

BELGRADE DECLARATION

MARRI REGIONAL FORUM

Republic of Serbia, 3 April 2012

We, the Ministers and High Representatives responsible for Migration, Asylum and Refugees of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, met in Belgrade, Serbia, on 3 April 2012, in the framework of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative;

Guided by the Durres Declaration adopted at the MARRI Regional Forum on 29 April 2011 and priorities of the Serbian Presidency of MARRI;

Stress the importance of activities within MARRI, the regional initiative which is fully responsible for its regional activities and regional dimension of EU approach;

Note with satisfaction the increasing importance of MARRI in the region, as a unique initiative with a clear regional ownership;

Underscore the importance of continuous dialogue among Member States to promote security and stability, further deepen cooperation in the area of migration, asylum and refugees and to strengthen the institutions dealing with it in the Member States;

Reaffirm the commitment of the governments of MARRI Member States to manage population movements in the Western Balkans in line with the EU recommendations;

Underline that the European Union integration perspective of the Western Balkans remains a strong motivation for deepening continuous regional cooperation and dialogue among the MARRI Member States;

Appreciate the significant progress and important steps that have been made in the European integration of the Member States, having in mind major qualitative changes that have occurred;

Express satisfaction over the results achieved under the Serbian MARRI Presidency-in-Office, in accordance with the priorities defined by the Serbian side, particularly in:

1. Establishing and developing the MARRI Networks for Cooperation among the relevant national institutions and experts, such as:

- **Further improving** and enlarging the Network for Cooperation between the Border Police units at international airport border crossing points in MARRI Member States as stipulated in the already signed Memorandum of

Understanding. This network has been enlarged by participation of three more countries: Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova;

Therefore, of great importance is to finalize the Project on Joint Comprehensive Approach in Building Cooperation between MARRI Member States and SEPCA Member States' Border Police at International Airport Border Crossing Points;

- **Developing** the Network for Cooperation among the asylum experts in addition to already functioning cooperation among the Member States' national institutions in the field of asylum - consisting of reception centers for asylum seekers and Ministry of Interior asylum units;
 - **Developing** and strengthening **Network for Cooperation** on visa and consular issues based on already signed Memorandum of Understandings among Member States;
 - **Establishing** the Network for Cooperation of national coordinators for preventing trafficking in human beings; Project proposal "Common Regional Profiles of the Victims of THB and Traffickers in the MARRI Region";
2. **Undertaking measures** to prevent and suppress irregular migration (Projects proposals: "MARRI Migration Paper 2011-2012", "MARRI Compilation of Migration Strategic Documents" and "Regional cooperation on circular labor migration in MARRI Member States");
 3. **Putting in efforts** to harmonize the national legislation and practices with the EU legislation and practices in the field of migration and free movement of persons;
 4. **Strengthening** the institutionalized basis of MARRI, especially through documents such as: the MARRI Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2013 and Amendments to Guidelines and Rules of Procedure of the MARRI Regional Centre;
 5. **Focusing** particular efforts on further promoting MARRI and improving its visibility at regional and international levels, especially towards EU institutions;

Among other activities, we the Ministers shall also:

Support the participation of MARRI at the IPA Multi-beneficiary Program 2 "Migration for Development in the Western Balkans (MIDWEB)"-Project of the International Organization for Migration (IOM);

Engage in activities on implementing the Working Arrangement between MARRI and FRONTEX;

Place emphasis on the importance of MARRI partnership and cooperation with international and regional organizations and agencies such as UNHCR, FRONTEX, IOM, ICMPD, DCAF, SEECF, RCC, PCC SEE, SELEC, SEPCA and RACVIAC.

Appreciate support by the Swiss Confederation that has provided financial means for the implementation of a MARRI project “Joint comprehensive approach in building cooperation between MARRI and SEPCA Member States’ border police on international airports’ border crossing points”;

Welcome the effective work of the MARRI Regional Centre as the Secretariat of the MARRI;

Voice our satisfaction at the presence of special guests of the MARRI Presidency-in-Office, namely: the representatives of UN, European Union, international and regional organizations and other guests attending this Forum.

Thank the Serbian Presidency for the coordination and implementation of activities during its Presidency-in-Office (April 2011-April 2012), as well as for the successful organization of the meeting of the MARRI Regional Forum in Belgrade;

Express our full confidence regarding the active engagement of Bosnia and Herzegovina that will take over the Presidency for the period of April 2012-April 2013;

Belgrade, April 2012.