. Ms. Heiberg underlined the crucial role communication with the child can play at all stages, from identification to supporting successful outcomes and family relationships. Mr. John Dorber outlined the work of the Council of Europe on migrant child rights, echoing Ms. Heiberg’s emphasis on the ‘best interests’ principle, which he noted was frequently ignored in practice. He noted several ECHR rulings on cases including access to education and detention which confirm the obligation for authorities to ensure appropriate services are provided, and underlined the lack of alternatives to detention as one of the most urgent structural problems needing action. Mr. Dorber noted that the Special Representative of the CoE Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Mr. Tomáš Boček, has just released a Thematic Report on migrant and refugee children⁸, which identified a number of important issues, including the need to protect unaccompanied children and prevent disappearances, the lack of appropriate age-assessment measures, the need for effective guardianship systems for children and access to information and education. Mr. Dorber also highlighted that in the CoE framework the development of a legal instrument on guardianship and age assessment to provide appropriate safeguards to children in the context of migration is ongoing, anticipated in mid-2018. A survey to gather examples of age assessment policies, procedures and practices in Council of Europe member states which are respectful of children’s rights, is expected in the coming weeks.

The closing session reviewed the main challenges and conclusions for the way forward. Ms. Ilona Ceļmalniece, Head of European Affairs and International Co-operation at the Latvian Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs provided an overview of the challenges identified by the conference speakers and participants, while Ms. Christine Hirst from ODIHR provided

⁶ “Guidelines on Promoting the Human Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Transnational Child Protection Cases”, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat, Stockholm, 2015.

⁷ “Transnational Child Protection: Practical guide for caseworkers and case officers”, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat, Stockholm, 2015.

⁸ Thematic Report on migrant and refugee children, Prepared by the Special Representative of the Secretary General on migration and refugees, SG/Inf(2017)13, Council of Europe, 22 March 2017.

a summary of the key conclusions and recommendations⁹ made during the conference presentations and discussions.

Increase clarity of legal and regulatory frameworks

- Address the need for clarity in some participating States of regulation and guidance on definitions of ‘medical’ and ‘humanitarian’ grounds, and on whether a stateless person is granted legal permission to stay, and the need to avoid systems which create the potential of ‘legal limbo’, and to properly address such cases.
- Encourage differentiation between situations where there are justified reasons for non-return and where there is no justification, including situations of non-cooperation of migrants, who should return to their countries of origin.
- Ensure the key principles of necessity and proportionality are applied to all decisions of the competent authorities on detention of migrants. The best interests of the child should be a primary consideration in all actions, and migrant children should not be held in detention except as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time.

Raise awareness of and respect for fundamental rights of migrants, especially child migrants

- Ensure the “best interests of the child” principle is mainstreamed throughout all processes of personal identification, age assessment and any further decision-making.
- Ensure regular reminders and awareness raising of human rights of all migrants among migrants themselves, officials working with migrants, NGOs supporting migrants and general public.
- Ensure that competent national authorities provide safeguards for migrants, especially children (for example, in relation to the access to education), to exercise their human rights and conduct regular reviews of the efficiency of these safeguards and their use by migrants.

Ensure engagement of all relevant actors and co-ordination among them

- Recognise the important roles to be played by actors across government, from specialised services (for example, health care, social welfare, etc.) to advocates such as Ombudspersons, and the important roles and contributions of NGOs and IOs as partners or service providers.
- Recognise that different models can be appropriate for different countries’ needs, and the particular need for multi-disciplinary engagement when dealing with children.
- Recognise the importance of co-ordination and communication among the different actors involved to avoid duplication and reduce gaps – both for decision-making and implementation of return and for reintegration of returnees in their countries of origin.

Establish positive working relationships and communication with countries of origin and return

- Utilise new technology and databases to assist personal identification and return processes.

⁹ These good practices and recommendations have no official status and are not based on consensus of OSCE participating States. Their inclusion in this report does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the OSCE/ODIHR.

- Recognise the importance of co-operation with countries of origin or return, including the signature of readmission agreements and establishment of channels for better information exchange.
- Encourage the use of tripartite agreements between the countries of origin, countries of destination and UNHCR on the return of persons who have been rejected under the asylum procedures in countries of destination and the provision of reintegration assistance to these persons.

