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Subject: Flash: Meeting Csr Johansson - DG ICMPD Spindelegger, 25/5/21
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FLASH: Meeting Commissioner Johansson - DG ICMPD Spindelegger, 25/5/2021

Participants: Commissioner Ylva Johansson, Michael Spindelegger (DG ICMPD), Ralph Genetzke (ICMPD Brussels Director), Raul Hernandez Sagrera (Cab Johansson), [REDACTED] (HOME A3)

1. TURKEY:

- **Programme “Enhancer”:** DG Spindelegger informed about the FRiT-funded, ICMPD-implemented programme whose objective is to increase entrepreneurial activity of Syrian refugees in Turkey. It allows them to stand on their own feet, with thousands currently in training.

- **EU-Turkey Statement, relations with Turkey:** [REDACTED]

- **ICMPD’s assessment of Turkey’s attitude:** [REDACTED]

2. PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM:

- Upon DG Spindelegger’s question what we expect from Slovenia during their presidency on the Pact, Commissioner Johansson explained that we have reached an agreement on the Bluecard and hope to still conclude an agreement on the EU Asylum agency still during the Portuguese presidency. The Slovenian presidency would then concentrate on the Eurodac regulation and the screening proposal.

3. LEGAL MIGRATION AND TALENT PARTNERSHIPS:

- DG Spindelegger mentioned that ICMPD is currently running 4 projects under the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), at a small scale but promising. With the expected steep economic recovery in Europe in autumn, there will be increased demand for further projects. Commissioner Johansson agreed, arguing that we need to scale up such pilots, create tailor-made and win-win partnerships, countering fears of partner countries related to brain drain. We need to convince MS to step up legal migration. Partner countries e.g. in North Africa need to step up cooperation in anti-smuggling/trafficking and prevention of departures. If we can increase returns and readmission, it will be easier for MS to accept more legal migration; similarly, enhanced legal pathways make our partners more inclined to cooperate on return/readmission. According to Mr Spindelegger, ICMPD would like to work more with businesses, which can in turn also enhance pressure in MS for more legal pathways.

The meeting concluded with an invitation for Commissioner Johansson to the **Vienna Migration Conference on 19-20 October 2021**, envisaged as a hybrid event. Migration partnerships will be on the agenda, and ministers from North African countries may be invited. Agenda permitting, Commissioner Johansson confirmed that she would be happy to join.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

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