

GFMD Thematic Meeting

The Mediterranean Crisis in a Global Context: A New Look at Migration & Development Approaches

Supported by the Migration Policy Institute

July 15, 2015 | Brussels, Belgium

EUROPE ROOM, EGMONT PALACE
PLACE DU PETIT SABLON 8 | 1000 BRUSSELS

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

This meeting will take a close look at the Mediterranean crisis from a global perspective, bringing in the views of origin, transit, and destination countries on how to manage and, ultimately, resolve, the crisis. Participants will deliberate on ideas to improve multilateral cooperation and development outcomes, including through the creation of viable alternatives to dangerous migration routes, more robust livelihood strategies in countries of first asylum for refugees, and longer-term efforts to improve governance and economic opportunity in countries of origin. Participation from a diverse group of governments from around the world will broaden the discussion of the Mediterranean crisis beyond the European Union and bring valuable ideas from other countries' experiences in managing complex mixed flows—including how to balance short-term humanitarian needs and long-term priorities, and strategies to improve refugee protection and facilitate orderly migration processes.

AGENDA | Wednesday, July 15, 2015

10:00 – 10:30

Introductions & Goals of the Meeting

- **Ambassador Mehmet Samsar**, Turkish Chair of the GFMD
- **Kathleen Newland**, Migration Policy Institute

10:30 – 12:30

Session I: Situating the Mediterranean Crisis in a Global Context

Unauthorized maritime migration across the Mediterranean is not just a European problem, nor is the plight of refugees from Syria, Eritrea and elsewhere solely the concern of a handful of neighboring states. These are in fact *international* challenges that need to be embedded in a set of cooperative multilateral approaches. This meeting will open with a systematic discussion on the possible avenues for cooperation and burden-sharing between origin, transit, first asylum and destination countries. What is the role of bilateral, regional, and cross-regional agreements and how can they be achieved? What roles do international organizations play?

Speakers:

- **Mr. Peter Sutherland**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration
- **Mr. Pierre Vimont**, Personal Representative of the EU Council President for Preparation of the EU-Africa Summit (Valetta); former Executive Director-General, EU External Action Service; Senior Associate, Carnegie Europe
- **Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, Director for Legal and Consular Affairs including Migration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany
- **Ambassador Selim Yenel**, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the EU

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch hosted by the Turkish GFMD Chair (Sax Room)

13:30 – 15:00

Session II: A Migration and Development Perspective on the Mediterranean Crisis

This session will explore development aspects of the trans-Mediterranean flows and consider what development interventions can support the willingness and ability of both frontline states and the wider international community to address the crisis. Two key questions will be examined. First, how can development assistance and cooperation help increase the *capacity* of host states to provide protection and livelihood opportunities—including avenues for cooperation with destination countries to provide labor market opportunities? And second: how can host countries protect the human rights of migrants and recognize valid refugee protection needs while working with countries of origin to fulfill their responsibilities to their own citizens? This session will conclude with a discussion of how the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda can galvanize cooperation on these issues.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Yanit Tefera Habtemariam**, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the UN in Geneva
- **Mr. Markus Reisle**, Head of the Global Program on Migration and Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- **Mr. James L. Sharp**, Director, Migration, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- **Ms. Karin Eriksen**, Program Coordinator for the RDPP in Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

15:00 – 15:30

Break

15:30 – 17:00

Session III: Strengthening the Framework for International Cooperation

This session will examine how the international community can share responsibility for the historic crisis unfolding in the Mediterranean region, drawing lessons from successful negotiated frameworks for resolution of mixed flows. What type of framework is needed today, what issues must be included in it, and who will lead this effort? In addition, the discussion will

look at innovative ways to create opportunities for broader humanitarian response to the needs of displaced people.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Federico Soda**, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, International Organization for Migration, Rome
- **Mr. José Riera**, Senior Advisor to the Director, Department of International Protection, UNHCR
- **Mr. Ralph Genetzke**, Head of Mission, International Centre for Migration Policy Development
- **Mr. Bruce Scoffield**, Minister Counsellor, Humanitarian Affairs, Canadian Mission to the United Nations Organizations, Geneva

17:00 – 17:15

Closing Remarks

- **Mr. Peter Sutherland**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration
- **Ambassador Mehmet Samsar**, Turkish Chair of the GFMD