



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
President

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Address by the
President of the Republic of Macedonia,
His Excellency Dr. Gjorge Ivanov,
at the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large
Movements of Refugees and Migrants

New York, September 19, 2016

**Distinguished President,
Distinguished Secretary-General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are living in the real 21st century, in a time of hope and fear.

~~On one hand, we have hope for a better life, education, economic development~~

protection of the life of citizens and their property.

On the other, there is fear of the consequences of regional conflicts and crisis regions.

Movements of migrants and refugees have been triggered by both the pursuit of happiness and running away from fear.

20 million illegal migrants and refugees are located near the external borders of Europe and are being motivated to use certain corridors to reach Europe.

We need a common approach in terms of handling the migration crisis and reducing security risks by making a clear distinction between the legal and humanitarian, political, economic, social and security aspects of the crisis.

This new era of the cruel 21st century requires new leadership and resettlement of institutions that would then be able to manage crises and risks.

The threat of illegal migration is a perfect tool for exercising non-military pressure in crisis and conflict management. It is simple – it is enough to just export migrants and direct them to the path towards their final destination.

We have assumed the responsibility to be the gatekeepers of Europe. The deployment of
~~army troops in support of police forces protecting the border resulted in the~~

~~interruption of movement of illegal migration through the so-called Balkan corridor. We~~
~~must therefore support the revision of legislation concerning the participation of the~~

Army in the protection of borders, national security and countering terrorism.

As regards the requested assistance related to the security aspects of the crisis, several partner countries responded with secondment of police officers, border protection equipment and financial assistance, namely: Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina.