CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT

Today, an international conference on “Migration and Refugee Flows in Transit Countries: Security Implications” organized by the Institute for Geostrategic Research and Foreign Policy (IGINP) took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the Macedonian Presidency of the Central European Initiative (CEI) for 2015. This is an extremely important topic for our country in security, political, social and economic terms.

The conference was attended by high representatives of all relevant regional, European and international institutions that are actively involved in dealing with the migrant and refugee crisis, such as the UN, OSCE, CEI, IOM, MARRI, and over 50 other representatives from abroad.

In her opening address, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Mrs. Dragana Kiprijanovska emphasised that the crisis requires a common European response to which the Republic of Macedonia contributes selflessly, but due to its limited resources, the country needs help and support. Furthermore, she stressed the need for finding long-term solutions aimed at resolving the origins of the problem.

Alternate Secretary General of the Central European Initiative, Mrs. Margot Klestil-Löffler noted that the whole international community should make efforts to find an appropriate and comprehensive approach to dealing with this shared challenge. In this regard, she welcomed this Conference, as well as the constructive cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Macedonia and the Central European Initiative.

The Macedonian Minister of Interior, Mr. Oliver Spasovski and the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Dragan Mektic also addressed the attendees on this occasion.

During the closing ceremony, the Director of the Institute for Geostrategic Research and Foreign Policy, Ambassador Abdulkadar Memedi underlined that the conference itself, including its outcome, is a clear indication of the need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to handling the current challenges arising from the refugee crisis.

The conference was divided into two panels. The first panel focused on the impact of migration and refugee crisis in CEI member states, as well as the challenges and actions needed to successfully overcome the problem. During the second panel, emphasis was placed on finding a comprehensive strategy related to a collective response to the common challenges posed by the migrant and refugee crisis.

All participants agreed that the relevant conclusions reached at this international conference will offer a significant contribution to affirming past and current efforts, and will help coordinate the activities of the Republic of Macedonia with other countries - CEI members in dealing with the migrant and refugee crisis.

The conference was held as part of the Macedonian Presidency of the Central European Initiative 2015, in cooperation with the CEI General Secretariat, which allows further strengthening and deepening of the regional cooperation.

Furthermore, the Conference witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CEI and the MARRI Center (Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative). The Memorandum signatories, Mrs. Margot Klestil-Lööfler and Mrs. Tamara Mugoša said this document has strategic importance for establishing long-term cooperation aimed at handling the phenomenon, by combining the knowledge and resources between the two Initiatives.