

## **Progressive Migration Group**

**Rome consultation & conference**

### **A rules & values approach to migration**

### **From the obsession with irregularity to legal pathways**

**Friday, 26 September 2025**

**In-person and online**

**Register [HERE](#) or contact Julia Wild [julia.wild@feps-europe.eu](mailto:julia.wild@feps-europe.eu)**

#### **Venue:**

Camera dei Deputati/Chamber of Deputies  
Sala Berlinguer within the Camera dei Deputati/Chamber of Deputies  
[Via degli Uffici del Vicario 21, Roma](#) (Side entrance)

#### **Zoom Meeting Link:**

<https://feps-europe-eu.zoom.us/j/85791675731>

Meeting ID: 857 9167 5731

#### **Italian and English interpretation**

The [Progressive Migration Group](#) (PMG) is a network of African and European migration experts established by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Fondazione Socialismo Ets joins the group's efforts for the 2025 Rome and Brussels (December) consultations.

The PMG examines the relations and cooperation between the European Union and African countries or regions of origin and transit, aiming to put into question the prevailing emotionally charged narratives surrounding migration. Its primary focus is to develop practical recommendations and policy proposals for progressive forces at EU, African and national levels, addressing both migration and other policy areas that impact migration drivers and movements.

In the year when the European Union and the Africa Unions celebrate the 25th anniversary of their relation and ahead of the 7th EU-AU Summit on 24-25 November 2025, this PMG Rome consultation will explore topics such as the European Union's overemphasis on irregular migration and externalisation. Additionally, we will discuss return cooperation, as well as the potentials for fair Africa-EU labour agreements that move beyond conditionality or the Italian "Immigration Flow Decree" to create a win-win situation for all parties involved, such as safeguarding migrants' human rights, security and dignity and catering to AU and EU's interests.

The conference aims to foster equitable dialogue, and mutually beneficial migration partnerships that support regional integration, and reflect the aspirations of people across the Mediterranean.

## AGENDA

### 9:00-13:30 PUBLIC EVENT

9:00-9:30 Registration

### 9:30-9:45 WELCOME REMARKS

**Toni Ricciardi**, Vice President, PD Group, Chamber of Deputies  
**Tobias Mörschel**, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung European Union & Global Dialogue Brussels Office  
**Gennaro Acquaviva**, President, Fondazione Socialismo  
**Hedwig Giusto**, Head of the International Programmes, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

### 9:45-10:00 POLITICAL INTRODUCTION

**Giuliano Amato**, Former Italian Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

### 10:00-11:15 Panel 1: From control to cooperation: externalisation and returns in EU-Africa relations

This panel explores how policies of migration management externalisation and return have come to dominate EU-Africa relations, prioritising control over partnership. Speakers will examine the political, social, and human consequences of these approaches, and discuss pathways toward more balanced and cooperative frameworks that recognise shared responsibilities and diverging interests.

#### Progressive Migration Group speakers:

**Jean-Louis de Brouwer**, Director of the European Affairs Programme at the Egmont Institute

**Tasnim Abderrahim**, Senior Analyst at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime

#### Speakers:

**Luca Di Sciullo**, Presidente, IDOS

**Ouidad Bakkali**, Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies

**Moderator: Hedwig Giusto**, Head of the International Programmes, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

11:15-11:45 Coffee break

**11:45-13:15**

**Panel 2: Beyond irregularity: shifting the migration focus from crisis to opportunities to legal pathways**

This panel challenges the dominant crisis lens through which migration between Africa and Europe is often framed. By moving beyond irregularity, speakers will highlight migration's role as an engine for development, and innovation, and discuss how expanding legal pathways can foster more sustainable, mutually beneficial cooperation, ensure migrants' security and rights, while meeting Europe and Italy's labour shortages.

**Progressive Migration Group speakers:**

**Paddy Siyanga Knudsen**, African Non-state Actors Platform, Co-organiser  
**Lukmon Akintola**, Global Center for Climate Mobility

**Speakers:**

**Cecilia Strada**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (online)

**Moderator: Luca Cefisi**, Fondazione Socialismo

**13:15-13:30**

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**Antonio Vitorino**, Former Director General of the International, Organization for Migration, and Chair of the Progressive Migration Group