



GDISC Returns Conference in Hungary

28 - 30 October 2009

Visegrád, Hungary





Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the GDISC Returns Conference in Visegrad, Hungary.

I am especially delighted since this is the first time that experts working in the field of return, both enforced and voluntary, came together under the aegis of GDISC to exchange experiences.

Regulations of the European Union as well as GDISC members on legal and illegal migration and especially on return have been constantly formed in the past few years. In this rapidly changing environment, the biggest step was taken in the end of 2008, when EU Return Directive for returning illegally staying third-country nationals was adopted. Since every member state is liable to create the legal basis for its implementation, we all face similar challenges and common issues in these days. That is why we considered it to be of great significance to create a platform for exchanging practical experiences and increasing cooperation between services in such a special field like return.

I hope we are in for an interesting conference that gives opportunity for all of us to learn from one another.

Zsuzsanna Vegh

Director General,

Office of Immigration and Nationality, Hungary



Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the GDISC network I am pleased to welcome you all to Visegrad for the GDISC Returns Conference 2009.

Working in the area of Returns, both enforced and voluntary is an important topic for GDISC to focus on and there is a lot that can be gained by sharing best practice and exchanging ideas. This will hopefully lead to important practical co-operation that will benefit the wider network.

This Conference will be a great opportunity for European experts to meet face to face for the first time and discuss how GDISC should start to take forward work in this field. From the specific sessions on “Evaluation of the Return Practice in the participating countries” or “Sensitive cases: return of vulnerable groups” this conference will also provide a setting for those working in the Returns field to discuss together the developments on the European Union level and the possible impact that this could have on us all.

The GDISC network believes that practical cooperation and the exchange of best practice has a very important role in ensuring that collective migration challenges are effectively addressed on a European level.

I wish you all a fruitful conference and a pleasant stay in Visegrad.

Lin Homer

Chair of GDISC

Chief Executive of UK Border Agency

28 October 2009, Arrival Day

- During the day Arrival and welcome of delegates at the Thermal Hotel Visegrad
- 18.00 Welcome drink and informal dinner in local restaurant

29 October 2009, Day 1 Conference

- 09.30 – 09.45 **Official Opening**
(Chair: Ms. Ágnes Garamvölgyi, Head of Dept. of International Affairs, OIN)
Official opening speech by Mr. Attila Kiss, Deputy General Director of the Hungarian Office of Immigration and Nationality
Official opening speech by Ms Petra Jeney, Director of Justice, Home and Migration Cooperation Department
- 09.45 – 10.10 **Plenary presentation on the EU Return Directive**
Presentation by Mr. Andreas Beckmann, Desk Officer of the European Commission
- 10.10 – 10.30 **Plenary presentation on the Evaluation of the Return Practice
(based on answers to circulated questionnaire)**
Presentation by Mr. Dániel Horváth, Head of European Funds and International Cooperation Unit, Hungarian Office of Immigration and Nationality
- 10.30 - 10.50 Coffee break
- 10.50 – 11.10 **Plenary presentation on the Tools to Encourage Return**
Presentation by Ms. Rhodia Maas, General Managing Director of the Repatriation and Departure Service of the Netherlands
- 11.10 – 11.35 **Plenary presentation on Activities of Frontex in the field of Joint Return Operations**
Presentation by Mr. Claus Dechert, Seconded National Expert of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX)
- 11.35 – 12.30 Coffee break and Conference photo
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.00 **Break-Out Session I**
Workshop A: Sustainability of Voluntary Return
Workshop B: Implementation of deportation
Workshop C: Return to Kosovo and sustainability
Workshop D: Immediate Return Process in the Mediterranean
- 15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30 – 16.30 **Break-Out Session II**
Workshop A: Sustainability of Voluntary Return
Workshop B: Implementation of deportation
Workshop C: Return to Kosovo and sustainability
Workshop D: Immediate Return Process in the Mediterranean
- Social programme**
- 18.30 Shuttle service from the hotel to social event followed by a dinner

09.00 – 09.10	Chair's Review of Day 1 and Introduction Day 2
09.10 – 09.30	Plenary presentation on Voluntary and Reintegration Programs Presentation by Ms. Carla Mollik, Deputy Head of Section 213 of the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
09.30 – 09.50	Plenary presentation on Sensitive cases: return of vulnerable groups Presentation by Ms. Penelope Forsyth, Director of Central Operations and Performance of the United Kingdom Border Agency
09.50 – 10.50	Break-Out Session III Workshop A: Sustainability of Voluntary Return Workshop B: Implementation of deportation Workshop C: Return to Kosovo and sustainability Workshop D: Immediate Return Process in the Mediterranean
10.50 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.00	Workshop leader feedback followed by open discussion
12.00 – 13.00	Conclusions, Final Speech and Closure of the Conference
13.00 – 14.00	Buffet Lunch
14.00	Shuttle bus to the airport

Workshop A: Sustainability of Voluntary Return

Mr. Urs von Arb, Head of Return Operations of the Federal Office for Migration of Switzerland and Ms. Agnes Novoszel, Regional Office in Budapest, International Organisation for Migration

Workshop B: Implementation of deportation

Mr. Geert De Vulder, Senior Policy Advisor of Immigration Department of Belgium

Workshop C: Return to Kosovo and sustainability

Mr. Christian Schmalzl, Deputy Head of Department for Aliens Police and Border Control of the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria and Ms. Andrea Crisan, Documentation Centre, Office of Immigration and Nationality, Hungary

Workshop D: Immediate Return Process in the Mediterranean

Joseph Hersey, Inspector Immigration, Strategy and Planning Police of Malta