

Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me align myself with the statement on behalf of the EU and thank for interesting insight into the problematic by panelists. I would like to add some observations related to the course of our today's debate and to some conceptual issues.

Slovak Republic reflects in its labour policy concerning labour migrants primarily the necessities of our economy, which can be simply characterized as demand for highly qualified labour force. At the same time we have to deal with sizable domestic structural unemployment which represent grave internal political problem. But still we go in line with EU directive on unified permissions and simplification of conditions to employ foreign workers in my country. Economic model of my country is not based either on global supply chains or imported labour, but this does not prevent us from admitting that labour migration can help temporarily balance labour supply and demand amongst countries and contribute to social protection system. Circular mobility schemes can be the reasonable and acceptable approach to the challenges related. We therefore call for more balanced wording of the recommendations formulated from this session for finding acceptable compromise, not a virtual reality.

What we should avoid is to create an impression, what I have noted even in this room, that all possible labour migrants from whatever part of the world are highly qualified a trained for any kind of job. At the same time, don't forget that we are already in the mids of process (industrial revolution 4.0) which will significantly reduce number of labour opportunities in developed countries even during our lifetime.

Our today's topic is named irregular migration, though as a matter of fact meaning of this term is very fluid. I do not deny the right of anybody to use it but back in my country we use terms legal vs. illegal migration for this is more proper in a situation if somebody enters territory of our country with forged or counterfeit identity documents, without authorisation, relying on smuggling networks. Speaking on academic plain we should distinguish between the moment of entry to the territory of the state and the status which can develop during consensual stay on it. Those cannot be put into a same bag because they represent totally different motions.

Uncertainties stemming out of the overlaps between legal and illegal migration can not be clarified by whipping out differences between various categories of migrants, namely refugees and labour migrants. Specifically for these reasons my country is not the party to the 1990 UN Migrant Workers Convention and such a moves give us additional arguments not to change this stance.

Nevertheless, my government is committed to support economic development for shared prosperity, poverty reduction and thus resolving migration outflows. To deliver on this priority it is exploring ways how to support low income development countries (LIDCs) through introduction of the new tools to achieve so. Concessional export credit facility provided by the Governmental Export Credit Agency (Eximbanka) is one of them, active part in creation of the EU External Investment Facility another one.

We fully agree with the recommendation about necessity to build institutional capacities of countries of origin to provide information to their nationals on pre-employment pre-departure orientation, awareness raising to avoid risks of unsafe migration and enabling them to make informed decision.

And finally, we should talk about the role played by social networks in the context of migration as well. They are misused for instigation of migration, labour one included. They not only help to create fake picture of it but they in fact serve as platform even for criminal networks. Our attention therefore, in cooperation with their operators, must be aimed to prevent those unwanted activities.

Thank you for your attention.