Adjust protection approaches as needed / appropriate for more sustainable solutions

- Encourage continued monitoring and follow up on postponed return cases to encourage return in changed circumstances.
- Employ protection-sensitive entry systems and differentiated processes, and adjust services and support to different target groups.
- Adopt comprehensive approaches to return, including reintegration measures for returnees which place emphasis on sustainability.
- Offer AVRR to all groups of migrants who should return to their countries of origin.
- Provide legalisation options for most vulnerable persons.
- Ensure safeguards for those reporting exploitation or providing migrants with assistance, and raise awareness of migrants' vulnerabilities to sexual violence and trafficking.
- Urgently address the structural problem of lack of alternatives to detention and reception conditions.

Promote information sharing and common and/or co-ordinated approaches across the OSCE region

- Acknowledge that a large body of analytical data and analysis on certain aspects of postponed return cases has been developed by some participating States and IOs. However, recognise the need of many national authorities for more specific analysis to inform better decision-making in practical situations.
- Encourage more common approaches among participating States, including the exchange and use of good practices among national authorities and reduction of the uneven treatment of migrants in similar situations across the OSCE region.
- Undertake preparation by, and capacity building for, national authorities to address particularly problematic return cases in the future (e.g. by simulation exercises/schemes, inter-agency working plans etc.), thereby helping to avoid "crisis mode" responses.
- Continue ODIHR assistance to OSCE participating States in this area, in particular through awareness raising and continued good practice exchange and capacity-building of national authorities in line with OSCE commitments and international standards.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA



CONFERENCE ON “MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION WHOSE RETURN OR REMOVAL HAS BEEN POSTPONED IN LINE WITH OSCE COMMITMENTS, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STANDARDS AND GOOD PRACTICES”

22 – 23 March 2017, Riga, Latvia

Venue – the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs
Čiekurkalna 1st line 1, B-3

AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

The aim of the conference is to increase the awareness and knowledge of government officials through expert discussion and exchange of good practices on managing situations where the removal or voluntary return of irregular migrants has been postponed.

Bringing together government representatives and experts from across the OSCE region, the conference will promote the exchange of good practices in line with relevant OSCE commitments, international legal standards and national legislation relevant to the postponement of irregular migrants' removal or voluntary return for diverse reasons (e.g. non-co-operation of third countries, inability of authorities to identify the persons and provide them with travel documents etc.).

During the conference, several interlinked topics will be discussed by panels of experts, with all participants given the chance to engage, raise issues, share experiences and ask questions. The first working session will focus on state authorities' efforts to overcome obstacles to returning irregular migrants while fully observing the rights of migrants. The second working session will discuss situations where irregular migrants could not be returned, and will review policy approaches taken by different countries. Generally, two broad groups of approaches are applied – those that provide for an official postponement of return and establish a special status for such persons, including specific additional rights linked to this status; and those that allow for a de facto postponement of return without granting any further linked status or rights. The question of regularization as a possible solution to the situation of larger numbers of non-removable migrants present in the countries will be also discussed.

The other important focus of the conference, and the focus of the third working session, will be the protection of rights of these migrants and related procedural guarantees both until the moment when it becomes evident that return will not be possible, and afterwards, when the countries implement their policies regarding migrants whose return is pending indefinitely. Working session four will discuss the particular attention required by vulnerable persons a particular focus on unaccompanied minors and those minors, who will soon reach the age of majority, and their access to education, healthcare and welfare systems.

22 March, 2017

Registration of participants. Welcome coffee	12:30 – 13:00
Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Dimitrijs Trofimovs, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Latvia- Ms. Christine Hirst, Deputy Head of Democratization Department	13:00 – 13:20

