



**First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Migration  
(Algarve 18, 19 November 2007)**

Good afternoon.

The First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Migrations is ongoing. Migration is one of the main issues on the international agenda and one of the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency. Because we believe that it is essential to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in its social, cultural and human chapters, we accorded the highest importance to this event since the beginning of the semester.

Therefore, I noticed with great satisfaction the broad consensus on the strategy laid down by the Presidency to carry out the November 2005 terms of reference of the Heads of State and Heads of Government.

The conclusions of this Ministerial Meeting clearly reflect the real will and commitment to work together towards a partnership aiming at comprehensively covering the migratory phenomenon in all of its aspects: migration and development, legal immigration and illegal immigration.

In what concerns these areas, effective measures and actions were agreed. We intend to carry them out in the short term since all requirements are met: political will, financial resources and human commitment.

We are now going to present some of those measures:

In the sphere of **Legal Immigration** and particularly in what concerns setting up legal immigration opportunities, the following projects have been approved:

1. Set up a working group on migration issues in the labour market;
2. Establish professional and linguistic training for immigrants, both in the countries of origin and in the countries of destination;
3. Carry out information campaigns on labour opportunities and legal immigration channels aimed at potential emigrants;
4. Establish programs and activities for legal newcomer immigrants.

In the sphere of **Migration and Development** it was agreed that the in-depth causes of migration must be tackled, including by encouraging partnership projects so as to establish a sustained development environment.

The following was also agreed:

1. Set up a Euro-Mediterranean site that will provide all the information to facilitate emigrants' remittances;
2. Help establish effective schemes and services and financial products;
3. Hold a major International Seminar on Remittances and Micro credit;
4. Study possible financial support of legal immigrants living in Europe so as to co-finance investment projects in their countries of origin.

In the sphere of **Illegal Immigration** co-operation must be enhanced and skills must be strengthened through experience exchanges, good practices and regular training aimed at managing migratory flows in terms of border management and return and readmission.

In this area, the following was agreed:

1. Encourage projects aimed at improving the security of ID and travel documents;

2. Support training courses for transit countries on:

- Detection and identification methods of identifying false, forged or counterfeit ID and travel documents;

- Monitor the exit of immigrants;

- Strengthen the links between the fight against illegal immigration and respect for the relevant international instruments, particularly in what concerns maritime search and rescue.

It was also agreed that the European Borders Agency would be made available for EuroMed partners to participate in the above-mentioned training courses.

3. Carry out a workshop on voluntary return and readmission.