



MALTA

STATEMENT BY

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
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HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
AND DEVELOAHY5G

For Malta – one of the most densely populated countries in the world, placed at the southern most tip of Europe and at the cross-roads of migratory routes from Africa through the central Mediterranean – and, I dare say, for other countries in Europe, illegal immigration poses socio-economic problems of the most serious magnitude. Illegal immigration constitutes the unacceptable face of international migration. It is a problem, Mr President, which we sincerely hope that this High Level Group will address.

It calls for a concerted response from all of us. None of us can on our own hope to deal with the causes and effects of a problem which affects millions in so many different countries and whose social, economic and historical causes are so deep-seated. We firmly believe that a coordinated and unified approach should be adopted which addresses the countries of origin from which illegal immigrants depart, the countries of transit through which they pass and their destination countries.

We would like to see this High Level Group commit itself to adopting a holistic approach to illegal immigration. There are five separate elements to the problem. These can be broadly defined as, first, the need for comprehensive arrangements for the return, re-admission and re-integration of illegal immigrants to their countries of origin. Second, the need for improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of border management in countries of origin and of transit. Third, and related to the second, the elimination of human smuggling and trafficking – a topic to which this report makes very telling reference. Fourth, the need for improvements to the management of illegal immigrants by transit countries. And, fifth, the better management of migrants in destination countries if it can be shown that they have genuine cause to migrate and the destination country wishes to receive them.

While it is easy enough to define broadly these key areas for action, it is, as ever, more difficult to decide what actions actually need to be taken in detail to produce real remedies on the ground – as the authors of the report before us

would be the first to acknowledge. But this is what we would hope the follow-up work stemming from this High Level Group would do.

holistically, in detail. Detailed action increasingly needs to be taken in a determined and coordinated manner on a global scale if constructive solutions are to be implemented.

I hope, Madame President, that you will agree that this is work which the High Level Group should now embark upon and follow up energetically.