<p>Introductory Session: Recent policy developments and existing commitments relevant to the postponement of the return of irregular migrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Juris Gromovs, Migration and Freedom of Movement Adviser, Democratization Department, ODIHR - Mr. Fabian Lutz, Senior legal expert, Unit B1 – Legal migration and integration, DG Home Affairs, European Commission – <i>Non-removable Returnees under European Union Law - Status Quo and Possible Developments</i> - Mr. Vittorio Furci, Junior Consultant, ICF, EMN Service Provider – EMN Synthesis report <i>Returning Rejected Asylum Seekers: challenges and good practices</i> 	<p>13:20 – 14:20</p>
<p>Working Session I: Legal and practical situation of irregular migrants pending return or removal, including common obstacles and best practice</p> <p>Country experience presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Anželika Alika, Chief Inspector, Return and Asylum Seekers Affairs Unit, the Operational Management Board of the Central Board, the State Border Guard, Latvia - Ms. Iwona Przybyłowicz, Adviser, Foreigners Department, Border Guard Headquarters, Poland - Ms. Lii Mahlberg, Migration Surveillance Leading Officer, Aliens Division, Migration Bureau, Police and Border Guard Board, Estonia - Ms. Kristel Lee Høgslett, The National Police Immigration Service, Norway <p>Questions/ discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Juris Gromovs, Migration and Freedom of Movement Adviser, Democratization Department, ODIHR</p> <p><i>Working Session I will provide a platform for participants to discuss institutional management of the legal and practical situation of persons pending return or removal. Namely, the work authorities undertake with individual migrants to establish the identity of the person, co-operation with third countries (including embassies) and all other activities that are performed up to the point when it becomes clear that it is not possible to return the person. This session will discuss the main obstacles authorities face when preparing for and implementing the successful return of irregular migrants in line with OSCE commitments and relevant international standards. Examples of policy level solutions and good practices developed to address these challenges will be shared among the participants.</i></p>	<p>14:20 – 15:30</p>
<p>COFFEE BREAK 15:30 – 15:45</p>	
<p>Working Session II: National policies and practices dealing with migrants who cannot be returned</p> <p>Country experience presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Jean-Marc Kirsch, Director of the Return Department, Directorate of Immigration, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg - Ms. Deborah Weinberg, Legal expert, ‘Myria’ Federal Migration Center, Belgium - Mr. Tomas Čepulkovskis, Head of Investigation Division of Foreigners’ 	<p>15:45 – 17:15</p>

<p>Registration Centre under the State Border Guard Service, Lithuania - Mr. Marcel Colun, UNHCR Regional Liaison Officer</p> <p>Questions/ discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Anželika Alikā, Chief Inspector, Return and Asylum Seekers Affairs Unit, the Operational Management Board of the Central Board of the State Border Guard, Latvia</p> <p><i>Working Session II will review different options for dealing with irregular migrants whose return or removal is pending indefinitely. Policy responses developed by OSCE participating States can generally be categorized into two broad groups. Firstly, policies which officially attest (confirm) the postponement of return and establish a specific (temporary) status for such persons, also granting additional rights to the persons granted this postponement (with procedures in place as well as documents issued to the person). Secondly, policies which do not establish any such procedures or status and do not provide for a specific set of rights for these migrants. Regularization is one of the possible policy responses to the problem of large numbers of irregular migrants who cannot be returned and will therefore be also discussed in this session. Participants will be invited to present and discuss the policies implemented by their authorities, to elaborate on the main problems they encounter (including the creation of any pull factors), on any positive outcomes of their practice, and on any recent consideration of potential policy revision.</i></p>	
<p>Close of Day 1</p>	<p>17:15</p>

23 March, 2017

<p>Welcome coffee</p>	<p>08:30 – 09:00</p>
<p>Working Session III: The rights of migrants pending return (family unity, health care, employment, education and accommodation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Tobias van Treeck, Programme Officer, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration/Counter-Trafficking, IOM Helsinki - Mr. Stefan Kessler, Policy Officer, Jesuit Refugee Service, Germany - Dr. Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, Director of the Peace Institute, Slovenia <p>-</p> <p>Questions/ discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Santa Tivaņenkova, Legal Counsellor, Division of Civil and Political Rights, Ombudsman of Latvia</p> <p><i>Working Session III will cover the protection of rights of irregular migrants during the return procedure and related procedural guarantees both before the moment when it becomes evident that return will not be possible and afterwards, when authorities implement relevant policies applicable to migrants whose return has been pending indefinitely.</i></p>	<p>09:00 – 10:15</p>
<p>COFFEE BREAK 10:15 – 10:30</p>	
<p>Working Session IV: Guarantees for vulnerable persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Turid Heiberg, Senior Adviser and Head of the Unit for Children at Risk, Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States - Mr. John Dorber, Children’s Rights Division, the Council of Europe 	<p>10:30 – 12:00</p>

