



EMN Conference

RETHINKING RETURNS FROM THE EU

SUSTAINABLE RETURNS AND COOPERATION
WITH COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

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SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS



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OPENING AND KEYNOTE SPEECHES



KALIŇÁK, Robert

Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic

Robert Kaliňák is the Deputy Prime Minister and from 2016 serves his third term as the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic. During his political career as a Member of Parliament for the party SMER-SD, he was a chairman of the Special Control Committee under the National Council for overseeing activities of the Slovak Information Service, as well as a member of the National Council Committee on Defence and Security, member of the Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and member of the Bratislava City Council in 2010 - 2012. In 2006 - 2010 he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior for the first time. During 2004 - 2006 he was a Chairman of the Special Control Committee under the National Council for overseeing activities of the National Security Authority, and between 2002 - 2006 also a Chairman of the National Council Committee on Defence and Security. In 1990s until 2002 Mr. Kaliňák worked in various legal positions at lawyer's offices and a commercial law office. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava where he also completed his postgraduate studies in commercial law.



SWING, William Lacy

*Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Headquarters, Switzerland*

Ambassador William Lacy Swing was re-elected to his five-year term as IOM Director General in 2013. William Lacy Swing's diplomatic career has spanned some forty years including six postings as Ambassador – South Africa, Nigeria, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (exZaire), the former People's Republic of the Congo and Haiti. Later, he served as the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission for Western Sahara, United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and as well as the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where he led largest UN peacekeeping operation in history. Over his career, Ambassador Swing has received several awards including e.g. the American Foreign Service Association's award for Lifetime Contributions to American Diplomacy. He graduated from Catawba College in North Carolina and Yale University and did his post-graduate studies at Tübingen University, Germany.



PANEL I. ENHANCING COOPERATION WITH COUNTRIES OF RETURN FROM THE EU PERSPECTIVE



VATRÁLOVÁ, Zuzana

Head of the International Organization for Migration Office (IOM) in the Slovak Republic

Zuzana Vatrálová has served as the Head of the IOM Office in the Slovak Republic since 2004. In 2003, she worked at IOM as a coordinator of the information campaign on Preventing Human Trafficking in Slovakia. From 1997 to 2002, she worked as a reporter for BBC Bratislava and London. Prior to that, she had been a project manager at the National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (NADSME) and she had also worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. She graduated in Journalism from the Faculty of Arts at Comenius University in Slovakia, and accomplished postgraduate studies at the Karol Rybárik Institute of International Relations of the Law Faculty at the Comenius University.



ONIDI, Olivier

Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Belgium

Olivier Onidi is the Deputy Director General of the Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs at the European Commission since 1st June 2016 with the specific task to coordinate the Commission-wide work related to the Central Mediterranean Route in the context of the refugees crisis. Previously he was appointed Director for the European Mobility Network within Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport; Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Energy Commissioner, Mr. Günther H. Oettinger; Head of Unit for Air Transport, Aviation Safety and Environment and Head of the Satellite Navigation System Programme – GALILEO. His first posts in the Commission were an assistant to Director-General in the areas of Energy & Transport; External Relations; the Secretariat General; and in the cabinet of the Commissioner for Research and Development, Innovation, Education and Training. Before joining the Commission, he worked as an Adviser to the Executive Committee of Belgacom and as a Public Policy Manager at American Express International. Mr. Onidi holds a Master's degrees in Economics, in European Studies and in Business Administration.

**KÖRNER, Berndt**

Deputy Executive Director, FRONTEX, Poland

Berndt Körner has been a Deputy Executive Director since January 2016. During his career for the Austrian state administration he held various posts working as a civil servant in Burgenland, legal expert in Austrian Federal Chancellery, member of a team preparing Austria's accession to Schengen as well as head of the Ministry of Interior's department responsible for general security matters and then the department responsible for migration, visa matters and legal aspects of border control. During the Austrian EU Presidency in 2006, Mr. Körner chaired the Council Working Groups "Schengen Evaluation" and "Frontiers". In 2010, he joined the Council of the EU, where he worked as a seconded national expert for Schengen evaluation until 2013. For nearly two years before taking up his post at Frontex, Mr. Körner served in Albania as an expert on Integrated Border Management at PAMECA IV, an EU funded technical assistance project that assists key Albanian law enforcement agencies by offering expertise drawn from EU Member States. Besides, he was lecturing at various seminars and workshops for e.g. European Police College (CEPOL), Academy of European Law (ERA) and the Soros Foundation. He graduated in Law at the University in Graz, Austria.

**OOSTELBOS, Walter**

Strategic Policy Advisor at Migration Policy Department, Ministry of Security and Justice, Netherlands

Walter Oostelbos is an experienced career diplomat who is currently seconded as an advisor to the Migration Policy Department of the Netherlands' Ministry of Security and Justice. His main field of interest is the external dimension of the EU migration policy. During the Netherlands EU Presidency he has been the chair of the EU High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration. In his previous position he worked as the Head of the Latin America and Caribbean Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Before that, he wrote the national human rights report for the first Universal Periodic Review of the Netherlands in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2008. He was also posted in New York and Manila. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Law and a Master's degree in History from Utrecht University, Netherlands.

**SLOBODNÍK, Igor**

Ambassador-at-Large for Migration, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic

Igor Slobodník has been appointed Ambassador-at-Large for Migration in 2016. He started his diplomatic career in 1992 in Prague, at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia as Private Secretary to the Minister. He occupied several positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, as well as at the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic. In 1993, he became Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Slovakia in Denmark. In 1997, he was appointed Ambassador of Slovakia to the United Kingdom, later serving as Political Director at the Ministry of Defence. In 2004, he became the Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the North Atlantic Council. In 2008, he took the position of the Political Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2010 to 2015, Mr. Slobodník served as Ambassador of Slovakia to the Federal Republic of Germany. Prior to his current position, he held the post of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia with responsibility for the security policy, external economic relations, development assistance, international organizations, the countries of the Eastern Partnership, Africa, Asia and Pacific as well as Americas. He graduated from the Faculty of Arts at the Comenius University in Bratislava.



PANEL II. PRACTICAL COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE RETURN AND REINTEGRATION



PAASCHE, Erlend

Researcher on Return Migration, Norway

Erlend Paasche has completed his doctoral thesis on the sociology of return migration, at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) as part of the wider research project on Possibilities and Realities of Return Migration (PREMIG). He has taken part in governmentally commissioned evaluations of assisted returns from Norway to Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kosovo and Nigeria, and has conducted fieldworks in the latter three and in Syria. Next to academic publications in migration studies, he has written a policy brief entitled *Why Assisted Return Programmes Must Be Evaluated*. He obtained a Master's degree in Middle East and North African Studies at the University of Oslo, Norway.



MAJIDI, Nassim (video contribution)

Co-Founder and Co-Director, Samuel Hall, Kenya

Nassim Majidi is the Co-Founder of Samuel Hall and Head of the Migration Pillar where she leads evidence-based research and policy development on migration and displacement. Covering three continents (Africa, Asia, Europe) over the past ten years, her crosscutting skills have led her to interview refugees, migrants and returnees in the world's border areas, conflict settings and countries of origin. Based on her knowledge of migration actors, she has developed strategic programming initiatives, national policies on migration, and monitoring reviews that have had a lasting impact. She is also an Affiliate Researcher at Sciences Po's CERI (Centre for International Studies), specialising on return migration and has published more than twenty academic and policy articles on migration issues. She teaches a graduate course on Refugees & Migration as part of Sciences Po Lille's Conflict and Development Programme. Ms. Majidi was nominated in 2015 by the Norwegian Refugee Council for the Nansen Refugee Award in recognition for her work on behalf of Afghanistan's displaced population. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Government from Cornell University, a Summa Cum Laude Masters in International Affairs and Development Studies and a PhD in International Relations from Sciences Po Paris.



NGUYEN, Anh

Head of Migrant Assistance Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Headquarters, Switzerland

Anh Nguyen is the Head of Migrant Assistance Division at International Organization for Migration (IOM) Headquarters in



Switzerland. With over 20 years of private and public sector experience, he is responsible for overseeing IOM's global approach to the protection and assistance of migrants which include programming on IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) and Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants (AVM). AVM particularly addresses the issue of human trafficking, children on the move and marginalised and invisible migrant groups. In his previous IOM postings, he was the Senior Regional Migrant Assistance Specialist for the IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern, Eastern Europe and Central Asia where he had technical oversight in programming related to migrant protection and assistance at the regional level and supported the field missions to further the work and to ensure operational excellence of project implementation. While posted in Ukraine, as the IOM Deputy Chief of Mission and Senior Program Coordinator, he managed IOM's largest counter human trafficking program and was instrumental in advancing the current IOM approach to combating human trafficking. Prior to joining IOM, he worked in private sector where he held Director level positions for Pacific Gas and Electric Company based in California, USA and Altitude Software based in Lisbon, Portugal. He holds a Bachelors of Art in Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.



DUSSART, Anne

Asylum and Migration Director of Caritas International & Member of the Steering Committee at European Reintegration Support Organisations (ERSO), Belgium

Anne Dussart is Asylum and Migration Director of Caritas International Belgium with responsibility inter alia for strategic planning of social programmes and other areas including managing guardians of unaccompanied minors, integration of refugees and resettlement, voluntary return and reintegration. At the same time she is Member of the Migration Working Group Caritas Europa as well as Member of the Steering Committee of the European Reintegration Support Organisations (ERSO) which she joined in 2009. Within ERSO she is engaged in preparation of tailor-made packages of pre-return counselling and reintegration; provision of support to civil society organisations and communities in countries of return; promotion of voluntary return and influencing the policy dialogue on migration and development among EU Member States, European Commission and local authorities in countries of return; as well as maintaining a network of non-governmental return counselling and support organisations working and co-operating closely in the field of migration and development to promote good practice and high quality standards. She is a law graduate from the University of Louvain, Belgium.

**HO, Po Ling**

Programme Manager, European Reintegration Network (ERIN), Netherlands

Po Ling Ho is the Programme Manager of the European Reintegration Network (ERIN) programme which is led by the Netherlands. In the past few years, she has been engaged in the management of various projects at both national and European level, varying from national AVR programme, return and reintegration to capacity building. She started working in the field of migration in 1999. She gained experience in asylum (e.g. interviews with asylum seekers, processing asylum claims, mitigation) and return (e.g. obtaining (emergency) travel documents, advisory activities regarding administrative and international affairs).

**WAHEDOVÁ, Isabelle**

Czech expert seconded as International Cooperation Officer at Asylum and Migration Thematic Unit, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission, Belgium

Isabelle Wahedová is a Czech national expert seconded to the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) since 2013. She works as International Cooperation Officer in the thematic unit Migration and Asylum. Ms. Wahedová leads on a number of dossiers – in particular return and reintegration, children in migration, trafficking in human beings and labour migration with a geographic focus on African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and South Neighbourhood. Prior to joining the Commission she represented the Czech Republic at the Council working groups on Development Cooperation and on African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, also during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2009. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Media studies and Journalism and a Master's degree in Sociology.



PANEL III. PERSPECTIVES FROM COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN ON RETURN AND REINTEGRATION



PAASCHE, Erlend

Researcher on Return Migration, Norway

See the section "Panel II." above.



BOMBASSEI, Michele

Regional Migrant Assistance Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Senegal

Michele Bombassei has been working as IOM regional expert on migrant assistance in Dakar, Senegal, covering counter-trafficking, assisted voluntary returns, migrant and child protection, and protection in emergency since January 2015. His prior assignments at IOM were mainly related to North and East African region. During August 2011 – January 2015 he acted as the Programme Coordinator and the Head of Operations at IOM Cairo on migrant protection with focus on the East Africa migratory route. Before that he was posted for a four-month period to Cairo, Egypt, where he served as the Multi-Function Cluster Coordinator for the Libyan crisis ongoing from early 2011, and was seconded for a month to Frontex in Warsaw, Poland, on the Libya crisis response. In 2006 – 2011, he was present in Libya as the Head of Technical Cooperation Unit at IOM Tripoli focusing on counter-trafficking, border and transit centre management. Between January – February 2010 he took over also a short assignment in Haiti in the aftermath of the 12 January earthquake. In 2004 – 2005, he was Consultant at IOM Tunis where he dealt with youth mobility and irregular migration. He graduated in Law and obtained his Master's in International Affairs from the Instituto di Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI) in Milan, Italy.

