



PRIORITIES OF THE MARRI PRESIDENCY

Republic of Albania (April 2010-April 2011)

On 21 April 2010, the Republic of Albania took over the Presidency of the Regional Forum of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI). The Republic of Albania will put efforts on continuously strengthening MARRI and its principle of regional ownership.

The Presidency will focus on further materializing the MARRI objective: orderly and free movement of people in the interest of security and prosperity of the region.

The Presidency of the Republic of Albania, with the experience of the first (2004-2005) presiding over MARRI, will continue working on strengthening the Initiative through organizing MARRI Regional Forums and maintaining active the MARRI Regional Committee, strengthening the coordination among the Presidency, MARRI Regional Centre and MARRI Member States.

In line with the MARRI Strategy and Action Plan, the Presidency will organize and implement activities, aimed at strengthening the regional cooperation as a process that helps the region move faster towards the European Union Integration.

The Presidency will support further developing the EU standards and spirit in the Western Balkans.

The Presidency will devote attention to strengthening MARRI cooperation and partnership with other regional initiatives and international partners, such as SEECP, RCC, IOM, ICMPD, EUROPOL, FRONTEX, SECI/SELEC, SEPICA, RACVIAC etc, respecting the principle of complementarity and avoiding overlapping of activities.

The Presidency will work on fostering the cooperation with SEECP, which Presidency-in-office will be taken over by a MARRI Member State, Montenegro.

In line with MARRI objective of improving the quality of population movements, respecting the Thessaloniki Agenda, the Presidency will pay special attention to the visa liberalization process in order to realize the lifting of the visa regime with EU for the two remained MARRI Member States: Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

To the process of the visa regime lifting within the MARRI Member States will also be paid special attention by the Presidency.

The Presidency will support activities related to further increasing the level of document security of the citizens of the region, considering it an important prerequisite for the facilitation of the visa liberalization process.

Regarding the migration, the Presidency will endorse the regular migration and place special emphasis on enhancing the circular labour migration, considering it a process, which actors can all be winners.

The Presidency will undertake activities aimed at curbing illegal migration, human smuggling and trafficking in human beings, through, among other things, further strengthening the process of integrated border management.

Asylum and refugees issues will get the deserved attention of the Presidency, aimed at finding durable solutions to these problems that still persist in the region.

The Presidency will put special attention to promoting activities relating implementation of readmission agreements and reintegration of returnees.

The Presidency will put necessary efforts to encourage the project oriented capacities of MARRI RC and, in this relation, to enlarge the number of potential donors, maximally promoting the visibility of MARRI and its characteristics as a unique voice of the region in the area of Migration, Asylum and Refugees.