

**STATEMENT
ON THE ISSUE OF MISSING MIGRANTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF CYPRUS, GREECE, AND MALTA AT
THE CONCLUSION OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE JOINT PROCESS**

13 JUNE 2019, THE HAGUE

Despite the decrease in the number of arrivals in Europe, more than 500 persons are reported to have died or to have gone missing in the Mediterranean region since the beginning of 2019. Globally, since 2014, more than 31,000 persons have been reported missing or deceased along migratory routes.

Locating missing migrants requires effective cooperation among States in a range of fields, including improving the utility of available data forensic and other technical aspects, and support to families of the missing. Efforts also have to be coordinated more efficiently with international and other organizations, and the assistance of intergovernmental specialized organizations has to be secured.

Meeting in Rome on 11 June 2018, government representatives from Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Malta discussed the possibility of initiating a Joint Process to Account for Persons Missing as a Result of Migration in the Mediterranean Region (Joint Process). In line with the Statement on the Issue of Missing Migrants released at the conclusion of the inaugural meeting of the Joint Process on 11 June 2018, the immediate objectives of the Joint Process have included assessing the scope and extent of existing investigatory capacities, proposing strategies to redress possible shortcomings, and enhancing cooperative efforts.

Since the inaugural meeting, the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), acting as the secretariat of the Joint Process, has facilitated achieving these immediate objectives. As a result of the assessment of the scope and extent of existing investigatory capacities, ICMP has formulated Proposals for Action in draft form.¹ The representatives of Cyprus, Greece, and Malta, having convened at the invitation of ICMP on 13 June 2019 in The Hague, welcome the initiative to further explore cooperation, including identifying “focal points” in each country.

¹ Accounting for Missing Migrants in the Mediterranean Region, Draft Proposals for Action (ICMP.GR.MM.043.1.dra).

Note by the Secretariat: The representative of Italy reaffirmed availability and interest in renewing the existing Protocol between ICMP and the Special Commissioner for Missing Persons.