AMSTUTZ, Heather

Regional Director, Danish Refugee Council Horn of Africa and Yemen, Kenya

Heather Amstutz is the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) Regional Director for the Horn of Africa and Yemen (HoAY). She has over 15 years' experience in the management of displacement related operations in countries affected by conflict and disasters. As the Regional Director, Ms. Amstutz currently oversees the management of six country programmes in Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti. She was recently tasked to oversee and manage the start-up of a new DRC country programme in Lesbos, Greece with a focus on providing emergency assistance to the refugees and migrants arriving on the shores of Greece. In the Horn



of Africa and Yemen, the DRC is implementing a wide range of displacement and solutions-oriented programming including the implementation of a reintegration programme for voluntary returns from Norway to Somalia, the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons within Somalia and assisting voluntary returns from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to Somalia. Additionally, DRC HoAY regional office hosts the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) as well as a multi-agency Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS). She holds a Masters of International Relations from Catholic University, Washington DC, and a Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, from North West Missouri State University.



SCHUSTER, Liza

Co-Founder of Afghanistan Migrants Advice and Support Organization (AMASO), Afghanistan & Sociologist at the City University London, United Kingdom

Liza Schuster is a Sociologist at the City University London and has been conducting research in the field of forced migration for more than 20 years. She began conducting fieldwork in Afghanistan in September 2012, and except for six months in 2013, lived in Kabul until August 2015. In Afghanistan, she explored both the consequences of forced return for Afghan migrants and their families and the migration decision-making process. Together with Abdul Ghafoor, she established a small non-governmental organisation AMASO to provide free, accurate, unbiased and up-to-date information to people thinking about leaving Afghanistan. During the period of August 2014 – August 2015 she was also the Research Manager at the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University in Kabul, offering courses on research methodology and mentoring Afghan academic staff. She received her PhD in Political Science on Political Asylum in Britain and Germany from the University of Southampton and has published extensively on asylum, refuge and migration, more recently on forced return to Afghanistan as well as EU asylum policy and practice.



JAVAID, Ahmed Waqas

Return Counsellor and Researcher, WELDO, Pakistan

Ahmed Waqas Javaid is an experienced Return Counsellor and his current duties also involve research on the return of the immigrants and their successful reintegration back into the Pakistani society, support for the Returnee Assessment Program and the development of business process improvement framework and methodologies in the private sector. He has been active in the area of returns, reintegration and resource management for the past 5 years. His international experience includes programs and consultancies in the United Kingdom and Pakistan. He received his Master's in Management and Leadership from the University of Cumbria, United Kingdom.



PANEL IV. RETURN AS PART OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



VATRÁLOVÁ, Zuzana

Head of the International Organization for Migration Office (IOM) in the Slovak Republic

See the section “Panel I.” above.



AVRAMOPOULOS, Dimitris

European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

Dimitris Avramopoulos is the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship since November 2014. Before becoming European Commissioner, he was Minister of National Defence of Greece (two terms), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Tourism Development, Minister of Health and Social Solidarity and Mayor of Athens (two terms). He was elected Member of the Parliament several times with the “New Democracy” party (1993, 2004, 2007, 2009 and 2012). Mr. Avramopoulos served in the Diplomatic Service of Greece from 1980 until 1993. He was Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of the Diplomatic Cabinet of the Greek Prime Minister and Consul of Greece in Liège (Belgium) and in Geneva (Switzerland). He completed his studies at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the University of Athens and his postgraduate studies on International Organisation at the Université libre de Bruxelles.



SWING, William Lacy

Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Headquarters, Switzerland

See the section “Opening and Keynote Speeches” above.



KALIŇÁK, Robert

Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic

See the section “Opening and Keynote Speeches” above.



PANEL V. APPROACHES TO REJECTED ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS WITH CHALLENGES TO RETURN



BILČÍK, Vladimír

Head of EU Program, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)

Vladimír Bilčík heads the EU program at the Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA) and lectures on European integration and international relations in the Department of Political Science at Comenius University in Bratislava. In the past he advised the nominee of the Slovak government in the Convention on the Future of Europe (2002 – 2003). He has researched and published on small Member States in the EU, EU foreign policy, Eastern Partnership as well as the new EU Global Strategy. He regularly contributes to public debate on European politics in Slovakia and will be covering the Slovak EU Council Presidency for next year's Journal of Common Market Studies Annual Review of the EU. He studied at Swarthmore College (B.A.), University of Oxford (M.Phil) and Comenius University (PhD).



SPINANT, Dana

Head of Irregular Migration and Return Policy Unit, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Belgium

Dana Spinant is head of unit in charge of irregular migration and return policy at the European Commission since March 2015. She joined the European Commission in 2009 as advisor and then head of unit in charge of drugs policy. Before joining the Commission, Dana was the Editor of European Voice, a weekly newspaper belonging to The Economist Group, between 2004 and 2009, having starting to work for the newspaper as Deputy Editor in 2002. Before that she spent two years as deputy editor of Brussels-based news service EUobserver.com. In parallel, Dana worked, between 1998 and 2008, as political commentator for several Romanian TV stations. In 1998-2001 Dana was a teaching assistant at the College of Europe in Bruges. Before coming to Brussels, she was Editor-in-Chief at the news department of Antena 1 TV, in Romania and worked for TV5-TV Sigma since 1992. Dana studied journalism and communication at the University of Bucharest. She obtained two masters degrees, from the Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales (Nice) and the College of Europe (Bruges).

**HAYWARD, Laura**

Managing Consultant, ICF International (EMN Service Provider), United Kingdom

Laura Hayward is a Consultant at ICF International and part of the European Migration Network Service Provider team. Since 2010 she has been leading and contributing to projects evaluating the European Commission's legislative and policy action in the Justice and Home Affairs policy areas. For the EMN this has included leading the studies on the dissemination of information on voluntary return, identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, irregular migration, circular migration and misuse of family reunification. Currently she is a co-lead for the EMN Study on Returning Rejected Asylum Seekers: Challenges and Good Practices.

**SCHMIDTKE, Patrick**

Head of Return at International Projects and Integrated Return Management Unit, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany

Patrick Schmidtke has been a Head of Return at the International Projects and Integrated Return Management Unit in the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) since 2015 where he supervises the area of return and international projects and is also in charge of the coordination of the integrated return management. Prior to this he supervised the Unit of the Cooperation with Security Agencies at BAMF and served as a legal adviser. He studied law at the University of Kiel and acquired his PhD at the University of Rostock in Germany.

**RÄNNAR, Kristina**

Return Process Specialist at Quality Department, Swedish Migration Agency, Sweden

Kristina Rännar has been working at the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) in the fields of asylum, reception and return for 18 years. Currently, she is a Process Specialist on return in the department with responsibility for decision making on standards and routines in the area of return and implementation of new legislation. Prior to this she was responsible for implementing the return directive. Since 2005 she has been representing SMA in the Integration, Migration and Return Working Group at the EU level. Moreover, she is engaged in the negotiations on bilateral readmission agreements and implementing protocols and she also manages the Collaborative Interview Project aiming at inviting delegations to Sweden for conducting interviews for the purpose of verifying identity and citizenship.

**KEITH, Lilana**

Advocacy Officer – Border, Detention and Children, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Belgium

Lilana Keith is PICUM's Advocacy Officer on Borders, Detention and Children. She leads PICUM's work to advance rights in the context of immigration enforcement and on the rights and inclusion of undocumented children, young people and families. Lilana joined PICUM in 2011. She has been involved in work to advance migrants' rights since 2009, including through community development and funding. She has an academic background in international and European migration law and policy and social anthropology.

**PLUIM, Martijn**

Director for the Eastern Dimension and Research, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Austria

Martijn Pluim works as a Director for the Eastern Dimension and Research with responsibility for International Centre for Migration Policy Development's (ICMPD) support activities for the migration dialogues along the Eastern Migratory Route. He oversees all capacity-building projects in Eastern Europe and Asia, as well as ICMPD's research activities on multiple topics, and guides the teams in charge of the Irregular Migration & Return, Trafficking in Human Beings and Border Management & Visa programmes. He started his career with ICMPD in 1999. Having worked on a broad variety of migration-related matters, he left in 2005 to work at the European Commission. There, he worked on migration, asylum and border management issues. He returned to ICMPD in 2007. He graduated in international relations from the University of Amsterdam.



CONCLUDING REMARKS AND CLOSING



SPINANT, Dana

Head of Irregular Migration and Return Policy Unit, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Belgium

See the section "Panel V." above.



SLOBODNÍK, Igor

Ambassador-at-Large for Migration, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic

See the section "Panel I." above.