



Intervention by Slovenia

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration 6th Informal thematic session:

Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures

(Geneva, 12.-13. October 2017)

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement made by the EU delegation.

Slovenia welcomes the present thematic debate on the irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications, and other relevant measures.

Irregular migration is a negative phenomenon, therefore our aim should be to curb it. Much more attention should be given to the tackling of the root causes of irregular migration. In order to minimize it we need to introduce the legal pathways especially in the field of labour mobility.

We strongly believe that for ensuring or strengthening the process of fair recruitment, partnership with third countries is of vital importance. Only through close dialogue and cooperation between the host countries and countries of origin, it is possible to formulate and implement measures that will provide for mutual benefit. This can be achieved through regulated circular migration flows. On one hand we can ensure that migrant worker will return and contribute effectively to the society or country of origin as a whole, but we can also limit the risks of “brain drain”, the consequences of which are already apparent in some economic sectors of the countries in development on the other (for example, lack of healthcare workers in some countries due to unfair recruitment).

In our opinion, while respecting the EU framework and use of already established institutional frameworks for dialogue and cooperation on the global level, this could be achieved most effectively by concluding bilateral agreements between receiving and sending countries, from which most migrant workers come. Not only can such agreements take into account specific needs and risks of the involved countries, they could facilitate the process of matching between supply and demand of labour force needed and a faster response to the needs of the labour market of the participating countries. To this end, it is very important to ensure relevant recognition procedures and accurately assessing skill needs and gaps through facilitating recognition of migrant qualifications and skills to establish optimal matching to available jobs and on the other side providing upskilling and retraining opportunities.

We can also point out that recruitment of migrant workers in the framework of bilateral agreements represents not only a higher level of legal certainty and security for them, but also effectively safeguards the concept of decent work. Slovenia has a very positive experience with bilateral agreement on employment with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Migrants involved in such organized forms of migration are, as a rule,

better informed about the conditions of work and employment as well as about their other rights arising from employment relationship, while the recruitment process is transparent and ethical. In addition, bilateral agreements often regulate the transfer of pension and other social rights, which are otherwise not regulated.

Last, but not least, it is also important to address appropriately the issues of protecting workers' rights during the period of employment and preventing the exploitation of workers, and in this framework to look at solutions to ensure that the worker is minimally dependent on the individual employer.

Thank you.