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Madame President,

Coming from a small country, which especially at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century produced thousands and thousands migrants bound particularly for the USA, I have to say that this fact still affects social consciousness in my country.

Slovakia welcomes the organization of this High Level Dialogue, as migration is becoming more and more an integral part of global processes bringing both concerns and challenges not only to the migrants, but also to the countries of origin, transit as well as destination. This fact is supported also by the latest Transatlantic Trends survey of American and European public opinion. According to these findings 79 percent of Americans and 76 percent of Europeans agree that large numbers of immigrants coming into their country are an important threat.

Slovakia lying on the east-west migratory route in Europe, so far does not have to deal with an excessive influx of migrants. Despite this, Slovakia as a smaller EU country, is involved in formation of the EU migration policies and therefore fully supports the EU joint position presented at this High Level Dialogue, as well as the EU global approach on migration adopted in December 2005 and number of instruments and policy guidelines contained in the so-called Hague program where, among other things, is

defined also the EU objective to create common European asylum system. From our own experience we can prove evidence that misuse of asylum procedure is still a

define our position with regard to the reception and stay of migrants on the territory of