



INVITATION **The new Pact on Migration and Asylum – How can we succeed?**

Topic I - The Core Principles: Balance between Responsibility and Solidarity

23 March 2021

1.30 pm
to 3.00 pm

**Online
Policy Dialogue**

(ZOOM)

In the last years, migration has increasingly become a divisive issue among EU member states and citizens and debates on migration are very often driven by domestic politics, emotions and perceptions. After four years of blocked reforms, the new Pact was an attempt to rebuild trust among the Member States through better and more effective procedures and a new balance between solidarity and responsibility.

The Commission tried to pursue the most inclusive approach ever, acknowledging that Member State experience migration in very different ways and no one's concerns are more legitimate than the others. To this end, the Pact proposes a revised form of solidarity, which is flexible but not optional. When a country is under pressure or at risk of being under pressure, or after disembarkations from search and rescue operations, all EU countries should contribute, choosing among different options: relocating people, sponsoring returns or offering an operational support.

At the same time, while recognising that the Dublin system is not fit for its purpose anymore, the Commission didn't remove it and neither its contentious principles, which make the country of first-entry in most of the cases responsible for asylum-claims.

Is this new form of solidarity, mandatory but flexible, the best one? Is it acceptable by all Member States? Can the sponsored returns be considered a real form of solidarity? Is the proposed system going to work? What are the challenges? Will the Pact make the EU better prepared for future migration crises? And be able to restore the trust between Member States?

Programme

1.30 pm
to 1.38 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 European Parliament

Prof. Nicola ANTONETTI, President of the Luigi Sturzo Institute

1.38 pm
to 1.58 pm

Introductory statements (5 minutes each):

Jeroen LENAERS, MEP, Coordinator EPP-group, LIBE committee, European Parliament

Nina GREGORI, Executive Director, European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

Natasha BERTAUD, Deputy Head of Cabinet, Vice-President Schinas, European Commission

Vincenzo CELESTE, Director general for EU, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1.58 pm
to 3.00 pm

Policy dialogue session:

Chair: **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:

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