International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

Eduskunta
Suuren valiokunnan työjaosto

15 March 2022

RE: Request for comments (E 130/2021 vp / Lausuntopyyntö)

Dear Madam/Sir,

Thank you for the request for comments on current legal proposals concerning situations of instrumentalization in the field of migration and asylum, and related items. I regret to inform you that IOM is not in a position at this point to provide detailed comments on these issues or the proposed legislation, which is due to the need to redirect resources in light of recent developments in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

IOM has raised its concern at the increasing instances of instrumentalization of migrants at the borders between the EU and some neighbouring countries. We are concerned that this unnecessarily puts migrants' lives at risk and jeopardizes their access to protection and other forms of assistance. Taking advantage of the vulnerability and desperation of migrants for political leverage is not acceptable, and IOM has been reiterating its calls for such practices to end. Furthermore, IOM urges states to uphold international law and the principles of good migration governance at all borders. IOM has also called for intensified dialogue and collaboration between host, transit and origin countries to uphold the fundamental, shared responsibility to protect vulnerable people, to safeguard their rights and to ensure humanitarian access where needed. IOM remains committed to supporting these collective aims.

Sincerely,

Tobias VAN TREECK
Officer in Charge

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