

## **CAVTAT DECLARATION**

### **MARRI Regional Forum**

**Cavtat, 10 June 2014**

We, the Ministers and High Representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, have met in Cavtat, Republic of Croatia, on 10 June 2014, in the framework of the Croatian Presidency of the Migration, Asylum and Refugee Regional Initiative at the MARRI Regional Forum;

With the participation of UNHCR, IOM, DCAF, RCC, PCC SEE, RACVIAC, OSCE, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and representative of Liechtenstein;

**Reaffirming** the importance of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative as an significant instrument to foster regional cooperation in the field of migration issues, asylum policies, border management, refugee return, consular affairs, as well as to boost fighting against smuggling and trafficking of human beings and similar issues that affect the whole Region;

**Emphasizing** the importance of continuous dialogue between the MARRI Member States to promote security and stability, enhance the cooperation in MARRI areas and to strengthen the institutions dealing with it in the MARRI Member States;

**Realising** that the European perspective and integration of the Western Balkan countries into the European Union remains the common goal to be achieved by promoting good neighbourly relations, applying the principle of regional ownership and accepting the principle of all-inclusiveness;

**Noting** that Croatia's full-fledged membership in the European Union represents an important impetus to the European accession processes of the Western Balkans and implementation of European standards in the whole Region;

**Reconfirming** the commitment to firmly engage in implementation of reforms and law enforcement, and to undertake all necessary actions that will contribute to ensure continuous progress of the European integration processes of the MARRI Member States;

**Express our satisfaction** with the activities undertaken within the Croatian MARRI Presidency, and confirm in particular:

#### ***1. The Priorities of the Croatian MARRI Presidency-in-Office***

**First Joint Training** "Advanced passenger information system -APIS" held in Ohrid, Macedonia in June 2013, within the framework of the Project "Support of cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe - BORDAIRPOL".

The Joint Training was the first out of six joint trainings in the fields of air border policing.

The objective of the First Joint Training was to transfer EU expertise, experience and best practices in this particular topic to the invited senior level border police officers from the main SEE International Airports with capacities to further multiply gained knowledge within respective border police units.

**First Annual Meeting** of BORDAIRPOL Project held in Tirana in September 2013, on operational level composed of Heads of the border police units on main international airports from Southeast Europe.

**Second Joint Training** on "Passenger name record - PNR" held in Skopje, Macedonia in October 2013.

The objective of the Second Joint Training was to transfer EU expertise, experience and best practices in this particular topic to the invited senior level border police officers from the main SEE International Airports with capacities to further multiply gained knowledge within respective border police units.

**Third Joint Training on the topic of "Schengen Information System -SIS"** within the framework of the Project "Support of cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe - BORDAIRPOL", which took place on 13 March 2014 in Skopje, Macedonia aiming at upgrading the capacities of main SEE International Airports for fulfilment of the required standards for accession to the EU and corresponding EC evaluation process.

## **2. The Adoption of the MARRI Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2016**

### **3. To have new procedure for the election of the MARRI RC Director**

**Regarding** the expressed interest of Kosovo\* to participate in MARRI, the MARRI Member States **welcome** the participation of Kosovo\* in the MARRI activities with the aim to further promote security, stability and regional cooperation.

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

**Welcome** the effective work of the MARRI Regional Centre, becoming an important tool in coordinating and facilitating cooperation and activities of the MARRI Member States;

**Stress** the importance to streamline the activities within MARRI with the aim to improve its visibility at regional and international level;

**Place emphasis** on the importance to strengthen the cooperation between the MARRI and other international and regional organizations and agencies such as SEECP, UNHCR, FRONTEX, IOM, ICMPD, DCAF, PCC SEE, SELEC, SEPICA and RACVIAC and coordinated project cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC);

**Appreciate support** provided by all partners and beneficiaries in achieving objectives and outcomes of the BORDAIRPOL project aiming at implementing the EU best practices and strengthening the cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe.

**Stipulate** further strengthening of the MARRI networks of cooperation by highlighting problems concerning MARRI issues relevant for the Region; promoting the regional ownership of the cooperation; supporting EU integration of MARRI member states; promoting the integrated border management concept in tackling issues in field of migration; contributing to the cooperation activities with other international stakeholders in the field of migration; bringing together relevant national representatives to exchange and share information, experience and best practices; developing the network for cooperation among the asylum experts; developing the network for cooperation of national coordinators for preventing trafficking in human beings; developing the network for cooperation network of cooperation of the Border Police units at international airport border crossing points in MARRI Member States; undertaking measures to prevent and suppress irregular migration; harmonizing national legislation and practices with the EU legislation and practices in the field of migration, asylum and free movement of persons; contributing to the national institutions capacity building in developing the effective readmission policy;

**Thank** the Croatian Presidency for the coordination and implementation of activities during its Presidency-in-Office, as well as for the successful organization of the meeting of the MARRI Regional Forum in Cavtat;

**Express** appreciation to Macedonia for hosting and providing in-kind premises for carrying out the activities of the MARRI Regional Centre.

**Express** our full confidence regarding the active engagement of Macedonia that will take over the Presidency for the period of one year.