<p>Questions/ discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Lauris Neikens, Senior Expert, Children and Family Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare, Latvia</p> <p><i>Working Session IV will cover legal provisions and good practices applicable to cases of vulnerable groups through the entire return process, particularly in relation to forced return. The session will have a particular focus on unaccompanied minors and those minors, who will soon reach the age of majority, and their access to education, healthcare and welfare systems.</i></p>	
<p>Closing Session: Review of the main challenges and conclusions for the way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Ilona Ceļmalniece, Head of European Affairs and International Cooperation Division, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, Republic of Latvia- Ms. Christine Hirst, Deputy Head of ODIHR's Democratization Department- <p><i>The Closing Session will provide an overview of the main challenges and conclusions of the conference developed by participants during the Working Sessions.</i></p>	<p>12:00 – 13:00</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP PHOTO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13:00</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LUNCH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13:10</p>

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



ARMENIA

Ms. Haykanush Chobanyan

Head of External Relations Division, State Migration Service, Ministry of Territorial Administration

AUSTRIA

Ms. Marie Isabelle Hofmann

Legal Adviser, Federal Ministry of the Interior

Ms. Stephanie Theuer

Federal Ministry of the Interior

AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Garay Nuriyev

General Inspector, General Migration Control Department, State Migration Service

BELGIUM

Ms. Deborah Weinberg

Legal expert, 'Myria' Federal Migration Center

ESTONIA

Ms. Erle Koitmaa

Senior Inspector, Detention Centre, Migration Bureau, Intelligence Management and Investigation Department, Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Ms. Margit Madelin

Police and Border Guard Board

Ms. Lii Mahlberg

Migration Surveillance Leading Officer, Aliens Division, Migration Bureau, Police and Border Guard Board

Ms. Jenny Seliste

Migration Surveillance Leading Officer, Aliens Division, Migration Bureau, Intelligence Management and Investigation Department, Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Ms. Katrin Tammekun

Police and Border Guard Board

GEORGIA

Ms. Ana Gorgodze

Division for Fight against Irregular Migration, Migration Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Mr. Davit Mamatsashvili-Rukhkyan

First Secretary/Acting Consul, Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Latvia

GERMANY

Mr. Stefan Kessler

Policy Officer, Jesuit Refugee Service

LATVIA

Ministry of the Interior

Mr. Dimitrijs Trofimovs
Deputy State Secretary

Ms. Olga Dabiža
Senior Desk Officer of Policy Development Division of Sectoral Policy Department

Ms. Inese Kalniņa
Senior Desk Officer of Policy Development Division of Sectoral Policy Department

Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs

Ms. Ilona Ceļmalniece
Head of European Affairs and International Co-operation Division

Ms. Dace Balode
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Head of Persons Status Control Division

Ms. Sanita Inzena-Andzena

Ms. Vita Kozuliņa
Deputy head of Asylum Division

Ms. Ineta Logina
Senior desk officer of Persons Status Control Division

Ms. Zane Rudzīte
Deputy head of European Affairs and International Co-operation Division

Ms. Līga Vijupe
Head of Asylum Division

Mr. Arvīds Zahars
Deputy Head of Legal Affairs Division

Ms. Marta Zvaune
Head of Legal Affairs Division

Latvian Contact Point of the European Migration Network

Ms. Ilva Ieviņa

Mr. Stanislavs Lopatinskis

Ms. Zane Rozenberga

Ms. Ilze Siliņa-Osmāne

State Border Guard

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State Border Guard College

Ms. Anželika Alikā
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Mr. Edgars Dombrovskis
Viļaka Board of the State Border Guard

Mr. Kaspars Fišmeisters
Deputy Chief (border control and immigration), Ventspils Board of the State Border Guard

Mr. Gerald Indriķis
Deputy Chief (border control and immigration), Riga Board of the State Border Guard

Mr. Ēriks Maksimovs
Daugavpils Board of the State Border Guard

Mr. Juris Martukāns
Return and Asylum Seekers Affairs Unit, Riga Board of the State Border Guard

