

# The Odysseus Academic Network

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Policy Conference

in cooperation with the Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute

# SEARCHING FOR SOLIDARITY IN EU ASYLUM AND BORDER POLICIES

Speakers and audience will include academics, policy-makers from EU Institutions, Agencies and Member States, and representatives from NGOs and the UNHCR.

**Session 1**     **EU LAW:** *The Search for Solidarity*

**Session 2**     **EU ASYLUM POLICY:** *The Search  
for Fair Sharing of Responsibility*

**Session 3**     **EU AGENCIES:** *The Search for an  
Institutional Framework of Solidarity*

Registration and information: [odysseus-network.eu](http://odysseus-network.eu)

## 26-27 February 2016

Université Libre de Bruxelles | Salle DUPREEL

44 Avenue Jeanne, 1050 Brussels



# 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

The Odysseus Academic Network coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), in cooperation with the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI), is hosting the conference “Searching for Solidarity in EU Asylum and Border Policies” in Brussels on 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 will include practical aspects as well as presentations on relevant issues such as statistics and reflections on international relations. It will give the audience 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, will be 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. It will also address the functioning of “Hotspots”.

## Speakers & audience

Speakers and audience will 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. Sufficient space will be left for question and answer sessions as well as discussions.

# 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**

## 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”**

- **The German Perspective**  
Dr Christian Klos, *Head of the Immigration Law Division, German Federal Ministry of the Interior*
- **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*

**15:15 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**

**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 FRONTEX Representative**

**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**

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Date and Time**

26<sup>th</sup> February 9:00 – 27<sup>th</sup> February 13:30

**Registration**

Online at <http://odysseus-network.eu/register/>

Cost of participation - EUR 95

**Catering**

Refreshments and lunch (on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>) will be provided

**Location**

Université libre de Bruxelles  
Salle DUPRÉEL (Bâtiment S)  
44 Avenue Jeanne  
1050 Brussels, Belgium  
(See map of campus below)

**Public Transport**

[www.STIB.be](http://www.STIB.be) (Nearest bus/tram stops: Buyl, Cambre-Etoile)

