The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Becomes 15th ICMPD Member State

Skopje, 2 May 2012 — The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became the fifteenth Member State of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) today at the signing ceremony in Skopje. Ms. Gordana Jankuloska, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Mr. Peter Widermann, Director General of ICMPD, signed the agreement for the country to become a member of ICMPD on behalf of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and ICMPD, respectively.

The country’s membership to ICMPD marks the culmination of years of close cooperation and constructive dialogue between the two parties. Mr. Widermann expressed his appreciation to the officials of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for working with ICMPD to promote comprehensive and sustainable migration governance through multilateral cooperation. The country has worked extensively with ICMPD in implementing various initiatives in migration-related areas, such as asylum, border management and visa, as well as in the fight against trafficking in human beings. In joining ICMPD, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is demonstrating its commitment to both this partnership and European principles in the area of migration. “By becoming a member of ICMPD, Macedonia [the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] is showing its commitment to a migration policy dedicated to European values and principles”, stated Ms. Jankuloska.

These efforts have strengthened the capacity of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia’s national institutions to better manage migration and have brought the country closer to fulfilling some of the obligations of membership to the European Union. Mr. Widermann assured that ICMPD will continue to support the country in fulfilling these obligations. “ICMPD and its Member States stand ready to further support the Republic of Macedonia [the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] in the EU accession process, especially in relation to the obligations that need to be fulfilled in Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security,” said Mr. Widermann at the signing ceremony.

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The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), established in 1993 by Austria and Switzerland, is an international organisation that works in migration-related fields. Although ICMPD has a European basis, it carries out its activities throughout the world, including in Europe, Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East. Through its six Competence Centres, ICMPD provides its 15 Member States and numerous partners with in-depth knowledge and expertise in dealing with the phenomena of migration. It does so through using a holistic 3-pillar approach: research, capacity building and migration dialogues.

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