Mr. Aleksejs Rubļovs
Ludza Board of the State Border Guard

Mr. Andis Tīts
Return and Asylum Seekers Affairs Unit, Riga Board of the State Border Guard

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Maija Mauriņa
First Secretary, International Organisations and Human Rights Department

Ms. Solvita Sāre
Second Secretary, Asia and Oceania Division, Consular Department

Ministry of Welfare

Ms. Inga Martinsone
Senior Expert, Social Services Department

Mr. Lauris Neikens
Senior Expert, Children and Family Policy Department

Office of the Ombudsman of Latvia

Ms. Liene Namniece,
Senior Lawyer, Division of Civil and Political Rights

Ms. Santa Tivaņenkova
Legal Counsellor, Division of Civil and Political Rights

State Inspectorate for Protection of Children's Rights

Ms. Liene Baltmane
Chief Inspector of Orphan's Courts and Foster Families Department

Civil society

Ms. Svetlana Djačkova
Researcher, Latvian Centre for Human Rights

Ms. Ilze Norvaiša
NGO "Shelter 'Safe House'"

LITHUANIA

Ms. Ona Aleksiejūnienė
Ministry of the Interior

Mr. Tomas Čepulkovskis

Head of Investigation Division, Foreigners' Registration Centre under the State Border Guard Service

Mr. Aleksandras Kislovas

Foreigners' Registration Center under the State Boarder Guard Service

Ms. Ina Kolelienė

State Border Guard Service

Ms. Giedrė Svetulevičiūtė-Rauktienė

Migration Department, Ministry of the Interior

LUXEMBOURG

Mr. Marc Jean Kirsch

Director of the Return Department, Directorate of Immigration, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Mr. Romain Modert

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ABOUT THE OSCE/ODIHR

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) is the OSCE's principal institution to assist participating States "to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to abide by the rule of law, to promote principles of democracy and (...) to build, strengthen and protect democratic institutions, as well as promote tolerance throughout society" (1992 Helsinki Summit Document). This is referred to as the OSCE human dimension.

The OSCE/ODIHR, based in Warsaw (Poland) was created as the Office for Free Elections at the 1990 Paris Summit and started operating in May 1991. One year later, the name of the Office was changed to reflect an expanded mandate to include human rights and democratization. Today it employs over 130 staff.

The OSCE/ODIHR is the lead agency in Europe in the field of **election observation**. Every year, it co-ordinates and organizes the deployment of thousands of observers to assess whether elections in the OSCE region are conducted in line with OSCE Commitments, other international obligations and standards for democratic elections and with national legislation. Its unique methodology provides an in-depth insight into the electoral process in its entirety. Through assistance projects, the OSCE/ODIHR helps participating States to improve their electoral framework.

The Office's **democratization** activities include: rule of law, legislative support, democratic governance, migration and freedom of movement, and gender equality. The OSCE/ODIHR implements a number of targeted assistance programs annually, seeking to develop democratic structures.

The OSCE/ODIHR also assists participating States' in fulfilling their obligations to promote and protect **human rights** and fundamental freedoms consistent with OSCE human dimension commitments. This is achieved by working with a variety of partners to foster collaboration, build capacity and provide expertise in thematic areas including human rights in the fight against terrorism, enhancing the human rights protection of trafficked persons, human rights education and training, human rights monitoring and reporting, and women's human rights and security.

Within the field of **tolerance** and **non-discrimination**, the OSCE/ODIHR provides support to the participating States in strengthening their response to hate crimes and incidents of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. The OSCE/ODIHR's activities related to tolerance and non-discrimination are focused on the following areas: legislation; law enforcement training; monitoring, reporting on, and following up on responses to hate-motivated crimes and incidents; as well as educational activities to promote tolerance, respect, and mutual understanding.

The OSCE/ODIHR provides advice to participating States on their policies on **Roma and Sinti**. It promotes capacity-building and networking among Roma and Sinti communities, and encourages the participation of Roma and Sinti representatives in policy-making bodies.

All ODIHR activities are carried out in close co-ordination and co-operation with OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field operations, as well as with other international organizations.

More information is available on the ODIHR website (www.osce.org/odihhr).