

# **Progressive Migration Group Conference in Brussels**

## **Putting African perspectives on the centre stage of EU migration policies**

**Tuesday 10 September 2024**

**@FEPS premises (Av. des Arts 46, 1000 Brussels)**

In the current global context, migration has once again returned to the top of the European and national political agenda. However, short-term, simplistic and narrow policy responses will not only fail to address existing challenges but will likely exacerbate the consequences of mismanagement. In 2024, the European Union reached a long awaited agreement on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, which should represent a comprehensive framework for migration management in Europe. Many question marks, however, remain on its implementation and on its capability to ensure the respect of human rights and the EU's increased tendency to outsource migration management to third countries.

Considering the above-mentioned criticalities and the significance of migration as a policy issue in the upcoming European legislative term, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) will continue the crucial work of the Progressive Migration Group. Several online expert meetings in 2024 focused on three key challenges, namely the implications of the EU Asylum reform for the African countries, the shortage of labour migration and legal pathways and the African perspectives on the complex interplay between EU migration and development policy on the continent.

Building on the results of these online exchanges, the in-person meeting in Brussels will discuss recommendations directly with policymakers. This mix of meetings and panel discussions will allow for an open debate with key stakeholders about these critical issues considering diverse viewpoints and challenges. The aim of this meeting is to provide a platform for dialogue on eye level, foster collaboration and discuss policy recommendations addressed to decision-makers in Africa and the EU.

## Progressive Migration Group

10 September 2024

### AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:30                    **REGISTRATION** at FEPS premises (Av. des Arts 46, 1000 Brussels)
- 9:30 – 9:45                    **WELCOME REMARKS**
- **László ANDOR**, Secretary-General, FEPS
- 9:45 – 11:15                    **PANEL 1: THE IMPACT OF THE EU ASYLUM REFORM ON AFRICAN COUNTRIES**
- **Ottília Maunganidze**, Head of Special Projects in the office of the Executive Director at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
  - **Jérôme Tubiana**, Operational Adviser on Refugee Issues for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) at the Paris Operational Centre
  - **Alberto Neidhardt**, Senior Policy Analyst and Head of European Diversity and Migration Programme at the European Policy Centre (EPC)
  - **Juan Fernando López Aguilar**, S&D Member of the European Parliament
- Q&A with the Audience*
- Moderation: **Sara Bojarczuk**, Research Assistant Professor, Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw
- 11:15 – 11:30                    **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 – 13:00

## **PANEL 2: A MIGRANT-CENTRED APPROACH TO LEGAL PATHWAYS & LABOUR MIGRATION**

- **Paddy Siyanga Knudsen**, Development Economist and Migration Governance Expert
- **Ferruccio Pastore**, Director of International and European Forum on Migration Research (FIERI)
- **Mercedes Miletti**, Senior Advisor on Migration and Union Migrant Network at European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- **Antje Grotheer**, President of the Bremen Parliament and Rapporteur on the Common Implementation Plan for the Pact on Migration and Asylum: The Local and Regional Perspective at the Committee of the Regions (online)

*Q&A with the Audience*

Moderation: **Tobias Beylat**, Policy Officer Migration & Integration, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EU Office Brussels

13:00 – 13:15

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

- **Anna TERRON CUSI**, Senior Fellow at the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and former Secretary of State for Immigration and Emigration of the Government of Spain (2010-2011)

13:15 – 14:15

## **NETWORK LUNCH @FEPS**