

MEMORANDUM
of understanding and cooperation between
the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth
of Independent States and the Administration
of the International Organization for Migration

The Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereafter the Executive Committee of the CIS) and the Administration of the International Organization for Migration (hereafter IOM Administration) hereafter referred to as Parties;

recognizing the importance of regulating migration processes, and particularly, the necessity to counter irregular migration and trafficking in human beings;

convinced of the need to develop cross-border and trans-national cooperation in the area of migration management in order to reduce the level of irregular migration;

recognizing that the Executive Committee of the CIS as a consolidated permanently acting executive, administrative and coordinating body of the CIS is called on to provide assistance to the participating states of the CIS in implementation of joint programmes and activities, adopted within the CIS framework;

taking note that the International Organization for Migration, committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society, acts to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants;

wishing to deepen partnership relations and extend cooperation within their competency between the Executive Committee of the CIS and IOM Administration in the sphere facilitating the regulation of migration processes and, in particular, in countering irregular migration and trafficking in human beings;

considering that it is the common interest of the Parties to enhance cooperation within their competencies,

reached the following understanding:

1. Both Parties express their intention:

- 1.1.to facilitate cooperation between the concerned participating states of the CIS and IOM Member States in the sphere of migration;
- 1.2.to exchange information in the public domain on issues of mutual interest on a regular basis;
- 1.3.to facilitate technical cooperation in the relevant spheres of activities of the Parties at the request of one of the Parties;
- 1.4.to cooperate in elaboration and implementation of joint programmes and activities that are of common interest;
- 1.5.to provide reciprocal representation of the Parties at appropriate meetings organized by the Executive Committee of the CIS and IOM Administration and dealing with matters of mutual interest and competence in accordance with applicable procedural rules and decisions taken by the competent bodies concerning the attendance of meetings by observers;
- 1.6.subject to the availability of necessary resources, to conduct joint seminars and conferences on such issues as *inter alia* irregular migration, trafficking in human beings, cross-border cooperation and implementation of documentation containing biometrical and other data for the CIS Executive Committee officials and other CIS authorities concerned;

2. To realize their intentions the Executive Committee of the CIS and IOM Administration shall conduct regular consultations and designate contact persons in order to facilitate efficient cooperation between the Parties.

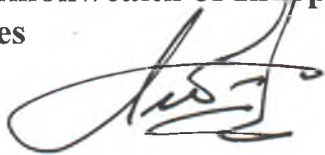
3. Special arrangements shall define the conditions of participation of each Party in the organization of the joint programmes and events, including the expenses payable by each of the Parties.

4. The Executive Committee of the CIS and IOM Administration will jointly review the process of implementation of the present Memorandum on a regular basis.

5. The area of application of the present Memorandum does not affect the bilateral cooperation of individual CIS participating states with IOM.

Signed on 19 September 2008 in Minsk in two originals, each in Russian and English languages, one of which shall be deposited with the Executive Committee of the CIS and the other with the IOM Administration.

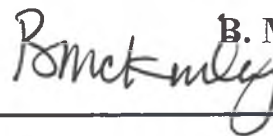
**For the Executive Committee of the
Commonwealth of Independent
States**



S. Lebedev

**Chairman of the Executive
Committee – Executive Secretary of
the Commonwealth of Independent
States**

**For the Administration of
International Organization for
Migration**



B. McKinley

**Director General
International organization
for Migration**