



Lisbon, Portugal, 26 October 2016

13TH Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement

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Migration is a phenomenon Europe has got to tackle. Since the beginning of 2015, over a million people have come to Europe. While we have happened to close so called Balkan route by our common measures, thousands of migrants are still flowing to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. This is what Europe has got to respond to.

However, migration is not like a flood or an earthquake that come without warning. There are obvious causes for the increase in the number of migrants and migration waves. They may result either from a military conflict or the destabilization of a country. Libya is a very good example. Following the military intervention in this North-African country, its disintegration occurred – currently it has three governments and three parliaments and even if we wanted to negotiate with some of its authorities, for example, about the establishment of hotspots on its territory, as a matter of fact, we would not find a relevant partner to do so. It means, there is causality between this and the increase in the number of migrants coming from North Africa.

Migration and refuge crisis the EU currently faces proves the need to search for long-lasting and sustainable solutions in a close cooperation with the countries of the migrants´ origin, as well as the necessity of observing the commonly adopted rules and namely of their full implementation.

In recent months, the mandatory quotas are no longer under discussion in the European Union. Solving migration crisis, nowadays, more is being said about flexible solidarity. In other words, discussed is the possibility to share the burden in other forms, too. such as Sending of the experts to help with asylum procedures or with border protection, financial, material and technical support or providing of free accommodation capacities. After a year since it was launched, the pilot project between Slovakia and Austria has reached its success, with having accommodated on the territory of Slovakia more than 1,200 asylum seekers in Austria. Slovakia has covered the expenses for both their accommodation and meals, whereas we have recorded neither a security incident nor a secondary movement of these migrants. In recent 12 months, we have sent more than 300 police officers to foreign missions, either on the grounds of bilateral agreements or in the framework of the newly-established European Border and Coast Guard.

Whereas migration and its developments have got their causalities, the emergency situations like floods, earthquakes, huge forest fires come without warning. For every European country, it brings about a disaster to be tackled in a very short time. The priority is to rescue human lives and to protect property. Every country has at its disposal rescue modules which might be offered to other Member states in Europe in case of emergency at any time. And this has got to be done in a very short time when minutes and hours play a decisive role. Nowadays, however, the information exchange and making the best use of these possibilities does not work at a level we all might wish.

It is obvious that a country actually affected by a natural disaster is descended into chaos and therefore, in case of such an event, it is necessary for the coordination of particular rescue modules and particular rescue teams to be organized by the DG ECHO professionals. Nowadays, we have already got the European mechanism of civil protection and the register of particular rescue modules, for which I would like to thank Mr. Christos Stylianides, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.

However, it is necessary to make the system more dynamical for the rescuers from particular European countries to be able to come to the place of the event in the shortest possible time.

In recent years, the European Union has invested billions of euros to the rescue modules in particular Member States and therefore it is necessary for the people and this equipment to be ready to assist at any place in Europe affected by floods, forest fires or earthquakes – so that these modules not only were national but European ones, too.