



**"A comprehensive and common migration policy in Europe:
What are the challenges for cooperation with third countries?"**

**International Conference
in the framework of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

**Monday, June 30, 2014
The Acropolis Museum, Athens**

P R O G R A M M E

8.30 a.m. **Welcome – Registration**

9.00 a.m. **Opening speech:**

- **Christos Polyzogopoulos**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece
- **Argyris Dinopoulos**, Minister of Interior, Greece
- **Henri Malosse**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
- **Calliope Spanou**, Greek Ombudsman
- **Daniel Esdras**, Chief of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Greece
- **Philippe Quéau**, Assistant Director-General a.i. Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO (*recorded message*)
- **Michelle Leighton**, Chief of the Labour Migration Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO)

10.30 a.m. **First Session**

"Borders policy: Security and “illegal” immigration"

How the Schengen Borders Code implementation is evaluated and how to develop a new EU borders control policy?

The Schengen Area is one of the EU's greatest achievements. It is an area without internal borders where citizens, including many non-EU nationals, workers and tourists can freely circulate without being subjected to border checks. Since 1985, it has gradually grown and encompasses today almost all EU Member States and a few associated non-EU countries. The common to all Schengen States "Schengen Borders Code" governs the crossing of the external border, facilitating access for those who have a legitimate interest to enter into the EU. Since no checks are carried out at the borders between Schengen states, EU States are bound to cooperate with a dual objective of (a) improving security through more efficient

external border controls, while (b) facilitating access of those having a legitimate interest to enter the EU territory. Combating “illegal” immigration calls for a European border control policy capable of responding to today’s challenges in an ever changing global context. Moreover, such a policy needs to keep acknowledging that all EU Member States have to take action to protect their external borders in the interest of the entire Schengen Area. For some Member States, however, notably those situated at the external southern frontiers of the Union, the investments required can be unbearably high due to severe migratory pressures. Hence, it is essential that the EU provides them with the adequate financial and technical assistance in order to achieve an optimum respect of both the right for security in Europe and of human rights for all.

Moderator: **Anna Corossacz**, Vice-President of National Coordination Body for Integration of Immigrant Workers Policies at National and Local Level, National Council of Economy and Labour of Italy

Keynote address: **Miltiadis Varvitsiotis**, Minister of Shipping and the Aegean, Greece

Speakers:

1. **Lalko Dulevski**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Bulgaria
2. **Radu Minea**, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council of Romania
3. **Dionysis Balourdos**, Director of Research, National Centre for Social Research, Greece
4. **Panagiotis Gkofas**, Member of the Various Interests’ Group, European Economic and Social Committee
5. **Luis Miguel Pariza Castaños**, Member of the Workers’ Group, European Economic and Social Committee
6. **Elias Eliopoulos**, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece

Discussion

12.00

Second Session

"Asylum policy: Human rights and social integration"

How are the main pillars of a new European Agenda for the reception and integration of immigrants defined?

The EU is an area of open borders and freedom of movement, where countries share the same fundamental values. Since December 2009 with the Treaty of Lisbon, the EU is legally bound by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which protects basic Human Rights and defines Dignity, Freedoms, Equality, Solidarity, Citizens' Rights, and Justice. EU Member States are also bound by International Treaties, such as the 1951 Geneva Convention for the Protection of Refugees. Under their regional (i.e. EU’s) and international obligations, EU Member States need to have a joint approach to guarantee high standards of protection for refugees. Procedures must at the same time be fair and effective throughout the EU and impervious to abuse. With this in mind, the EU Member States have committed to a Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

Currently, three pillars underpin the development of the CEAS:

- a. bringing more harmonization to standards of protection by further aligning the EU States' asylum legislation;
- b. effective and well-supported practical cooperation;
- c. increased solidarity and sense of responsibility among EU Member States, and between the EU and non-EU countries.

The latest revised EU rules (three Revised Directives and two Revised Regulations) set out common standards and call for stronger co-operation to ensure that asylum seekers are treated equally in an open and fair system. Their proper practical implementation should aim to the inclusion and social integration of people who are granted international protection.

Moderator: **Christian Le Roux**, Director of President's Office, Economic, Social and Environmental Council of France

Keynote address: **Patroklos Georgiadis**, Secretary General of Civil Protection, Ministry of Public Order & Citizen Protection, Greece

Speakers:

1. **Nizar Baraka**, President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Morocco
2. **Paul Biyoghe Mba**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Gabon
3. **Jean Marie Tassoua**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Congo
4. **Maria Stavropoulou**, Director Asylum Service, Ministry of Public Order & Citizen Protection, Greece
5. **Mohamed Korera**, Secretary General of the Economic and Social Council of Mauritania
6. **Sylvia Gauci**, Executive Secretary of the Malta Council for Economical & Social Development
7. **Dionis Oña**, Member of the Economic and Social Council of Spain
8. **Michele Dau**, Head of Department for the Implementation of the Program, National Council of Economy and Labour of Italy
9. **Iraklis Moskof**, National Rapporteur, Office of the National Rapporteur to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece

Discussion

1.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30 p.m.

Third Session

"Migration policy: Design and decisive factors"

How do the economic crisis and the phenomena of racism and xenophobia impact on the approach and the management of migration?

The global financial crisis that affected, to varying degrees, most of the EU Member States severely hit its southern countries. Outside Europe, poverty, natural disasters, social and political instability are decisive factors for migration. All this has led to a significant increase in the movement of EU citizens and residents within the EU. Indeed, enjoying their

right of freedom of movement, most of them try to find better work, economic and social conditions. This greater mobility has generated opportunities but also concerns. Concerns include extreme phenomena of xenophobia and racism in EU Member States and their societies that new migration flows have triggered and fuelled.

These phenomena call for an effective implementation of an updated common migration policy supported by the necessary actions and funds in order to overcome the dysfunctionalities experienced so far (e.g. Dublin Regulation).

Moderator: **Georgios Dassis**, President of the Workers' Group, European Economic and Social Committee

Keynote address: **Angelos Syrigos**, Secretary General of Population and Social Cohesion, Ministry of Interior, Greece

Speakers:

1. **Roger Nasnas**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Lebanon
2. **Michel Kamano**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Guinea
3. **Moussa Moumouni Djermakoye**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Niger
4. **El Hadj Momar Samb**, President of the Youth and Employment Commission, Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Senegal
5. **Margit Kreuzhuber**, Authorized representative for migration and integration and employment of foreign persons, Federal Economic Chamber of Austria
6. **Ernst Tüchler**, Economic Policy Department, Austrian Trade Union Confederation
7. **Antonios Kontis**, Professor, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
8. **Driss Guerraoui**, Secretary General of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Morocco

Discussion

4.00 p.m.

Conclusions

Christos Polyzogopoulos, President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece

Working languages: English/French/Greek