



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

Press-release
The Republic of Belarus Joins
the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

29 November, 2005

On 29 November 2005 during the 90th Session of the IOM Council in Geneva (Switzerland) the Republic of Belarus became a member of the International Organization for Migration.

Thereby, Belarus has confirmed its adherence to the principle of free movement of people. This is also an additional acknowledgement of the importance of humane and orderly migration with the observance of human rights and freedoms. IOM is growing rapidly and currently counts 116 member states and this provides strong evidence of the growing importance of migration around the world. At present, there is an emerging consensus that governments can and must manage migration through international cooperation and policy approaches that address all facets of this complex phenomenon.

IOM Membership gives Belarus the right to vote as well as take part in the decision-making process of the Council, which defines the policy and the budget of the Organization. Besides, Belarus enjoys the right of being involved in already running programmes or proposing new projects, which correspond to the government's interests and needs. Indeed, IOM Membership definitely broadens the opportunities for Belarus in attracting financial resources for carrying out a range of projects in the sphere of migration management.

The Republic of Belarus has participated in the work of IOM for more than 11 years. Since November 1994, Belarus held observer status and in 1999 the Agreement on cooperation between the government of Belarus and IOM was ratified. At present IOM Minsk Mission is successfully implementing programmes in such areas as capacity building in migration management, combating trafficking in human beings, labour migration, etc.

For additional information please contact the International Organization for Migration, Mission in the Republic of Belarus: iomminsk@iom.org.by ; tel: +375 172 98 32 49

IOM Minsk office:

6A Partizansky Avenue • 220033 • Minsk • Belarus
Tel: +375.172.98 32 49, +375.172.10 28 84 • Fax: +375.172.98 32 82.