

**European Declaration**  
**Global Forum on Migration and Development – Manila – 27/30 October 2008**

1. The European Union very much welcomes the holding of this second meeting of the Global Forum in Manila. This Forum offers the origin and receiving countries a single global and informal framework for dialogue. It permits a frank exchange on all the challenges and opportunities of migration, and lets us work together for a better coherence of our development policies in relation to international migrations.
2. Migration is an important and sustained element in international relations. It must always be an opportunity and a vector of development for the countries of origin, the countries of destination, and for the migrants themselves.
3. The European Union is a community founded on the law. The EU respects the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Union Treaty and by the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

In line with these principles and with the international commitments of the Member States, notably in relation to migration and asylum, the EU attaches the greatest importance to guaranteeing respect for the human rights and the human dignity of all migrants, and to fighting against racism, xenophobia and human trafficking, particularly in the context of its migration policy. Thus, our regulations have established the conditions of entry, stay, residence and return of third-country citizens in the countries of the EU. At the same time, migrant workers who are legally present in the EU benefit from the same labour laws, and the same principles of non-discrimination, as do the citizens of the EU.

4. The European Union has progressively built up its legal and political framework in the field of migration. Following the creation in 1999 of the European Space of Liberty, Security and Justice, the European Council in 2005 adopted a "Global Approach to Migration". This addresses in a balanced and comprehensive fashion the management of legal migration, the fight against illegal migration and the strengthening of the synergies between migration and development. This policy is based on partnership, on dialogue and cooperation among the countries of origin, transit and destination.

At the same time, the EU has established standards in relation to asylum, to legal immigration and to the fight against illegal immigration, and in relation to visa policy and to the management of the external borders. The EU is currently examining how better to fight against the exploitation by employers of third country nationals who are not legally resident.

5. The European Council has recently adopted the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, which is built around five strong political commitments:

a) organising legal immigration and promoting integration taking account of the priorities, the needs of the labour market, and the absorption capacities defined by each member state.

b) fighting against irregular immigration, in particular by ensuring the return to their country of origin or a transit country of foreigners present irregularly.

c) strengthening the effectiveness of border controls

d) building a Europe of Asylum

e) creating a global partnership with the origin and transit countries, strengthening the synergies between migration and development.

In this context, the EU aims in particular to facilitate remittances to the countries of origin, to strengthen the role of the diasporas as actors in development, and to encourage the circulation of competencies while limiting the negative impact of brain-drain.

6. A sustainable migration policy of the EU must be based on the idea that legal migrations must be organised, regulated and promoted in a spirit of solidarity and co-responsibility, in order to remain a vector of human exchanges and development. The success of this policy will depend on increased cooperation with the origin and transit countries.
7. This spirit of concertation between countries of destination and origin underpins all of the dialogues which the EU has established with its partners, in all regions of the world – like, for example, the upcoming Euro-Africa conference on migration and development which will be held in Paris on 25 November.
8. Mr Chairman, the discussions with civil society these last two days, and active participation in the discussions in this Forum, will permit us to strengthen our mutual understanding and cooperation with all our partners.