



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

Jan De Preter

European Union Delegation to the United Nations

71st Session of the General Assembly

Fifth Committee

**Programme Budget Implications (PBIs): Intergov. negotiations of the global
compact for migration (item 134i)
First Resumed Session**

United Nations

New York

10 March 2017

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the EU.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

At the outset let me thank Mme Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary General and Controller for introducing the PBI on the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact of migration; as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of ACABQ for introducing the corresponding ACABQ recommendations on this important topic.

The member states of the EU have actively contributed to the consensus that was reached on the draft resolution entitled "Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration". We are proud of the outcome achieved and the precise and detailed information provided in this resolution. We thank all actors and all stakeholders for their continued efforts and involvement.

We have carefully studied the statement submitted by the Secretary General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly as well as the corresponding report of the Advisory Committee. Please allow me to make a few remarks in this regard:

1. Given the high priority the Organisation as a whole is attaching to this important item, we are surprised to see that there is no potential for absorption and reprioritization during the 2016-2017 biennium since such efforts should be in line with the established budget procedure under GA RES 41/213 and 42/211. Travel of staff and experts as well as conference management are expensive categories of expenditures and all efforts should be made to consider these as economical and efficient as possible in light of scarce resources.

2. OP 11 from the modalities resolution clearly states that "*the Secretariat of the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration will jointly service the negotiations, the former providing capacity and support and the latter extending the technical and policy expertise required*". The resolution further decides that "*such joint servicing shall apply to the entire preparatory process to develop the global compact*". In this regard, we are surprised to see that several parts of the UN Secretariat, including

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

some regional economic commissions as well as UNDESA, explicitly request the assistance of consultants to prepare for the different phases of the preparatory processes of the Global Compact as spelled out in the resolution. While we do not put into question the direct involvement of these specific Secretariat entities in the preparation of the Global Compact, together with IOM, we do question the fact that they cannot rely on in house capacity to provide assistance to the process as spelled out in OP 11 of the resolution.

We look forward to the informal consultations to further discuss these issues so we can come to fruitful conclusion of this important agenda item.

I thank you Madam Chair.