

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

Topic III - The external Dimension: Focus on countries of transit and origin

27 May 2021

1.30 pm
to 3.00 pm

**Online
Policy Dialogue**

(ZOOM)

The cooperation with neighbouring countries on migration has gained a renewed consensus since the migration crisis in 2015. The crisis clearly showed that in an interdependent world, migration needs to be jointly managed, and cooperation with countries like Turkey, Niger or Libya has become strategically important for Europe. Moreover, EU member states struggled to find an agreement on how to internally respond to the challenge, and increasingly turned to third countries to manage migration and to reduce the number of irregular migrants arriving to Europe. EU gradually acquired a stronger and more active role in building partnerships with neighbouring or strategic countries, with the assumption that it can use its added value in terms of leverage and negotiation, credibility and coordination. The importance of the external dimension is reaffirmed in the new Pact. A specific chapter, the sixth, focuses on the work with international partners, and migration is defined «central to the EU's overall relationships with key partner countries of origin and transit». To maximise the impact of international partnerships, the Commission proposes to further deploy a wide range of policy tools wherever relevant in the engagement with partner countries. This multi-dimensional approach should enable the EU and its member states to use all their added value and leverage to achieve a sustainable cooperation with partner countries. However, it calls for an efficient coordination among all the actors involved at EU and national level, a careful evaluation of the nexus between different policies in order to avoid policy contradictions and unwilling consequences, and a flexibility to adapt to different circumstances and partner countries' needs.

Is the EU able to play this enhanced role as global player in the migration field and meet the expectations? Does the EU have all the necessary instruments and competences to successfully play this role? What are the risks of a reinforced external migration policy? What are the remaining challenges? How to improve the coordination between EU member states and EU actors in order to maximise the impact and secure the cooperation of third countries?

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 1.50 pm

Introductory statements (5 minutes each):

Raoul UEBERECKEN, Director Justice and Home Affairs, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

Christine GRAU, Head of Division, Migration and human security, EEAS

Laurence HART, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, IOM

Georgiana Maria PLEȘU, International Relations Officer, European Commission, DG Migration and Home Affairs, HOME A3 – International Strategy

1.50 pm
to 2.55 pm

Policy dialogue session:

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

2.55 pm
to 3.00 pm

Closing remarks:

Dr. Markus EHM, Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Brussels Office

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

Organisation and contact:

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