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NATIONAL CONVENTION ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Session 3, Working Group II (Justice, Freedom, Security)

Topic: Addressing Migration in EU and Albania

21 July 2021

Recent Developments

- In 2020 law No. 13/2020 was adopted which amends the Law 108/2013 “On foreigners”
- Another new development was the Draft and adoption of the National Migration Profile for the period 2015 – 2018
- The National Migration Strategy is being implemented until the end of the year 2022, and aims to tackle in a comprehensive way all the challenges and opportunities that global migration provides in the Albanian context
- New legal acts have been adopted during 2020 focused on various typologies of migrants like seasonal workers, unaccompanied minors and various procedures including the strengthening of the border and gathering and analysing of the data of the passengers
- In 2019 the cooperation agreement with EU and Frontex has been ratified.
- In Albania the number of migrants working and living has been increasing during the last years, and there has been witnessed an increase in number of the irregular migrants.
- Migrating and living in another country has some costs for the migrants including: financial ones; social and cultural and psychological ones as well.
- In Albania the integration process of foreigners has some gaps and issues especially in fields of health care, education (focused on Higher education and vocational one) and on political participation. For example, foreigners do not have the right to vote in Albania.

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- On the other hand, Albania has enabling and friendly policies when it comes to acquisition of the Albanian citizenship, on entering on the labour market and on family reunification.

Recommendations:

- The harmonization process of national legislation should continue with the legislation of the Community, with an emphasis on the efficacy of the procedure, guarantee of migrants' rights and integration and in using the correct terminology and terms as used in international migration field.
- The cooperation with Frontex should continue and should be intensified, and there should be more attention on mutual training and capacity building activities for Albanian counterparts, exchanges and support on procedural and technical level.
- A stronger cooperation should be built even between different enforcement authorities in Albania, thus the Border Police should have close cooperation with Custom Police, as migration in many cases is linked with smuggling, trafficking, organized crime and money laundering.
- Investing and funding should be priority in some technical and logistical aspects especially in modernizing the border infrastructure and to improve the monitoring process of both borders in land and sea.
- Laws and legal acts on integration of foreigners especially on those fields where this process is hindered like education and health system should be drafted and adopted, in

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order to provide to all foreigners, the necessary services and to protect their human, social and economic rights.

- Policies on anti-discrimination should be updated as well. AS the number of foreigners in Albania is increasing, there is a high change that the hate crimes, hate speech and discrimination will be more visible to these target groups. In this regard the discrimination on ground of race, nationality, language and other cultural background should be more in focus and specific policies should be adopted to prevent and to tackle such phenomenon.
- Information is another tool to be used more widely by the responsible authorities using various means of communication starting from official and national ones, to more alternative ones including social media, promotional materials and raising awareness activities with the aim to give information, to support and to promote the regular migration, the co-existence and the migrants already residing in our country.