

## INVITATION **The new Pact on Migration and Asylum – How can we succeed?** **Topic II - The Internal Dimension: Harmonisation and Interaction**

**20 April 2021**

1.30 pm  
to 3.00 pm

**Online  
Policy Dialogue**

**(ZOOM)**

The Schengen area is an important achievement of the European Union. However, the abolishment of internal border controls also opens up opportunities for irregular secondary movements and the abuse of asylum systems. National differences in the handling of asylum procedures and reception conditions, can act as an incentive for applicants to leave the Member State responsible for them while their application is being examined. A swift harmonisation of procedures and conditions in all EU member states in addition to more effective monitoring and more rigorous implementation of the rules in force is therefore a key element to prevent secondary movements within the EU. The new Commission proposal also aims at achieving an improved and effective return policy for rejected applicants. In this field, the harmonisation of national regulations includes the development of common safe third country and safe country of origin concepts, in full compliance with international human rights standards. Digital infrastructure is another key word to improve the exchange of information at European level on migration and asylum management.

One important aspect of the internal dimension concerns the public perception of irregular migrants and the impact on national politics. Irregular migration has undesirable effects on labour markets and social security systems. It also increases vulnerability among this group of migrants and the risk of criminalisation or radicalisation, which on the other hand, provides a potential breeding ground for xenophobic resentments in the local population.

What kind of support do Member States need in order to implement the measures proposed by the pact successfully? What are the obstacles to rapid harmonisation of the relevant procedures and structures in the Member States? In which areas could a European agency take on administrative and operational tasks in order to improve interaction and ensure common standards? What about the future of the Schengen area, if progress is not made quickly?

### **Programme**

1.30 pm  
to 1.35 pm

Welcome:

**Markus FERBER, MEP**, Chairman of the Hanns Seidel Foundation; Coordinator of the EPP Group in the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the EP

1.35 pm  
to 1.55 pm

Introductory statements (5 minutes each):

**Sammy MAHDI**, Secretary of State for Asylum and Migration, Belgium

**Stephan MAYER**, Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community

**Fabrice LEGGERI**, Executive Director, FRONTEX

**Matthias OEL**, Director Borders, Interoperability and Innovation (HOME.B), Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

1.55 pm  
to 2.55 pm

Policy dialogue session:

Chair: **Vít NOVOTNÝ**, Senior Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES)

2.55 pm  
to 3.00 pm

Closing remarks:

**Dr. Loredana TEODORESCU**, Head of EU and International Affairs, Luigi Sturzo Institute

*Conference language is English. – This policy dialogue is held under Chatham house rule.*

#### Organisation and contact: