



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



**Xenia** (Greek: ξενία, xenia) is the Greek concept of hospitality, or generosity and courtesy shown to those who are far from home. It is often translated as "guest-friendship" (or "ritualized friendship") because the rituals of hospitality created and expressed a reciprocal relationship between guest and host. In the Homeric ages, hospitality was under the protection of Zeus, the chief deity of the Greek pantheon.

For that reason Zeus was also attributed with the title "Xenios Zeus" ("xenos" means stranger). The semantic behind this was to highlight the fact that hospitality for Ancient Greeks was of the utmost importance. This created a particular religious obligation to be hospitable to travelers, but guests also had responsibilities, beyond reciprocating hospitality.

Source: Wikipedia

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**Filoxenia** (Greek: φιλοξενία, filoxenia = Hospitality): compensating / equalizing a stranger to the host, making him feel protected and taken care of, and at the end of his hosting, guiding him to his next destination.

Source: Wikipedia



Dear colleagues,

As Chairman of the first Global Forum on Migration and Development I am pleased and honoured to invite you to the 3rd GFMD, which is jointly organized with the UN, in Athens, 17-19 May.

Greece is a country which has deeply experienced, through its contemporary social history, migration to third countries. In recent years, Greece has seen a radical change from a migrant-generating to a migrant-receiving country. Migration is not only a matter of national laws and policies. It is very much an international issue, as it is directly linked to international development issues. It demands a holistic approach and international cooperation and agreements.

We hope that through the upcoming 3rd GFMD, that will be implemented through the close collaboration of the United Nations, the GFMD Task Force and the Troika, we will reinforce the opportunity which is offered, to continue the intergovernmental dialogue, to share information and expertise, and to exchange experiences and good practices at the regional, national as well as local level.

I am mostly convinced that the biggest challenge for the next Forum will be to go one big step further and to obtain practical, realistic and forward-looking results, to bring out new policies, concepts and innovative approaches in the field of migration and development, to the benefit of migrants themselves and to the benefit of origin and destination countries. As Chair of the GFMD we will also work so as to ensure continuity and institutional memory of the Forum. I invite all of you to stand by our side in order to turn this difficult task into a success.

With my warmest regards,

**Athanassios Nakos**  
Deputy Minister of Interior of the Hellenic Republic



## GFMD Athens 2009



### THIRD GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ATHENS

It is a general global acknowledgement, today, that human migration constitutes one of the most complex issues of our times, and at the same time one of the most demanding for immediate actions and political decisions, at the national, regional and international level. Migration is not a modern phenomenon, as people have migrated, for either economic, or cultural or social betterment, since the outset of human civilization. However, the modern types and forms of human cross-border migration, which are largely facilitated by the rapid technological development in communications and transportation, and the effects of the globalised economy, encompass not only social and economic aspects, but, very often a series of issues related to human rights and the respect of internationally agreed principles for the protection of the individual.

The Global Forum, which was initiated at the High-Level Dialogue at United Nations, acknowledges this demanding reality and offers a valuable platform that involves governments, stakeholders and the civil society at large, in order to address the implications, the opportunities as well as the challenges that inevitably must lead to greater coherence between migration and development policies. In order that the varying state policies and interests find appropriate balances, and that, most importantly, human rights are upheld worldwide, states need to re-consider both the limitations of migration

and its positive effects, in light of the existing overarching realities. States must thus bring together acquired knowledge, identify best practices and promote innovative approaches related to Migration and Development in order to achieve a co-ordinated action between origin, transit and host countries.

Greece, as member of the European Union constitutes today one of the top receiving countries in the European region. A great effort is made, on the part of the Greek state, to develop and adopt a coherent, concrete framework on migration policy, to reduce inequalities, to combat discrimination and to give the opportunity to migrants to develop their skills and aspirations in order for them to be fully integrated in the social, economic and cultural fabric of the Greek society. As a general rule, the main issue for the Greek government, during the last years, has been to further develop – through concrete actions – the context of migration as a development tool for Greece and for the countries of origin.

As host and organizer of the 3rd Forum, the Greek presidency is committed to respect transparency and assures that an open dialogue among all participants will take place. Furthermore, the Greek presidency will focus its efforts in going beyond declarations and general conclusions.