



BELGRADE DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Interior/Security of MARRI Participants responsible for the issues of migration, asylum and refugees and High Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the format of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI);

Guided by the principles set in Herceg-Novi Joint Statement of 6 April 2004, the Declarations of MARRI Regional Forum since 5 April 2005 in Tirana and other founding documents of MARRI;

Respecting the European perspective of the Western Balkans and key importance of fostering regional cooperation aimed at further integration processes;

Promoting continuous and open dialogue towards security and stability in the region, enhanced cooperation in migration, asylum and refugees, and strengthened institutions dealing with it;

Advocating for gender equality and respecting the international human rights protection standards;

In a view of the progress made in two decades of existence of MARRI;

Reaffirm the commitment of the MARRI Participants to manage the movement of people in the Western Balkans in line with the EU recommendations;

Having in mind the Declaration of MARRI Regional Forum on 29 June 2023 in Skopje and Priorities of the Presidency of the Republic of Serbia;

Determined to reassure the reform of MARRI by raising the degree of responsibility for its efficient and effective operation, and for the sustainability of this Initiative, we:

Take note of the Annual Report of MARRI Regional Centre for July 2023 - June 2024 and the Independent Audit Report for 2023;

Agree that the next Presidency-in-Office will be held by the Republic of Albania, and unanimously support the proposed Annual Program of Activities for the upcoming period;



Encourage MARRI RC to implement planned activities and continue further reforms and improvement of its work as foreseen in the Priorities of Albania MARRI Presidency-in-Office 2024-2025;

Commend the further work on MARRI Legal Framework and MARRI Strategy, aware that internal functionality of the Regional Centre represents one of the key challenges of MARRI;

Welcome the efforts made by the MARRI Permanent Working Group on Migration Statistics;

Express gratitude to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the international partners for their support to MARRI Regional Centre and its activities;

Task MARRI RC to focus on translating regional needs and priorities into meaningful and sustainable projects/activities aiming to foster the harmonization of legal frameworks of MARRI Participants with the international standards in the area of capacity building and data exchange within MARRI's mandate;

Encourage the Participants to advocate for positioning MARRI as the principal platform for cooperation on migration and all migration-related topics in the region;

Invite the European Commission and the international partners to support the efforts within MARRI, particularly the MARRI Regional Centre, as a key instrument for continuing and ensuring further regional cooperation;

Appreciate the efforts and work carried out by the outgoing Presidency-in-Office, by the Committee members, by Representatives seconded to the Regional Centre, by the Team at the MARRI Regional Centre, and by the MARRI Administrations. We express our full confidence in the upcoming Presidency-in-Office as they assume the MARRI Presidency.

In Skopje, 3 July 2024