



Concept Note, Modalities and Draft Agenda

OSCE-CEI High-Level Panel Discussion

Beyond the Emergency: Improving the International Response to Large Movements of People

Vienna, 9 June 2017

Concept

As the migration and refugee “crisis” continues to unfold, tackling the emergency remains imperative but is no longer sufficient. Long-term approaches to comprehensively address the issue of large movements of people as a structural feature of the new European human, economic, and security landscape are urgently needed. In order to be viable and sustainable, such approaches should leverage international coordination to the maximum extent possible by mobilizing capacities beyond the national level and creating mechanisms for regional and sub-regional co-operation in key policy areas, from the reception of new comers to integration and circular migration.

Yet, despite numerous constructive initiatives, and a commitment to reach in 2018 a Global Compact on Refugees and a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, the response in Europe remains fragmentary and uneven despite the magnitude of the phenomenon. Both on the reception side and in terms of providing avenues for integration, more has to be done to support solutions that fully protect the human rights of people on the move, while addressing the needs and concerns of all the actors involved. In this context, the role of regional and sub-regional organizations is crucial as they can provide a much-needed bridge between challenges faced at the national level and multilateral discussions and deliberations at the global level. At the same time, they can offer an appropriate setting to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among interested countries.

With this goal in mind, the Austrian Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Belarusian Presidency of the CEI have decided to leverage the platforms and networks of their respective organizations to convene a high-level panel discussion on improving the governance of large movements of people beyond the emergency. The event will place a special focus on the realities and needs of countries of Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe, which have a

long history of dealing with cross-border movements and have been facing fast-evolving migratory pressures in recent years, including from conflict-affected areas in Europe and beyond. The discussion will look into key aspects of the response, starting with long-term aspects such as integration in the new social and economic environment, circular migration, voluntary return and reintegration.

The event will be open to participation from representatives of OSCE and CEI memberships, think tanks and non-governmental organizations. Representatives from various international bodies involved in the response to the phenomenon will highlight their respective contributions and discuss ways to strengthen coordination, with a particular emphasis on the role of regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Modalities

The event will take place in Bibliotheksaal, Hofburg, on 9 June. Participants are invited to register by filling out the attached registration form. The registration form should be sent to External Co-operation Section of the OSCE Secretariat (Ms. Nikolina Milicevic, E-Mail: nikolina.milicevic@osce.org, Tel: +431514366291) no later than **2 June 2017**.

Agenda

09:30-10:00 Registration of participants

10:00-10:30 Introductory Remarks

- Dr. Michael Linhart, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria
- Mr. Oleg Kravchenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus

10:30-12:00 Panel discussion

Moderator: Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE

Panelists: Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, SG of the OSCE
Ambassador Margot Klestil-Löffler, Alternate SG of the CEI
Mr. Michael Spindelegger, ICMPD General Director
Ms. Argentina Szabados, Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia of IOM

12:00-12:15 Concluding Remarks

Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

12.30-14:00 Light Refreshments