

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Fifth Informal Thematic Session:

“Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims”

Vienna, 04-05 September 2017

Vienna International Centre, Plenary Room

PANEL 1 – Smuggling of migrants Intervention (3 min.)

Ladies and gentlemen,

We consider Migrant Smuggling as a highly dynamic criminal phenomenon, which is increasingly taking advantage of the changing global environment.

Migrant smuggling is an extremely profitable illegal business. With criminal networks thriving on the low risk of detection and punishment, they make substantial gains while putting the migrants' lives at risk. Even more, Migrant Smugglers have well learned to take advantage of changing circumstances. In the Central Mediterranean Sea, ruthless migrant smugglers have based their business model on the fact that Search and Rescue measures have been increased and extended close to Libyan territorial waters. Consequently, they are now putting even more people on even less seaworthy boats. Since rescue is never guaranteed on sea, they hazard the consequence of mass death.

Against this background, Germany aligns itself with the EU statement. In particular, we have to increase cooperation against the smuggling of migrants inside the EU and with third countries as a priority in the fight against transnational organized crime networks. Therefore, we need to support cooperation platforms in third countries in line with the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling, as well as support financially through the available EU Commission funding programs “law enforcement and judicial cooperation in third countries of origin and transit”.

We also have to continue the important work of the European Border and Coast Guard (FRONTEX) Agency as well as EUNAVFOR MED in supporting the border guard organizations of EU Member States at external borders. With the support of EU agencies, Member States have arrested more than 12.000 Migrant Smugglers /Facilitators in the year 2016.

A key factor for a successful fight against criminal Migrant Smuggling networks, however, is support for the further development of border police capacities in third countries. In order to do so, we need to increase bilateral, European and international efforts in training, advising, supporting and financing the capabilities in terms of human and technical resources in countries of migrant origin and transit. Such EU activities need to be well coordinated between the EEAS with regard to CSDP missions and operations on the one hand and FRONTEX support to countries of origin and transit on the other hand.

Beside Border Policing and related tasks however, law enforcement and criminal investigation is of certain importance.

Thank you.