



High-level panel discussion
2017 International Migrants Day
Perception is not reality
Towards a new narrative of migration

Monday 18 December 2017, 10:00 - 17:30
OSCE Congress Centre, Hofburg, Ratsaal
Heldenplatz, 1010 Vienna

Agenda

Monday, 18 December 2017

09:30 – 10:00 Registration of participants and welcoming coffee

10:00 – 10:30 Opening Session

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

Speakers:

- **Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Secretary General, OSCE
- **Ambassador William Lacy Swing**, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Migration Agency
- **Ambassador Florian Raunig**, Head of the Task Force for the 2017 OSCE Austrian Chairmanship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break and Press opportunity

11:00 – 12:30 High-level panel discussion: Who is afraid of migration?

The narrative about migration swings between two poles: on the one hand, migrants are viewed as a problem rather than as an opportunity; on the other, migrants are viewed as vulnerable people escaping poverty and persecution. The session will explore which elements contribute to craft the current predominant narratives of migration.

Moderator: Ambassador Claude Wild, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE

Presentation of the Ipsos MORI's report "Perceptions and Reality: Public attitudes to immigration", **Mr. Bobby Duffy**, Managing Director, Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute, United Kingdom

Panellists:

- **Ms. Louise Arbour**, United Nations' Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration (pre-recorded message)
- **Mr. Harlem Désir**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- **Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**, United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- **Mr. Vladimir S. Malakhov**, Professor, Centre for Political Theory and Applied Political Science, the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), Russian Federation
- **Mr. Rainer Munz**, Special Adviser on Migration and Demography, European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission
- **Mr. Ugo Poli**, Migration Focal Point, Central European Initiative (CEI)

12:30 – 13:00 **The way forward: Negotiating the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

Moderator: Ambassador Paul Bekkers, Director, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE

Speakers:

- **Ambassador William Lacy Swing**, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Migration Agency
- **Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Secretary General, OSCE
- **Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE, incoming 2018 OSCE Italian Chairmanship

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch offered by the OSCE

Expert-led segment

14:30 - 16:00 **Evidence-based knowledge and narration: how to bridge the gap between perception and reality**

The public and media attention is disproportionately focused on irregular border crossings, giving the impression of a steady "migration crisis". Socio-economic research offers a more nuanced picture and "more sobering" facts about migration and migrants. There is an evident gap between experts' knowledge and the opinions of non-specialized people.

The session will explore ways to bridge the communication and information gap.

Moderator: Mr. Rainer Ohliger, Historian and social scientist, Network Migration, Germany

Speakers:

- **Ms. Astrid Zweynert**, Head of Digital News/Deputy Editor, Thomson Reuters Foundation
- **Mr. Thomas Bauer**, Professor of Communication, University of Vienna, Austria
- **Ms. Elena Alekseenkova**, Research Fellow, Centre for Global Problems Studies, Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), Russian Federation
- **Mr. Joe Lowry**, Senior Regional Media and Communications Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Regional Office, Austria
- **Mr. Davide Tosco**, Art director, media advisor, broadcaster, Italy

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30 -17:30 **Towards a new narrative of migration**

The so-called “migration crisis” has boosted what has been described as the “welcome movement”. Organized and non-organized individuals have been investing energies and creativity in receiving the newcomers. Yet, the daily stories of “normal” integration do not gain the first pages of newspapers or social media. Regrettably, welcoming people are often accused of “naïve do good-ism”, while violent voices and polarized political debate are brought to prominence. The session will explore ways to leverage the resilience of receiving societies in order to avoid turning the “migration crisis” into a “solidarity crisis”.

Moderator: Ms. Christine Hirst, Deputy Head of Democratization Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Speakers:

- **Mr. Christophe Lobry-Boulanger**, Advisor for Europe, International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Migration, Hungary
- **Mr. Ferdinando Sigona**, Senior Lecturer and Birmingham Fellow, Deputy Director, Institute for Research into Superdiversity, School of Social Policy, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
- **Ms. Emma Rosman**, Founder and CEO, Welcome Movement, Sweden (tbc)
- **Ms. Teresa Albano**, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities