

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Greece joins the European migration organisation ICMPD

Vienna 18th October 2021 – The number of ICMPD Member States has increased again: Greece has just become the 19th member to join ICMPD, an international organisation working to find innovative solutions to regional migration challenges. This accession takes place after Germany (2020), Turkey and Malta (2018) joined ICMPD in recent years.

ICMPD and Greece are already successfully cooperating in several operational projects including, for example, integration or return. Greece also participates in several Migration Dialogues supported by ICMPD, notably the Budapest Process and the Prague Process.

“It is with great pleasure that Greece is announcing today that it is becoming the 19<sup>th</sup> member of ICMPD, – one of the most important organisations promoting dialogue and cooperation on migration and asylum issues inside and outside Europe, among different geographic areas, including the main countries of origin and transit. Greece's accession to ICMPD reaffirms the excellent cooperation that has been developed between the Greek authorities and ICMPD in recent years, as Greece has been participating in a series of regional action programs. It therefore gives us the opportunity to reinforce our country's position in the dialogue on migration policy” said Notis Mitarachi, Minister for Migration and Asylum in Greece.

“We are very pleased to have won yet another important Member State. Greece has a key role to play in European migration. Having Greece as a member will strengthen our possibilities to respond jointly to migration challenges and work towards functioning migration systems at the regional level,” said ICMPD Director General Michael Spindelegger. “Our members represent a unique group of countries highly relevant to migration – Greece is an essential part of this group. Having it as a member will further strengthen the strategic dimension of our organisation.”

ICMPD was founded on the initiative of Austria and Switzerland in 1993, a time when the migration reality in Europe was dramatically altered by the political changes in Eastern Europe and the Balkan conflicts. The ranks of its Member States saw their first growth in the 1990s with the addition of Hungary in 1995 and Slovenia in 1998. The Czech Republic then followed

in 2001, as did Sweden, Poland and Bulgaria in 2003, Portugal and Croatia in 2004 as well as Slovakia in 2006. Romania and Serbia were the next to join in 2011 followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2012 and North Macedonia in 2015. Malta and Turkey both joined in 2018 followed by Germany in 2020.

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The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an international organisation with 18 Member States and more than 460 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, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Mediterranean, Silk Routes, Western Balkans and Turkey. Its three-pillar approach to migration management – structurally linking research, migration 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.

*For more information about ICMPD visit: [www.icmpd.org](http://www.icmpd.org)*

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