

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release 25 May 2016

ICMPD establishes Coordination and Cooperation Center for Migration in the Mediterranean

Valletta, 25 May 2016 – Six months after the Valletta Summit of Migration there are concerns that the Mediterranean could again be the epicentre of irregular migration-flows. With this in mind, the Foreign Minister of Malta, George Vella, and the Director General of ICMPD (International Center for Migration Policy Development), Michael Spindelegger, opened the organisation’s “Coordination and Cooperation Center for Migration in the Mediterranean” in Valetta. All future ICMPD activities in the Mediterranean will be coordinated and promoted from this new hub. The focus of ICMPD’s regional activities will be on various migration dialogues and technical assistance as well as the relationship between the countries of the Mediterranean.

Half a year after the Valletta Summit of Migration, ICMPD addresses the most urgent aspects of irregular migration and forced displacement from its new Coordination and Cooperation Center for Migration in Malta. At a regional level, the Euromed Migration Programme aims to establish a framework that develops and implements evidence-based migration and international protection policies. At a national level this will initiate the development of a rights-based migration system for Libya and also improving the border management of Lebanon. The "City-to-City" project, implemented by ICMPD, looks at opportunities of migration in between eight urban centers in Europe and North Africa and the Middle East and will develop new ideas for and success stories of migration in between major cities.

In the words of ICMPD's Director General, Michael Spindelegger: “The opening of the ICMPD’s first regional office in Malta highlights our concerns regarding the migration issues in the Mediterranean. Together with local and international partners we will bring a valuable contribution to finding solutions and advancing new policies in the migration field in Europe and beyond.” Welcoming the novel presence of ICMPD on the island, the Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs, George Vella, emphasized the importance of the active involvement of ICMPD in solving one of the most pressing issues facing the European Union today: “We are very honored that ICMPD chose Malta for its first regional office and we are confident that our joint efforts will soon bring about much awaited results for the current migration and refugee crisis.”

ABOUT ICMPD

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development is a key player in the migration field. The organisation has 15 member states and carries out activities throughout the world, including Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. The Vienna-based organization has a mission in Brussels and project offices in 7 countries, including in Nigeria and Tunisia.

Founded in 1993, ICMPD served as a support mechanism for informal consultations and to provide expertise in multilateral cooperation on migration and asylum issues. The principles of partnership and balancing of interests are the foundation of the organisation.

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The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an international organisation with 18 Member States and more than 350 staff members. Active in more than 90 countries worldwide, it takes a regional approach in its work to create efficient cooperation and partnerships along migration routes. Priority regions include Africa, Central and South Asia, Europe, and the MiddleEast. Its three-pillar approach to migration management – structurally linking research, migration 3 dialogues and capacity building – contributes to better migration policy development worldwide. The Vienna-based organisation has a mission in Brussels, a regional office in Malta and project offices in several countries. ICMPD receives funding from its Member States, the European Commission, the UN, and other multilateral institutions, as well as bilateral donors. Founded in 1993, ICMPD holds UN observer status and cooperates with more than 700 partners including EU institutions and UN agencies.

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