Budapest Process
First preparatory meeting for the 5th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference:
“A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration”

Izmir, 27-28 September 2012

Summary with conclusions

1. On 27-28 September 2012 the 1st Preparatory Meeting for the 5th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference “A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration” was held in Izmir, Turkey. The meeting gathered 68 participants from 35 countries - Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan - 6 organisations – the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Frontex, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, (ICMPD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as the European Commission.

2. Turkey, as the host and Chair of the Budapest Process, opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates, emphasising the informal, voluntary, flexible, state-driven and equal level dialogue as the pillars of the success of the Process. Introductory statements followed by Hungary as the Co-Chair and ICMPD as the Secretariat of the Budapest Process. Hungary referred to the Budapest Process as the longest standing cooperation platform and policy tool for European countries and their neighbours in the field of migration, and confirmed its’ active involvement as co-chair. The Secretariat pointed out that the meeting marks the official start of a new initiative - a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration - which at the same time is the consolidation of an already entered avenue, and that the Ministerial Conference should contribute to more practical cooperation between participating countries on common priorities, challenges and on finding joint opportunities in the area of migration.

3. After the introductory speeches, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey outlined milestones of the Budapest Process, the roadmap to the Ministerial Conference and objectives of the Chair, mentioning that the possible title of the Ministerial Conference Communiqué could be “Istanbul Communiqué on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration”.

4. The European Commission gave a presentation on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, high-lighting the need for interregional dialogues, including the Budapest Process, pointing out that the Budapest Process has managed to keep its significance over its’ long years
of existence and that Turkey, as chair and partner, is indispensable for this cooperation, adding the commitment to actively contribute and participate in the Ministerial Conference and the preparations.

5. After the introductory session the participants divided into three working tables. The discussion paper, developed to facilitate discussions, was presented. All working groups covered all five substance pillars identified as priorities for the Ministerial Conference: 1) Legal migration including mobility, integration as well as racism and xenophobia 2) Migration and development 3) Irregular migration including return and readmission as well as smuggling of migrants 4) Trafficking in human beings and 5) International protection. The discussions also covered human rights of migrants, indentified as a horizontal objective for the Ministerial Conference. The Working Tables were chaired by 1) Afghanistan and the United Kingdom 2) Hungary and Pakistan and 3) Switzerland and Uzbekistan.

6. On the second day, the main results and high-lights of the working table sessions were presented by chairs and rapporteurs, followed by an overview of the consolidated outcomes of the Working Tables as summarised by the Secretariat.

7. Some main conclusions, of importance for the future preparatory process, were that:
   a) capacity building measures are needed in the region regarding all substance pillars discussed,
   b) knowledge transfer should be increased between countries to share experience and good practices, and encourage training activities,
   c) there was a general call for concrete actions on all substance issues and practical follow-up and that
   d) a package of measures should be compiled to cover the above points and different aspects of cooperation as follow-up to the Ministerial Conference.

8. During the “tour de table” all countries and organisations provided comments on the outcomes and shared their main priorities for the further preparatory process, emphasising the importance of the Ministerial Conference Communiqué giving mandate for a concrete follow-up cooperation package.

9. The Secretariat will, based on the results of the Working Tables, summarise and present a first draft of the consolidated text to be discussed at the next preparatory meeting.

10. The following main points should be noted:
    a) The next preparatory meeting will take place on 10-11 December 2012 in Ankara.
    b) Hungary, as Co-chair of the Budapest Process, will host the third preparatory meeting - due to be held on 7-8 March 2013 - in Budapest.
    c) For the sake of continuity, countries are encouraged to send the same delegates to the second and third preparatory meetings.

11. The Chair thanked all participating countries for their engagement and contributions and entrusted the Secretariat to circulate results and coordinate follow-up.