

Central European Perspectives on Migration

Venue: Budapest, Hungary
Hotel Regnum Residence
Ganz u. 8
1025 Budapest

Date : 22 - 24 September 2021

Introduction

In his famous essay „After Europe“ the Bulgarian political scientist Ivan Krastev stated, that the 2015 refugee crisis led to a kind of 9/11 in the politics of the European Union. Indeed, various traditional parties declined and new political movements arose around this new political fault line. Different geopolitical concerns, national attitudes and fears as well as polarising and populist rhetoric in this matter also created a new division between the European south and north, but especially between eastern and western states. There is no doubt that the European Union can only cope with the challenges caused by migration and asylum if it is strong and united. But discomfort and centrifugal forces still can be seen among the member states – six years after 2015.

In several aspects within the field of migration policy, the Central European countries Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia share common approaches and interests. In these countries there is a great deal of rejection within the population towards immigrants, which is reflected in the political positions of the governments. Currently, the New Pact on Migration and Asylum is being negotiated in the EU. However, since this is expected to oblige all EU member states to contribute to overcoming the challenges that arise from asylum law and immigration, the Pact on Migration and Asylum does not find any support among the Central European countries. Therefore, we think it is important to address this broad political field and have a closer look how the existing stalemate can be resolved.

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

Until 19.00	Individual arrival
19.00	Welcoming dinner <i>Hotel Regnum Residence</i> <i>Ganz u. 8, 1025 Budapest</i>

Thursday, 23. September 2021

- 10.00 **Opening and Introduction**
Claudia Crawford, KAS Vienna
- 10.05 **Recent developments and debates in EU and national migrations policy
in the Central European Countries**
- 11.30 **Coffee Break**
- 12.00 **Securing the external borders**
Impulse:
Kristof Bender, ESI, Austria
- 13.00 **Lunch**
- 14.30 **The Proposal of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum**
Impulses:
Hannes Schreiber, MFA, Austria (virtual)
Tado Jurić, Catholic University, Croatia (virtual)
- 16.00 **Break**
- 18.00 **Current stage of asylum and migration policies of the EU: Brussels
Dictatorship or Paradise of Subsidiarity?**
Impulse:
Vít Novotny, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- 19.30 **Dinner**
Restaurant Mandragóra
Kacsá utca. 22, 1027 Budapest

Friday, 24. September 2021

- 10.00 **Third country agreements and cooperation with countries of origin**
Impulse:
Szabolcs Janik, Migration Research Institute, Hungary
- 11.30 **Break**
- 11.45 **Potential agreements for the New Pact on Asylum and Migration**
- 12.30 **Closing lunch**
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Participants:

Bence Bauer, Direktor, Deutsch-Ungarisches Institut für europ. Zusammenarbeit, Ungarn

Kristof Bender, Deputy Director and Senior Analyst, European Stability Initiative, Austria

Malgorzata Bonikowska, President, Centre for International Relations, Poland

Claudia Crawford, Head, Multilateral Dialogue Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Vienna, Austria

Ján Figel´, Former EU-Commissioner and Deputy Prime Minister; Anton-Tunega-Foundation, Slovakia

Justyna Segeš Frelak, Senior Advisor, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna

Szabolcs Janik, Deputy Director, Migration Research Institute, Hungary

Tade Jurić, Associate Professor, Catholic University of Croatia (*virtual*)

Alžbeta Kvasničková, Directorate for Migration, Ministry of the Interior, Slovakia

Viktor Marsai, Research Director, Migration Research Institute, Hungary

Vít Novotný, Senior Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, Brussels

Gergely Próhle, Director, Otto-von-Habsburg-Foundation, Hungary

Hannes Schreiber, Deputy Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria (*virtual*)

Michael Stellwag, Political Advisor, Multilateral Dialogue KAS Vienna, Austria

Teréz Windisch, First Secretary, Embassy of Hungary in Vienna

Michael Winzer, Head of KAS Budapest, Hungary