



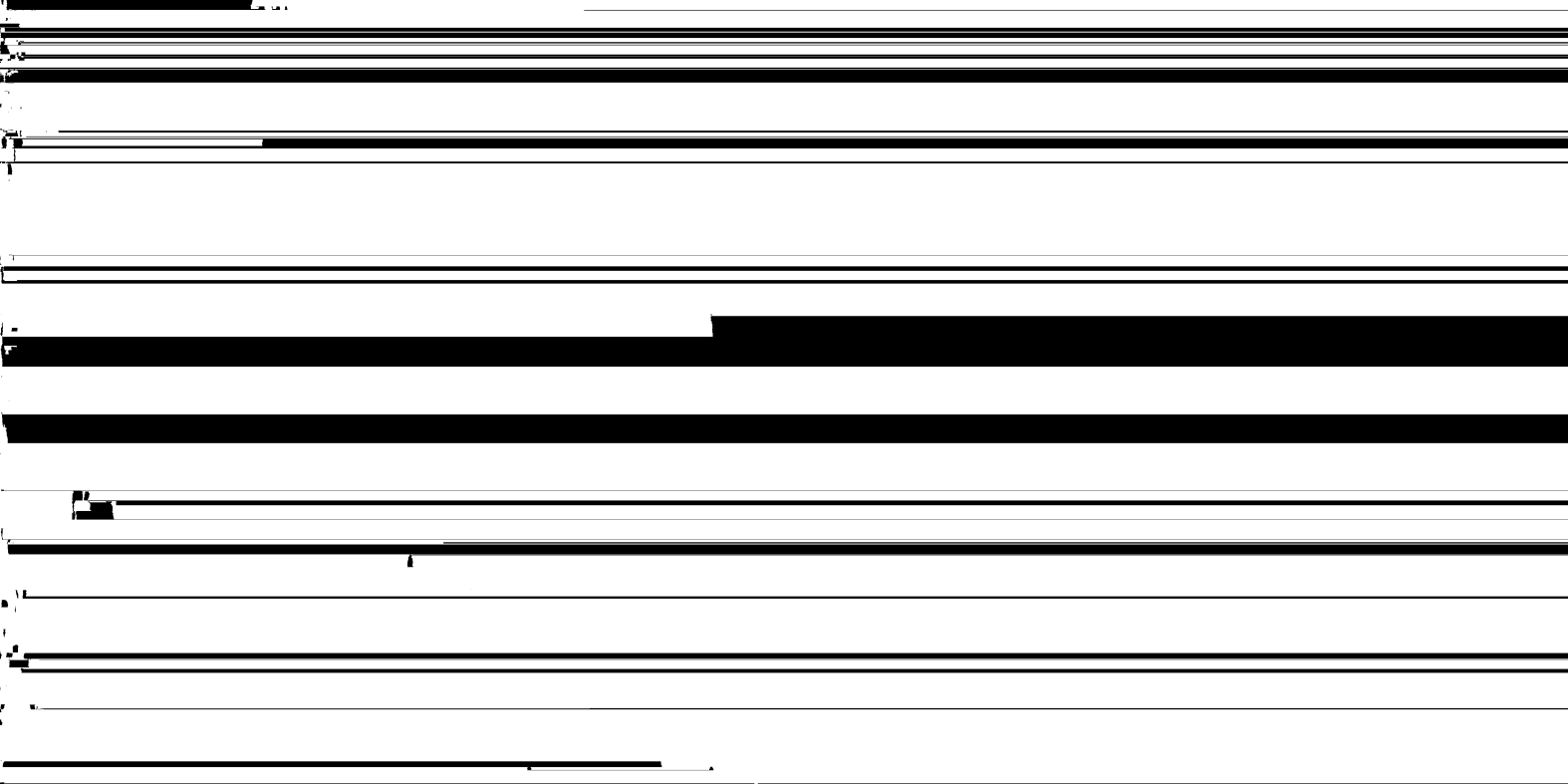
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8th COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE

INTRODUCTION

i. The 8th Council of Europe conference of ministers responsible for migration affairs was held in Kiev on 4 and 5 September 2008 at the invitation of the Ukrainian government.

ii. The Conference elected M. H. U. N. S. P. B. A. M. I. S. O. as chair of the conference.

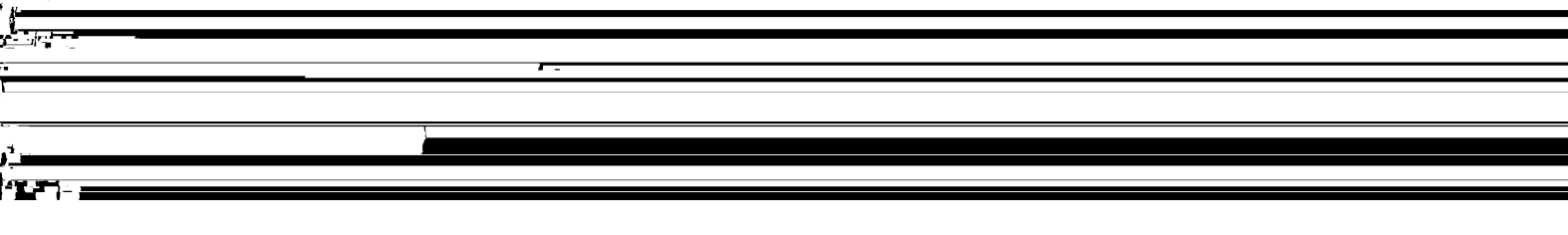


Ukraine, as chair of the conference.

