Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

ASEM “Round Table” for migration, April 2016
Concept paper

1. Introduction

Asia-Europe Meeting (hereinafter – ASEM, or the Meeting) is a platform for dialogue and cooperation, which promotes interaction between the countries of Asia and Europe in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

The ASEM involves 51 countries, accounting for over 60% of world GDP and 2/3 of world trade, as well as two international organizations – the European Commission and the ASEAN secretariat.

Within the framework of ASEM cooperation is carried out on a wide range of issues – political, economic and cultural, resulting in a high intensity of migration processes.

Since March 2003 the Conferences of the Directors-General on issues of immigration and management of migration flows are held on a regular basis on the platform of ASEM.

UN experts noted that the scale of international migration reached a historic high, migration processes are the most important factor in development. The impact of migration on the socio-economic and demographic situation in the world determines the need to increase joint efforts to regulate migration processes.

The Russian Federation is one of the world leaders in terms of migration flows, the second country in the world by the dynamics of the corridors. In this connection, the Russian Federation has accumulated rich experience in the regulation of migration processes.

The Russian Federation consistently expands international cooperation on the basis of a shared commitment to the principles and norms of international law.

Considering the above, in the frameworks of the Meeting Russia had proposed to include the ASEM “Round Table” for migration in the ASEM Calendar of Activities for 2016.
2. Objectives

The objectives of this initiative are:

1) Strengthening the cooperation between the participants of the Meeting in the context of migration and policy to promote sustainable economic growth;

2) Creating mechanisms for interagency cooperation and dialogue in order to improve the management of migration;

3) Exchange of information and experience in the regulation of labor migration and counteraction illegal migration;

Politically unloaded character of interaction in the framework of the "Round Table" will enhance interagency cooperation in the field of migration management in the space of ASEM and the discussion of suitable approaches and solutions in the spirit of partnership and cooperation.

3. Topics of discussion

During the "Round Table" following topics will be discussed:
- current challenges in the field of migration in the space of ASEM, promising areas of cooperation between the parties in the field of migration;
- counteraction the illegal migration, including readmission;
- international protection;
- introduction and development of information technologies, the protection of documents and inter-agency cooperation;
- measures of state regulation of labor migration of citizens (exchange of experiences of the participants of the meeting);
- migration as a key to successful development of society in the context of the impact of migration on the socio-economic and demographic situation in the world.

4. Participants

A wide range of participants is planned to be invited to the "Round Table", including representatives of the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Eurasian Commission, the CIS Executive Committee, the European Commission.

5. Venue and dates

"Round table" will be held in Moscow in April 2016, the exact venue will be confirmed in due course.
6. Expenses

As the host, the Russian Federation will bear the costs of convening of the “Round Table” and hospitality event(-s). Participating ASEM Partners are requested to cover the costs of travel and accommodation for their respective Delegates.

7. Contacts

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