

High-level conference on migration management

The European Union faces migration challenges of such magnitude that they question our ability to address them in a coordinated manner. These challenges will probably be one of the dominant themes of the 2019 European electoral campaign, as already experienced in national elections and referenda. We need to demonstrate strong and ambitious European leadership on such a central concern for our citizens, and be ready to deliver a common, readable message on migration.

The European Parliament is committed to acting effectively upon the Rome Declaration, which prioritises “a Europe in which citizens are safe and can travel freely; a Europe with secure external borders and a responsible, sustainable migration policy that complies with international standards; and a Europe that is determined to fight terrorism and organized crime”.

The European Parliament takes the lead in encouraging the other EU institutions and the Member States to implement this Declaration, and proposes a strategy for increased inter-institutional cooperation, with a working method including a timetable and deadlines.

In the two years to come, the European Union (institutions, Member States, national parliaments, EU agencies, regions, etc.) should mobilise its resources and have its legislative, diplomatic, financial, security and humanitarian instruments drive a global strategy. Its objective should be to manage migration flows, and ensure a stable and prosperous environment at our borders.

To this end, and as suggested by various stakeholders from both inside and outside of the European Parliament, a high-level conference dedicated to migration management will be organised on 21 June 2017. Its objective is to raise the attention and create a sense of urgency ahead of the European Council on 22-23 June that will notably discuss migration and review progress on the implementation of the Malta Declaration and the external aspects of migration.

The conference will be organised with the relevant parliamentary committees that focus on migration, with participation of their Members, in particular the rapporteurs of key files, and stakeholders.

The conference could be the starting point of a process leading to reinforced inter-institutional cooperation in the field of migration. As an outcome, an inter-institutional task force could be established, which would not substitute for formal decision-making process, but would regularly gather stakeholders from the EU institutions.

Hemicycle of the European Parliament

21 June 2017

Draft programme

14:30-15:00 Opening

President of the European Parliament, A. Tajani
President of the European Commission, J-C. Juncker
President of the European Council, D. Tusk (tbc)
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission, F. Mogherini

15:00-15:30 Introduction

United Nations Special Representative for International Migration, L. Arbour
Director General of the International Organisation for Migration, W. Swing
President of the European Investment Bank, W. Hoyer
President of the European Committee of the Regions, M. Markkula

15:30-17:30 Round table: Managing asylum and migration

Chair: Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, C. Moraes

Introduction: European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, D. Avramopoulos

Guest: Migration Policy Minister of the Hellenic Republic, I. Mouzalas

Topics for discussion include:

- *Better sharing responsibility for asylum seekers, accelerating asylum procedure;*
- *Addressing legal migration gaps;*
- *Promoting integration;*
- *Addressing irregular migration;*
- *Implementing return decisions;*
- *Ensuring coherence with the Union's human rights policy.*

15:30-17:30 Round table: Promoting stability and prosperity in third countries (in parallel, in room PHS 3C50)

Chair: Chair of the Committee on Development, L. McAvan

Introduction: European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, J. Hahn

Topics for discussion include:

- *Fostering economic and cultural diplomacy to ensure prosperity, tackling root causes;*
- *Addressing humanitarian needs;*
- *Helping partners prevent or manage crises on their own;*
- *Enhancing third countries' capacity building in border management and asylum;*
- *Ensuring coherence with the Union's human rights policy;*
- *Ensuring democratic scrutiny of international cooperation tools.*

17:30-18:30 Round table: Strengthening the EU's internal security

Chair: Member of the European Parliament A. Diaz de Mera

Introduction: European Commissioner for Security Union, J. King

Topics for discussion include:

- *Securing the Schengen area, preserving freedom of movement;*
- *Improving exchange of information between national authorities, between EU agencies and national authorities, and from national authorities to EU databases;*
- *Dismantling networks of criminal smugglers.*

18:30-19:30 Closing session, with the leaders of the political groups