



## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA PRESIDENCY OF MARRI**

### **PRIORITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY**

Today, on April 7 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina is taking over the Presidency of the Regional Forum of the Migration, Asylum and Refugee Regional Initiative (MARRI). Special efforts will be invested in the process of further development of Regional Ownership principle. Bosnia and Herzegovina will assume the role of active leader in committing MARRI Member States to increase their capacities and resume ownership and responsibility of decision making within main MARRI areas of work. Valuable experience of presiding over South East European Cooperation Process will be utilized for continuation and sustainability of positive results achieved through activities of other regional initiatives.

In the capacity of MARRI presidency Bosnia and Herzegovina shall:

- advance regional ownership and cooperation which is imperative for successful implementation of MARRI's objectives.
- emphasize the relevance of establishing and developing cooperation with other international organizations and initiatives in the region based on the principle of complementarity.
- increase cooperation between governmental agencies responsible for migration, asylum and refugees on regional and national level with objective to develop good migration governance in MARRI Region.
- endorse development of capacity building in the field of migration, asylum and refugees.

- support activities related to follow up of CARDS Regional Project on Asylum, Migration and Visa in the Western Balkans.
- encourage MARRI Member States in the process of strengthening harmonization of existing policies, synergizing acquired knowledge, experiences and best practices on the road towards EU integration.
- assist MARRI Regional Centre to implement the Strategy and Programme of Action, in particular with promotion of activities. Furthermore, it shall assist MARRI Regional Centre in order to increase its visibility and strengthen its role as the voice of the region in the field of Migration, Asylum and Refugees.

Bosnia and Herzegovina shall support to maximum extent MARRI Regional Centre in implementation of its Strategy and Programme of Action prioritizing:

1. *Implementation of readmission agreements in the MARRI region;*
2. *Increased cooperation in the field of fight against illegal migration, antitrafficking and antismuggling;*
3. *To develop sustainable and effective asylum systems including protection of refugees and their integration as well;*
4. *Exchanging the best practices on migration management;*
5. *To develop orderly migration systems, in particular labour migration;*
6. *To enhance durable solutions for reintegration of labour emigrants and explore possibilities of the impact of remittances on development in the region;*
7. *To continue activities on visa and consular cooperation ;*
8. *To maintain and support durable solutions related to the access to rights of returnees;*
9. *To pursue complementarity with other stakeholders in the region involved in border management process, namely Regional CARDS and Ohrid Border Process;*

Fully aware that presiding over Migration, Asylum and Refugee Regional Initiative requires balancing between activities on a political level (coordination of Member States as well as liaising with international partners) and steering and assisting MARRI Regional Centre - Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with Member States of the Initiative and Regional Centre in Skopje, is taking over the duties of Presidency in order to actively pursue realization of presented priorities.