

Workshop B - Foreign policy aspects of migration

Executive summary of the presentation of Ms Esen Altuğ

International migration continues to pose challenges across the globe, even in the most developed countries. According to the UN, in 2015, we had the largest number of people displaced by conflicts in the world since the Second World War - more than 60 million people.

Migratory flows have clear implications on peace and stability all over the world. This is why we need to keep the momentum to promote dialogue, action and cooperation on migration issues to the interest of international community.

Due to the situation in Syria and Iraq, Turkey has encountered huge flow of people seeking refuge and is now hosting the biggest number of refugees, almost 3 million.

In line with its international obligations, Turkey grants protection to all Syrians who had to flee their homeland.

As a country that is at once an origin, transit and also target destination in terms of migration, Turkey has accumulated a wealth of experience on the challenges and opportunities posed by migration and are committed to addressing common issues on migration management at the international fora.

Turkish foreign policy has the privilege to share the experience in human and efficient management of the multiple issues arising from international migration in a new era of mobility.

International cooperation and burden-sharing is needed more than ever to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving the humane treatment of migrants, refugees and displaced persons.

Turkey is ready to cooperate with all relevant parties to overcome the migration crisis.

The latest developments in their shared neighbourhood compelled Turkey and the EU to further their cooperation. As longstanding strategic partners, they joined their forces to find a sustainable solution to the migration crisis which has affected both sides.

Intensified talks between Ankara and Brussels over the last couple of months resulted in concrete outcome, such as the Joint Action Plan on Migration and Turkey-EU Agreement of 18 March.

As the largest refugee hosting country in the world by providing shelter and services to 2.7 million Syrians, Turkey assumed a crucial role in the agreement aimed at stemming irregular migration in the Aegean Sea. On the eve of the implementation of the recent Turkey-EU agreement, Ms Altuğ's presentation will focus on the situation on the ground and possible achievements in the coming days. She will also give information on the living conditions of Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey. The needs of the Syrians as well as the lessons learned in this unprecedented flow of refugees will be addressed to have a common vision on sharing responsibility for tackling this humanitarian crisis.

It is high time to mobilize our efforts for a concerted response to migration challenges.