iii. The Conference was attended by ministers of the Council of Europe member states¹ or their representatives as well as their counterparts from Holy see, Belarus, Cap Verde, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Nigeria.

iv. Representatives of the following Council of Europe bodies also attended the conference: Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the Development Bank, and the Conference of INGOs.

v. The Council of the European Union, International Labour Office (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), European Trades Union Confederation (ETUC), Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), etc.



FINAL DECLARATION

8th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MIGRATION AFFAIRS

KYIV, 4-5 September 2008

We, the Ministers of the Council of Europe member states responsible for migration affairs,

RECALLING

The final declaration of the 7th conference of European Ministers responsible for migration (Helsinki, 16-17 September 2002) and the undertakings therein and, in particular, those relating to managing diversity in a democratic society and managing migration;

The various Council of Europe conventions relevant to the field of migration

The close links between migration, social cohesion and development require a coherent, comprehensive, integrated and co-ordinated approach by member states that is fully respectful of human rights, relevant to Europe as a whole, and derived from consultation and co-ordination between local, regional and national bodies, actors

The Council of Europe and, in particular, the European Committee on Migration is uniquely placed in bringing together the full spectrum of migration experiences of receiving, transit and origin countries with participation spanning a range of national and local government departments and

- (ii) Combating more effectively irregular migration, including employers who have recourse to irregular migrant labour;
- (iii) Building institutional capacity of national bodies responsible for migration management;
- (iv) Developing and implementing migration policies based on coherent and well-balanced measures.

Specific measures

5. Develop comprehensive programmes for the reception, employment, integration and, where appropriate, return and re-integration of migrants.
6. Allow migrants to develop and maintain links with their countries of origin.

(iii) Removing the barriers to effective integration.

integration.

Specific measures

13. Encourage and support interaction and dialogue between migrants and the receiving society (particularly at local level) and empower all members of society,

- (ii) Avoiding migration policies that hinder development in origin countries;
- (iii) Facilitating and removing the obstacles to the flow of migrants' remittances and enhancing their impact on development.

Specific measures

23. Support the creation of improved social and economic conditions in countries

of origin through international co-operation and bilateral initiatives.

- 24. Take steps to avoid hindering development in countries of origin.
- 25. Develop measures that seek to reduce the adverse effects in countries of origin of the loss of migrants' skills.
- 26. Encourage investment in education and training in countries of origin.
- 27. Create the necessary conditions (security, recognition and encouragement) for migrants to increase their involvement in development projects in their countries of origin.
- 28. Facilitate by appropriate measures, the transfer of capital, skills and technology by migrants to their countries of origin.
- 29. Strengthen co-development initiatives through the collaboration of all relevant actors in receiving and origin countries and a greater involvement of migrants in their conception, implementation and evaluation.
- 30. Strengthen the role of migrant diasporas as development actors in international relations.

Towards an integrated approach

- (v) Properly and fully assessing policy need and evaluating its impact on development and social cohesion.

Specific measures

32. Strengthen partnerships and consultation mechanisms between receiving, transit and origin countries with a view to improving the mutual understanding of their respective challenges in the field of economic migration and maximising its benefits for all actors.

33. Put in place agreed mechanisms for research and analysis in the field of economic migration, including the use of indicators, for the purpose of undertaking regular assessments of trends at local and national level in the light of the international context and feeding the information upwards with a view to informing policy-making.

34. Increase the impact on development of the specific policies of different government departments in receiving and origin countries by linking together more closely development policies with migration, co-development and integration policies.

35. Improve the understanding of the social and economic realities of migration and the impact of policy at national, regional and local level by:

- Setting-up structures for monitoring social cohesion and integration;
- Establishing indicators for social cohesion and the integration of migrants and setting short, medium and long term improvement targets;
- Introducing regular dialogue between state and civil society, including migrants' associations, and evaluating the outcomes.

36. Strengthen the co-operation between government departments in member states across the policy areas of economic migration, social cohesion and development, identify common priority lines of action and objectives, and develop concomitant and complementary policies.

37. Establish and strengthen partnerships between the member states of the Council of Europe in the fields of economic migration, social cohesion and development and increase co-operation in these fields between the Council of Europe, European Union, Commonwealth of Independent States, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and other international organisations.

RECOMMENDS

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to implement, within the framework of its intergovernmental programme of activities, the following plan of action.

PLAN OF ACTION

A Reinforce social cohesion and the integration of migrants by developing policies to improve the interaction between migrants and receiving societies and the

