

International Seminar on Freedom of Movement

**Towards a critical and prospective approach to migration policies:
thinking freedom of movement**

Brussels, 11th and 12th of December 2014

Morning of 11th: GC De Maelbeek, Rue du Cornet 97, 1040 Etterbeek

Afternoon of the 11th and 12th of December: European Parliament

Free of charge. Obligatory registration: <http://www.cncd.be/Penser-la-liberte-de-circulation>

Purpose of the Seminar

Current migration policies are based on a fundamental and to a large extent arbitrary distinction between regular and irregular migrants. These policies include the repression of the latter and the classification of migrants into several –often precarious – residency status. Obviously, this leads to many problems and sufferings for the migrants themselves – among which grave and numerous violations of the most basic human rights and economic exploitation.

It seems that the mere principle of repressing irregular migration is incompatible with the genuine respect for human rights. In other words, it would be impossible to device and implement a policy aiming at curbing irregular migration that would not lead to severe and numerous violations of human rights.

A sincere attachment to the value of human rights would therefore not only lead to demand that the human rights impact of policy regarding irregular migration be reduced as far as possible (which is the classical line of advocacy), but also to question the validity of the fundamental distinction between regular and irregular migrants and explore the possible modalities and implications of the deletion of such distinction.

There furthermore exists a large and growing amount of evidence indicating that the limitation of regular migration and the repression or prevention of irregular migration – along with their impact on human rights – **are not even a kind of “necessary evil” that would be unavoidable for example to maintain our social security, our labour market, our standards of living or our culture however we define it.**

In short, it appears that the limitation of regular migration and the repression or prevention of irregular migration is detrimental at least to the rights of migrant, is not significantly efficient in terms of its effects on migration flows and is not really necessary even from the most egoistic point of views.

It is therefore important to question these basic policy choices and explore the possible modalities and implications – and possible accompanying measures – of the implementation of free migration that could broadly be defined by its components: free movement, free settlement, equal rights.

In order to do so, the seminar intends at fostering discussion between persons from the academic, the NGO sector, trade unions and other sector, working on migration and/or on topics such as labor market, labour rights, social security and other topics that are or may be impacted by migrations.

Program

11th of December 2014 (Morning: GC De Maelbeek)

Morning: State of play and criticism of current EU asylum and migration policies (plenary)

Moderator: Frédérique Mawet, Coordination et Initiatives pour Réfugiés Etrangers (CIRE)

9h00 – 9h20: Reception of the participants

9h20 – 9h35: Intervention of members of the European Parliament

Malin Bjork, European United Left–Nordic Green Left

Marie Arena, Groupe de l'Alliance Progressiste des Socialistes et Démocrates

9h35 – 9h40: General introduction

Frédérique Mawet, Coordination et Initiatives pour Réfugiés Etrangers (CIRE)

9h40 – 10h00: Synthetic and critical assessment of the EU border control policy

Olivier Clochard, Migreurop

10h00 – 10h20: Synthetic and critical assessment of the EU asylum policy

Elspeth Guild, Radboud Universiteit, Nijmegen

10h20 – 10h50: Comparative synthetic and critical assessment of the EU and CEDEAO free movement policies

Sara Casella Colombeau, Centre International de Criminologie Comparée, Université de Montréal

Amadou M'Bow, Association Mauritanienne des Droits de l'Homme (AMDH)

10h50 – 11h20: Discussion

11h20 – 11h40: Coffee break

11h40 – 12h00: Managing Migration flux in a neoliberal regime

Denis Pieret, Association Philocité

12h00 – 12h20: Questioning the motivations of the repression of irregular migration: first part: general introduction

Claire Rodier, Groupe d'information et de soutien des immigrés (GISTI)

12h20 – 12h40: Questioning the motivations of the repression of irregular migration: second part: the impact of corporate lobbying on EU security border control policy

Ben Hayes, Transnational Institute, Statewatch

12h40 – 13h10: Discussion

13h10 – 14h00: Lunch and shifting to the European parliament

Afternoon: socio-economic impact of migrations (working groups) (Afternoon: European Parliament)

Working group 1: Migration and labour market

Moderator: Najar Laouhari, Métallurgistes de Wallonie-Bruxelles, Fédération générale du travail de Belgique (FGTB)

14h00 – 14h20: Evolution of the labour market and its main factors
Guy Standing, University of London

14h20 – 14h40: Role of migration in the evolution of the labour market and considerations on the impact of migration and integration policies on that role
Alain Morice, Université Paris-Diderot

14h40 – 15h20: Comparative panel discussion on migration and some key economic sectors (construction, care and domestic work, agriculture)
Jill Belisario, Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers
Edda Pando, Associazione ricreativa culturale italiana (ARCI)
Tom Peeters (Belgische Transportbond, Algemeen Belgisch Vakverbond (UBT), Algemeen Belgisch Vakverbond (ABVV))

Questions discussed during the panel discussion are:

- What are the main evolutions in the sectors considered?
- What are the main factors of these evolutions?
- What is the role of migration in this broader picture?

