

For a new start in European asylum and migration policy

Civil society and municipalities are committed to a sustainable and unified policy

24th-26th November 2019 in Berlin

The new European Parliament has been elected, and the new Commission and Council are starting their work. People are seeking protection in Europe but land in crowded refugee camps or are forced to spend weeks wandering on rescue boats that are denied entry into European ports. Some people face violent pushbacks at external and internal borders of Europe, in violation of the rules of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). A complete agreement on an emergency mechanism for boat refugees has so far not been achieved with the EU Member States that want to go ahead. The reform proposals for the CEAS submitted by the Commission in 2016 are also not progressing. In short, the current situation shows the need for a common European asylum and migration policy. It will now be up to the newly elected European institutions to overcome this deadlock and to reflect on European values and foundations.

But does it really need a comprehensive legal reform? Many of the existing European regulations are not applied or deliberately disregarded. A renewed commitment to refugee protection and unconditional respect for human rights, as formulated 20 years ago by the 1999 European Council in Tampere, is needed:

The objective at that time, which must remain the same today, is to create an "open and secure European Union, fully committed to the obligations of the Geneva Refugee Convention and other relevant human rights instruments, and able to respond to humanitarian needs on the basis of solidarity."

However, there is great cause for optimism: where there is no progress at European and multilateral level, people in their communities are currently taking action to promote the responsible and sustainable reception of refugees. They show through concrete measures on the ground that they want to take responsibility for part of the global challenges. They signal openness instead of isolation.

They join forces with existing networks in new alliances: the city networks *Eurocities* (at European level) and *Solidarity Cities* (at international level), the civil society European network *SolidarityCity* and the movement *Seebrücke* in Germany are examples of initiatives that aim to create space for people in need of international protection or who are looking for better perspectives. These movements now actively influence European and global policies.

Together with civil society organizations and municipalities from France, Germany, Poland and Italy, an action plan will be submitted to the European Commission. Some ideas and objectives will also be sketched out for the German Council Presidency in 2020.

After a successful conference at the beginning of the year in Paris and the publication of the "[Paris Declaration](#)", Diakonie Germany, France terre d'asile and the Heinrich Böll Foundation are organizing a new conference in Berlin that will also include Polish and Italian perspectives from civil society organizations and municipalities.

The event will start on Sunday with an opening dinner, followed by a public event on Monday and will end on Tuesday afternoon with an in-house meeting for the NGOs. Simultaneous Translation in English, French, Italian and German will be provided.

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 24 November 2019

19:00 **Welcome Dinner**



Alpenstück Restaurant, Gartenstraße 9, 10115 Berlin

Monday, 25 November 2019



Diakonie Germany, Caroline-Michaelis-Straße 1, 10115 Berlin

8:30-9:00 **Welcome Coffee and Registration**

9:00-9:30 **Opening session**

- Claudia ROTH, Vice-President of the German Bundestag
- Ulrich LILIE, President of Diakonie Germany
- Ellen UEBERSCHÄR, President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation
- Thierry LE ROY, President of France terre d'asile

9:30-11:00 **Panel 1 – External borders and rescue at sea: A new start of European solidarity?**

- Martin SCHIEFFER, Head of Unit "Migration Management Support", Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
- David STARKE, Executive Director Germany, SOS Méditerranée
- Areti SIANNI, Senior Policy Advisor, UNHCR Tunisia
- Karl KOPP, Director of European Affairs, Pro Asyl
- Mario MORCONE, Director of the Italian Council for Refugees and former Prefect

Moderation: Torsten MORITZ, General Secretary of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break and press event with the presentation of the action plan*

11:30-13:00 **Panel 2 – Fresh start for the Dublin-System: How should it look like?**

- Thierry LE ROY, President of France terre d'asile
- Jean-Marie BRUNO, Head of European and International Affairs, Directorate-General for Foreign Nationals in France, French Ministry of the Interior
- Ralf LESSER, Legal officer Asylum law and asylum procedure law, German Ministry of the Interior
- Marie-Christine VERGIAT, Vice-president of the French Human Rights League and former MEP
- Erik MARQUARDT, Member of European Parliament

Moderation: Katrin HATZINGER, Director of the Brussels Office of the Protestant Church in Germany

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30-16:00 **Workshop sessions**

Workshop 1: Lost in Limbo? Dublin-Procedures between France and Germany, exchange on legal procedures, reception and counselling

Moderation: Wiebke JUDITH, PRO ASYL

Speakers: Lydie ARBOGAST, Head of European Affairs, La Cimade
Stephan DÜNNWALD, Bayrischer Flüchtlingsrat
Eric PLIEZ, Director of Aurore

Workshop 2: Legal pathways for refugees to Europe: development and challenges

Moderation: Helene SOUPIOUS-DAVID, France terre d'asile

Speakers: Fiona KENDALL, European and Legal Affairs Advisor, Mediterranean Hope, Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy
Jean-François PLOQUIN, Director of Forum réfugiés-Cosi

Workshop 3: Access to AMIF funding for NGOs and cities: what options and alternatives?

Moderation: Katharina STAMM, Diakonie Deutschland

Speakers: Kerstin BECKER, Legal Advisor, Der Paritätische Gesamtverband
Agnieszka KOSOWICZ, Director of the Polish Migration Forum
Giacomo MANCA, Policy Officer, European Council For Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)

Workshop 4: How to create solidarity from bottom up?

Moderation: Malisa ZOBEL, HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform

Speakers: Liza PFLAUM (Berlin) and Sascha SCHIESSL (Hannover), Seebrücke
Florent GUEGUEN, Director of the French Federation of Solidarity Actors (FAS)
Bruno MOREL, Director of Emmaüs Solidarité

Workshop 5: Climate crisis and migration –questions and challenges for international law

Moderation: Fanni BIHARI, Policy Officer, Migration and Displacement, ACT Alliance EU

Speakers: Sabine MINNINGER, Policy Adviser on Climate Change at Bread for the World

16:00-16:30

Coffee break

16:30-18:00

Panel 3 – Cities and civil society: a driving force for solidarity and best practices?

- Petra BENDEL, Professor of Political Science and Academic Director of the Centre for Area Studies at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Cesare ZUCCONI, Secretary General, Community of Sant'Egidio
- Dominique VERSINI, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of Solidarity
- Alexander KLINDWORTH-MAERZ, Head of the Integration Office, representative of the City of Flensburg in the German Municipal Alliance "Cities of Safe Harbours"
- Piotr BYSTRJANIN, Board Chairman of Ocalenie Foundation
- Pierre HENRY, Director of France terre d'asile

Moderation: Jens Althoff, Director of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Paris, France

18:00

Reception Dinner with Buffet and Wine at the Atrium

Tuesday, 26 November 2019



Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Schumannstraße 8, 10117 Berlin

9:00-12:00

NGO-Meeting

Building partnerships and joint advocacy

12:00

Lunch

13:00

End of the Conference

15:00-17:00

Optional Excursion: Reception Center for refugees from Arbeiterwohlfahrt Berlin (indicate at registration on Monday)

For organizational matters, please contact: Isabelle.Schunck@diakonie.de

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