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Conclusions on the visit of the EU migration mission of 22 September 2010 (29/09/2010)

An EU migration mission visited Ukraine on September 20-23, 2010. This visit took place in the framework of the implementation of the EU Global Approach to Migration.

The EU delegation was jointly led by Mr. Francisco Bataller from the European Commission and Mr. Frank Felix, representing the Belgian Presidency of the EU. It included representatives from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom as well as representatives of the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU and the EU Delegation to Ukraine.

The EU mission visited the Ministry of Interior, the State Border Guard Service and the State Committee for Nationalities and Religions of Ukraine. In conclusion the EU mission was received in the MFA of Ukraine, where a plenary session to sum up the results of the visit was held.

In addition, the mission, which also made a field visit to a series of facilities in Odessa, held meetings with representatives of International Organisations as well as of Non Governmental Organisations active in the area of asylum and migration in Ukraine.

The dialogue with the Ukrainian authorities covered a large number of issues related to migration and asylum, including organisation of legal migration, integration policies and measures against xenophobia, international protection, addressing irregular immigration, human trafficking as well as border management. Issues concerning migration and development were also addressed in a broader context, covering, inter alia, remittances, diasporas and brain drain.

Both sides had an open, fruitful and comprehensive exchange of information, views and experiences. The EU mission was informed about recent developments in Ukrainian efforts to implement a national policy in the area of migration and asylum. The Ukrainian authorities also stressed the importance they attach undertaking domestic reforms in the area of migration in the context of the visa dialogue with the EU.

The EU side expressed its readiness to continue supporting Ukraine in developing a national migration policy in line with European standards, including possibilities of extending technical assistance to further develop its national capacities in this field. Both sides agreed on the importance and usefulness of this dialogue on migration issues and expressed their intention to hold a first follow up meeting, to be organised by the local EU Delegation, in view of identifying concrete fields of cooperation in the near future.