

SEARCHING FOR SOLIDARITY IN EU ASYLUM AND BORDER POLICIES

**First Annual Policy Conference
organised as part of the OMNIA Project**

Friday 26 (all day) & Saturday 27 (morning) February 2016
Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Salle Dupréel, Bâtiment S, Avenue Jeanne 44

Welcome to the conference

The Odysseus Academic Network, coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), working in collaboration with the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI), is proud to welcome you to the conference **Searching for Solidarity in EU Asylum and Border Policies**, Friday 26 and Saturday 27 February 2016.

Objectives of the conference

The three types of solidarity (financial, physical and operational) present in the EU will be analysed throughout the different presentations and panels. The conference is legally and policy oriented, but includes practical aspects as well as presentations on relevant issues such as statistics and reflections on international relations. The audience has the opportunity to explore the most important policy developments from 2015 related to solidarity, key upcoming proposals from the Commission regarding FRONTEX and Dublin, and the position of the main stakeholders and of Western, Eastern and Southern Member States of the EU as well as of some third countries.

Structure of the conference

- **Session One** addresses the specificities of solidarity in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice in comparison with other EU policies as well as with the situation in third countries such as Turkey.
- **Session Two**, focussing on EU Asylum Policy, is devoted to the delicate issue of the relocation of asylum seekers between Member States, and establishing the right balance between solidarity and responsibility in relation to the upcoming revision of the Dublin Regulation.
- **Session Three** centres on the extent to which the current EU institutional framework and, in particular, the status of the relevant agencies (FRONTEX and EASO), fosters solidarity. The Commission proposals made on 15 December to strengthen FRONTEX will be critically analysed, as well as the need to revise the mandate and structure of EASO. Session 3 also addresses the functioning of “Hotspots”.

At the conference

Those attending the conference include academics as well as policy-makers from EU Institutions and Agencies (Commission, Council, Parliament, FRONTEX, EASO), Member States and third countries, as well as stakeholders such as representatives from NGOs and the UNHCR.

PROGRAMME

Session 1: Friday 26 (morning)

EU LAW: THE SEARCH FOR SOLIDARITY

Part 1

Chaired by Professor Stefan Braum, *Dean of the Faculty of Law, Economy and Finance, University of Luxembourg*

9:00 Welcome Speech

Professor Philippe De Bruycker, *Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI) and Institute for European Studies of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)*

9:15 Introductory Keynote Speech

“Failure by Design? On the Constitution of EU Solidarity”

Professor Gregor Noll, *Lund University*

9:45 Panel: “Exploring the Solidarity Question”

- **Solidarity and Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**

Ms Eleni Karageorgiou, *PhD Candidate in Public International Law, Lund University*

The Principle of 'External' Solidarity: Meaning, Dimensions and Implications

Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax, *Co-Director of CEILA (Centre for European and International Legal Affairs), Queen Mary, University of London*

- **Solidarity and Mutual Recognition: Lessons from European Criminal Justice Cooperation**

Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas, *Queen Mary, University of London*

10:15 Discussion with the audience

11:00 Coffee break

Part 2

Chaired by Professor Henri Labayle, *Université de Pau & Guest Professor at the College of Europe and the Global Institute of Geneva*

11:30 Panel: “Solidarity from a Range of Perspectives”

- **The Experience of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Mr Pascal Schumacher, *Advisor on Justice and Home Affairs, Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU*

- **The Asylum Crisis in Figures**

Professor Philippe Fargues, *Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI)*

- **A Reflection from Turkey**

Assistant Professor Saime Ozcurumez, *Bilkent University, Visiting Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University*

12:15 Discussion with the audience

13:00 Lunch break

PROGRAMME

Session 2: Friday 26 (afternoon)

EU ASYLUM POLICY: THE SEARCH FOR FAIR SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY

Chaired by Mr Juris Gromovs, *Migration and Freedom of Movement Advisor at the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)*

14:00 Presentation

Solidarity in International Refugee Law and Policy

Professor Alexander Betts, *Director of Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford*

14:15 Presentation

Inter-State Solidarity in EU Asylum Policy

Ms Lilian Tsourdi, *Université libre de Bruxelles & Université catholique de Louvain*

14:45 Panel: “Physical Solidarity”

- **A Point of View from Eastern Europe**
Dr Věra Honusková, *Charles University, Prague*
- **Relocation in Practice from Greece**
Ms Dionysia Papailiou, *Head of Regional Asylum Office of Lesbos, Relocation Unit*

15:05 Discussion with the audience

15:45 Coffee break

16:15 Panel: “Solidarity versus Responsibility”

- **The Commission Proposal for Crisis Relocation Mechanism**
Dr Miriam Dalli, MEP, *S&D Shadow Rapporteur on the Crisis Relocation Mechanism*
- **After Dublin: Basic Principles and Possible Scenarios**
Professor Francesco Maiani, *University of Lausanne*
- **An NGO Perspective**
Mr Kris Pollet, *European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)*

16:45 Discussion with the audience

17:30 End of Day One

PROGRAMME

Session 3: Saturday 27 (morning)

EU AGENCIES: THE SEARCH FOR AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF SOLIDARITY

Chaired by Professor Thomas Spijkerboer, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

9:00 Presentation

Practical Cooperation on Asylum and the First Years of the EASO

Ms Madeline Garlick, *Chief of the Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section in the Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

9:20 Presentation

Solidarity in External Borders Policy: the Case of FRONTEX

Ms Andreea Niculiu, *Strategic Policy Officer, Cabinet of the Director, FRONTEX*

9:40 Presentation

Solidarity and EU Agencies: What is the Future for FRONTEX and the EASO?

Professor Philippe De Bruycker, *Migration Policy Centre of the European University Institute (EUI) and Institute for European Studies of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)*

10:00 Presentation

Control and Closure of Internal Borders in the Schengen Area

Professor Nuno Piçarra, *Universidade Nova de Lisboa*

10:30 Discussion with the audience

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Panel: “Operational Solidarity”

- **Comments by a Representative of the EASO**
Mr Claus Folden, *Head of Operational Support, European Asylum Support Office*
- **On the Functioning of Hotspots in Italy**
Ms Maria de Donato, *Head of the Legal Department, Italian Council for Refugees*
- **Comments by a Representative of FRONTEX**
Ms Andreea Niculiu, *Strategic Policy Officer, Cabinet of the Director, FRONTEX*

12:15 Discussion with the audience

13:00 General Conclusions

Session 1

Professor Jens Vedsted-Hansen, *Aarhus University*

Session 2

Dr Ulrike Brandl, *Universität Salzburg*

Session 3

Dr Jorrit Rijpma, *Leiden Law School*

13:30 End of Conference