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Fostering mutual understanding
and co-operation of the EU with Belarus,
Moldova, Russia and Ukraine 2008 - 2012

BRIDGE Expert Conference on Migration, Asylum, EU External Border Management and Visa Regime, held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova,
28 - 29 April 2010

Recommendations to the EU Agencies, Authorised Governmental Bodies of the EU Member States and BRIDGE Partner Countries on Management of Migration, Asylum, External Borders and Visa Regime

Considering the Hague Programme (2005-2010) and the Stockholm Programme (2010-2014) adopted by the European Council, the 2008 European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, the 2005 Global Approach to Migration, the 2010 Council Conclusions on 29 Measures for Reinforcing the Protection of the External Borders and Combating Illegal Immigration, and the Regulation No. 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code), we the participants of the BRIDGE Expert Conference on Migration, Asylum, EU External Border Management and Visa Regime, held in Chisinau , Republic of Moldova on 28-29 April 2010, state that:

1. international migrations are development opportunity for both, sending and destination countries;
2. reciprocity between EU and third countries should be the underlying rule in managing common migration issues;
3. economic and family related immigration will help to address the structural imbalance of European labour markets in specific sectors (tourism, catering, private care, construction, agriculture)
4. security of borders should not be linked to the management and policies of regular migration flows.

Starting from the considerations above **we recommend to the relevant EU agencies and national governmental bodies to:**

1. foster training programmes and the transferal of know-how in countries of origin of migrants to limit as much as possible the damages of brain drain processes;
2. enhance the co-operation on migration issues within the ENP and Eastern Partnership framework;



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3. provide for a global approach concerning FDI and infrastructural programmes in ENP;
4. promote a welfare system reform following a holistic approach to integration that ensures the labour market insertion of newcomers and their social and cultural participation in society;
5. foster as much as possible the role of of the new EU diplomatic service to co-operate with other EU competent bodies on the building of a common EU policy, and to set up a common EU Consulate Service for issuing VISA and residence permits related to EU labour markets;
6. further promote the negotiation of new mobility partnerships with third countries, focusing mainly on the sustainable development of the countries themselves;
7. create an European labour market's database both managing supply and demand of skilled and unskilled workers;
8. manage the quota system also at the EU level and not only at a national/regional one;
9. create a network of universities dealing with scientific migration and exchange of researchers with the creation of a database which should provide for all exchange and research opportunities;
10. to develop a fair burden sharing in readmission agreements in order not to further destabilize the origin and transit countries;
11. ensure common research programmes and projects between high education institutions using innovative IT tools and providing fees for researchers in third countries calculated on EU standards in order to avoid brain drain phenomenon;
12. enhance a common responsibility for the maintenance and the costs of the temporary detention centres at the external borders of the EU, inside and outside the EU borders;
13. amend and improve the EU legal framework regulating asylum and border management issues, particularly Articles 35 and 39 of the Council Directive 2005/85/EC on Minimum Standards on Procedures in Member States for Granting and Withdrawing Refugee Status (Asylum Procedures Directive) and Article 13.3 of the Regulation No. 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council Establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons



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across borders (Schengen Borders Code) in order to bring these provisions in line with international human rights standards and the EU fundamental rights;

14. consider and accelerate national procedures for accession or ratification of the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in respective EU Member States (Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania and Sweden) and BRIDGE Partner Countries (Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine);¹
15. favour the liberalization of the EU visa regime for the ENP countries.

Since the abolition of visa regime for Eastern European Countries remains rather long-term perspective, new steps are needed to further liberalize issuance of Schengen visas. In this respect, the following measures and actions should be taken:

1. continuing negotiations on improving the mechanism of the VPA by bringing restrictions to the list of documents that may be required to prove the evidence of “strong connections with the motherland”;
2. limiting the requirements of applicants’ documents (especially those of private and commercial nature) that have no relation to the purpose and content of most of the planned trip, except in special cases;
3. minimizing the number of possible exceptions to the rules that allow consulates to delay the proceedings or require potentially inexhaustible list of documents;
4. providing normative framework which would allow the applicants to submit visa applications via faxes or scanned documents, especially regarding documents from abroad;
5. providing an option of going over the visa procedure without personal interview and visiting consulate, for instance, by submitting documents by mail;
6. stepping aside from requirement to prove the necessity of the future multiple visits to the EU (for multiple entry visa) by an applicant if his/her previous visa history indicates his/her real need for regular visits to the EU Member States;
7. raising awareness of citizens of neighbouring Eastern European Countries about the features of the EU visa policy;

¹ Status as of 1 May 2010.



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8. introducing elements of positive visa practices developed in some EU Member States, such as cancel visa fee for the national visa;
9. supporting internal reforms in the field of document security, migration, readmission, civil order and fundamental human rights in order to ensure and promote visa-free regime between the EU Member States and neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe.