

**STATEMENT  
ON THE ISSUE OF MISSING MIGRANTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF CYPRUS, GREECE, ITALY, AND  
MALTA AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR MEETING IN ROME ON 11 JUNE 2018**

Around the world, almost 27,000 migrants are reported to have died or to have gone missing since the beginning of 2014, of whom nearly 16,000 were lost on the Mediterranean route. More than 3,000 migrants died trying to cross the Mediterranean in 2017; more than 600 died this year. European governments have also reported that significant numbers of child migrants cannot be located after their arrival in Europe.

Locating missing migrants requires effective cooperation between States, including improving the utility of available data and enhancing forensic and other technical capabilities. Efforts also have to be coordinated more efficiently with international and other organizations, and the assistance of intergovernmental specialized organizations has to be secured.

To discuss the possibility of initiating a Joint Process to account for missing migrants in the Mediterranean region, the representatives of Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Malta have convened at the invitation of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), which is the only specialized international organization mandated to secure the cooperation of governments and to assist them in their efforts to locate missing persons. This effort shall seek the participation of other European states, as well as of countries of origin. The ICMP can provide a secretariat and other support as required.

The immediate objectives will include assessing the scope and extent of existing investigatory capacities, proposing strategies to redress possible shortcomings, and enhancing cooperative efforts. The activities of the Joint Process should be in line with human rights obligations, personal data protection, and comply with relevant national legislation.

In addition to ICMP, the current participating states welcome the assistance of all international and other organizations concerned with migrants, in particular the International Organization for Migration, EU Agencies, and the Red Cross Movement to bring this effort to fruition.