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Forum for 21st Century

on Visa Policy issues

Mutual Agreement on the enhanced cooperation in the field of migration policies

The Forum for 21st Century is pleased to announce that the negotiation table of the political section on the issues of migration took place on Monday, 18th March 2013 in Bratislava. The negotiating parties are pleased to announce that they agreed on the following version of a mutual multilateral agreement.

Migration is a phenomenon that has existed for centuries. According to the data of the International Organization for Migration there are currently over 214 million of international migrants living worldwide, which amounts to the 3.1 % of the world's population. Today, every country has its own policy in respect of treating with migrants. Over the last decades the migration has become a serious threat to many countries. The number of people, who decides to leave their homes from various reasons, is growing. A specific issue within this context represent so called "climate migrants" - i.e. people migrating due to effects of climate changes.

As a response to the above mentioned threats, the Forum for 21st Century called representatives of **the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Union and the United States of America** together to the negotiations on the topic of migration. The aim of the negotiations was to define a framework for an enhanced multilateral cooperation in order to accurately address this issue in the forthcoming years. The negotiating parties were able to agree on the following outcome:

1. Creation of a Platform for the Cooperation on Migration Policies (PCMP)

Description

The PCMP is founded by the ASEAN, the EU and the USA with the aim of providing an international forum for the negotiating parties in the area of migration policy issues.

Mission

The mission of the PCMP is to serve as a global consulting and advisory body in the area of migration policies. While being a result of enhanced cooperation between important global actors such as the ASEAN, the EU and the USA, thanks to its activities the PCMP should be beneficial to the entire international community.



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Activities

The Platform realizes its mission thanks to its core activities. The signatory parties agreed on the following set of activities the PCMP is encouraged to engage in:

- A. Analytical activities
 - a. Research in the area of global migration problem.
 - b. Elaboration of analysis in order to address the specific problems and challenges the signatory parties are facing concerning migration trends and policies.
- B. Technical activities
 - a. Provision of technical assistance to the signatory parties in the implementation of migration policies.
 - b. Provision of humanitarian and material assistance to the signatory parties in case of an occurrence of an event that might cause a sudden increase of migration flows
 - i. into their territory
 - ii. out of their territory
 - iii. within their territory (especially the ASEAN countries)
 - c. Technical support of an enhanced cooperation in the area of information systems.

Membership

The PCMP consists of representatives of the original signatory parties (the ASEAN, the EU, and the USA) but is also open to future access of other parties wishing to engage in an enhanced cooperation in the area of migration. The signatory parties wish to stress the fact that the members will be nominated by the legislative bodies of the signatory parties.

Organizational structure

While the PCMP acts as a platform for multilateral cooperation, it has its own specific structure. The main executive body is the Council of the Platform for the Cooperation on Migration Policies which will be established by the end of 2015 and will consist of 3 members – one from each signatory party. Each member of the council will preside over a supporting working group consisting of experts from the respective signatory parties.

Leadership

The Council of the PCMP will be presided over by the president. President of the Council will be one of the 3 experts that comprise the Council and will be chosen on a rotational basis for one 12-month term.

Mandate of the president

The president acts as a representative of the Council as an international body. He is also responsible for calling the Council into session and chairing the meetings of the Council. The



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president is responsible for presenting the final outcomes and recommendations that the Council agreed upon.

Decision making process

The Council of the PCMP respects the particularities of the signatory parties and respects the principle of equality of the signatory parties. With respect to this, it is agreed that any decision made by the Council will be achieved by the means of positive consensual vote.

Mandate of the Council

With respect to the negotiations conducted by the signatory parties on the working groups' level, the role of the Council is to offer recommendations and solutions in the area of migration policy. The final outcome of the Council is not to be regarded as legally binding but should serve as a vital source of help in the policy making process of the respective signatory parties.

2. Financial framework

The signatory parties agreed on a specific financial framework in order to provide means for the operation of the PCMP and its corresponding activities.

Funding principles

The PCMP will dispose of its own fund in order to provide resources for its activities. The signatory parties agreed that the contributions to the fund will be divided equally into three parts and it remains the responsibility of the individual signatory parties to decide how to distribute the financial commitments among its member states.

Use of financial resources

The above mentioned fund will be used to provide resources for:

- A. Operational costs
 - a. Expenses for the administration of the PCMP
 - b. Staff of the council as well as the expert groups
- B. Core activities of the PCMP
 - a. Analytical activities
 - b. Technical activities



3. Main functional areas

The negotiating parties agreed on the following functional areas in which the Platform will focus its activities in order to address various migration issues that the negotiating parties consider significant:

A. Environmental migration

Negotiating parties agreed on the importance environmental migration as one of the most significant areas in which the PCMP needs to focus its activities. They define environmental migration as a phenomenon concerning groups of persons, who for compelling reason of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or chose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad.

Under the environmental migration framework the signatory parties will be able to benefit from both the analytical and technical assistance provided by the Platform. Moreover, they will be able to receive material and financial assistance from the Platform's Fund in case of an unexpected emergency situation (humanitarian or environmental catastrophe, etc.).

B. Human Trafficking

Signatory parties are willing to deepen cooperation in the area of mutual exchange of information. They acknowledge the importance of current international platforms (the UN, the Interpol, etc.) in this field and wish to fulfil their commitments in these international bodies. However, they agreed on an enhanced cooperation in mutual exchange of information and decided to work together on the creation of a common Information Exchange System (the IES). This system will serve to share invaluable know-how and expertise in order to fight more effectively against human trafficking.

The IES is designed to provide an effective tool to counter the organized crime groups that illegally operate within the territories of the signatory states since it aims to harmonize the individual actions of the signatory parties in this area. Each signatory party accepts its responsibility to provide the data and information needed for the creation of the IES. The IES will be administered solely by the PCMP.



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The above mentioned points were agreed by the signatory parties of this Mutual Agreement on the enhanced cooperation in the migration policies and the content of this document is legally binding for all the signatory parties.

In Bratislava, 18th March 2013

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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations

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The European Union

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The United States of America