
Joint Statement By Armenia And The European Union On The EU Migration Mission To Armenia

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An EU mission visited Yerevan on 10-12 December 2008 with the purpose of strengthening the dialogue on migration issues between Armenia and the EU.

The meeting took place in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as of the EU Global Approach to Migration, which was extended in 2007 to the Eastern region neighbouring the EU. This migration mission is the first to take place in this region.

The EU mission met representatives from various Ministries and Agencies of the Republic of Armenia, international organizations and NGOs working in the area of migration and asylum. The dialogue reflected a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration and asylum, and thus covered a large number of issues such as promotion of migration management and legal migration opportunities; integration policies; asylum and protection matters; tackling of illegal immigration and enhanced border control; and broader migration and development matters involving, inter alia, remittances, diasporas and the brain-drain.

The EU side was led jointly by Mr. Jean-Christophe Peaucelle, representative from the EU French Presidency, and Mr. Francisco Bataller M., representing the European Commission. The EU delegation included other officials from France and the Commission, as well as from the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Sweden. The Armenian side was led by Mr. David Hakobyan, Deputy Head of the Migration Agency of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, and included officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and the Police of the Republic of Armenia.

The mission was received by His Excellency Mr. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Her Excellency Mrs. Hranush Hakobyan, Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, .

The dialogue produced a fruitful and comprehensive exchange of information, views and experiences, including on the following topics: the need for a comprehensive approach to migration legislation and policies in the areas of migration and asylum, including migration management systems and their implementation in accordance with international standards of protection and respect for refugee rights the recent European Pact on Immigration and Asylum and the latest developments as regards the EU Global Approach on Migration visa facilitation legal migration: special emphasis was given by both sides to the ways and means of its regulation taking into account the needs of labour markets the EU "blue card" directive and new EU legislation on legal migration readmission and return issues including assistance for the reintegration of returnees while fully respecting their human rights [border](#) management, security of travel and identity documents including introduction of biometric identification documents and development of databases effective fight against trafficking in human beings and the implementation of the National Action Plan to this end contribution of migration and migrants (Diaspora) to the development of the countries of origin, including through remittances: ways and means for channelling the remittances towards economic development of the country issues related to asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons; and their integration Armenia-EU migration

cooperation: both sides emphasize the importance of efficient and complete implementation of migration related regulations including through improved coordination & regional cooperation: both parties underline the importance of the regional dimension of migration. In this respect they are looking forward to the Prague Conference in April 2009 under the Czech Presidency which will also address the issue of regional cooperation on migration in the Black Sea Region & the Armenian delegation expressed its interest in the concept of Mobility Partnership.

Both sides agreed on the importance and usefulness of a more systematic dialogue on migration issues and agreed on organizing a follow-up meeting by the local representative of the EU Presidency and the Commission Delegation.

There will be a report on the follow-up to this mission at the next meeting of the Joint Cooperation Council.