15h20 – 15h50: Discussion

Working group 2: Migration and social security and public finance

Moderator: Philippe Vansnick, Confédération des syndicats chrétiens (CSC-BHV)

14h00 – 14h20: Evolution of the social security and its main factors
Patrick Feltesse, Mouvement Ouvrier Chrétien (MOC)

14h20 – 14h40: Evolution of public finances and its main factors
Antonio Gambini, Centre national de coopération au développement (CNCD-11.11.11)

14h40 – 15h00: General introduction to the impact of migration on social security
Katharina Eisele, Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

15h00 – 15h20: General introduction to the impact of migration on taxation
Joël Oudinet, Université Paris 13

15h20 – 15h50: Discussion

Working group 3: Migration, poverty and social inequalities

Moderator: Anna Sibley, Fédération des associations de solidarité avec les travailleurs immigrés (FASTI)

14h00 – 14h20: Impacts of migrations within the sending country, within the receiving country and between both countries
Mikaël Franssens, Coordination et initiatives pour réfugiés étrangers (CIRE)

14h20 – 14h50: Socio-economic situation of migrant populations in the EU countries: description, main factors and particular impact of policies regarding migrants
Thomas Huddleston, Migration Policy Group

14h50 – 15h10: Impact of the socio-economic situation of the migrant populations on the general patterns of poverty and inequality in the EU countries

Jean Rousseau, Emmaus International

15h10 – 15h50: Discussion

15h50 – 16h10: Coffee break

16h10 – 17h00: Plenary discussion

Philippe Vansnick, Confédération des syndicats chrétiens (CSC-BHV)

Jean-François Tamellini, Fédération générale du travail de Belgique (FGTB)

17h00 – 17h15: Conclusions

12th of December (European Parliament)

Morning: Freedom of movement meanings and possible implications

Moderator: Nicolas Van Nuffel, Centre national de coopération au développement (CNCD-11.11.11)

9h00 – 9h20: Reception of the participants

9h20 – 9h40: Intervention of the European deputies

TBC

9h40 – 10h00: General introduction to the different definitions and approaches to freedom of movement

Antoine Pécoud, Université Paris 13

10h00 – 10h30: Doing prospection in the field of free migration: meaning, methods, problems and questions

François Gemenne, Sciences Po and Centre d'Études de l'Ethnicité et des Migrations, Université de Liège

10h30 – 10h50: Articulation between freedom of movement and national sovereignty

Philippe Cole, University of the West of England

10h50 – 11h20: Discussion

11h20 – 11h40: Coffee break

11h40 – 12h00: Is it still possible to think about migrations without thinking the opening of the borders?

Jean-Pierre Alaux, Groupe d'information et de soutien des immigrés (GISTI)

12h00 – 12h20: Perspectives of opening the borders under the light of social equity

Speranta Dumitru, Université Paris Descartes

12h20 – 13h00: Discussion

13h00 – 14h00: Lunch

Afternoon: Building a common vision (working groups)

14h – 14h30: Migration: From an only security approach to a existence safety point of vue
Mikaël Franssens, Coordination et initiatives pour réfugiés étrangers (CIRE)

14h30- 14h45: Initiatives around the world about freedom of movement
Thomas Bodelet, Emmaüs international

14h45 – 17h00: Working groups

Discussion in working groups:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the new approach presented during the conclusions of this seminar?
- Do you think that freedom of movement could be a viable alternative to the current model of migration management?
 - If not, why?
 - If yes, how? In that case, how could we convince the public opinion of the new approach on migration in the actual political climate?

17h00 – 17h20: Coffee break

17h20 – 18h00: Plenary discussion

18h00 – 18h30: Conclusions/perspectives

Spoken languages: FR + EN

Organisers :



With the support of :

Alter Summit, Migreurop, le Centre d'Action Laïque (CAL), Bruxelles Laïque et la Commission communautaire française (COCOF)

With the support of parliamentarians :

Karima Delli, The Greens–European Free Alliance

Malin Bjork, European United Left–Nordic Green Left

Cornelia Ernst, European United Left–Nordic Green Left

Marie Arena, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

Isabelle Durant, Ecolo, Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region

