

A NEW-MED CONFERENCE

Which “Crisis”? Understanding and Addressing Migration

Athens, 16 December 2016

IN COOPERATION WITH THE HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN AND FOREIGN POLICY (ELIAMEP)

Venue:

Representation of the European Commission in Greece

Vasilissis Sofias, 2

- SIOTIS Room, Ground Floor -

AGENDA

9:45-10:20 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

10:20-10:25 OPENING GREETINGS

Thanos Dokos, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, Athens

Lorenzo Kamel, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

10:25-10:40 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Panos Carvounis, European Commission Representation in Athens

Massimo Carnelos, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome

Vassileios Papadopoulos, Greek Ministry of Migration Policy, Athens

10:40-11:00 KEYNOTE SPEECH

Hassan Hakimian, SOAS University of London

11:00-12:30 **SESSION I - UNDERSTANDING THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS**

Media and policy makers have stigmatized ongoing flows of refugees and migrants as the “migration and refugee crisis”. Yet, which crisis they have most on their mind often remains an elusive question. Is Europe in a crisis as a result of strained reception systems, lack of solidarity, and public concerns about integration,

or should attention rather focus on the hotspots of conflict across the Mediterranean region, where the vast majority of the displaced people currently reside? And is the Syrian civil war THE crisis the international community should concentrate on to tackle the phenomenon, or should the focus be much broader, addressing governance failures and developmental challenges stretching from the Middle East to sub-Saharan Africa and posing challenges for the long term? The session will elucidate the different meanings of the abused notion of “crisis” in a migration context, aiming to connect perceptions of the phenomenon to its local manifestations and symptoms to the root causes.

Chair: **Dia Anagnostou**, Panteion University, Athens

Panelists: **Michelle Pace**, Roskilde University (RUC), Denmark
Efrat Ben Ze’ev, The Ruppin Academic Center, Israel
Angeliki Dimitriadi, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, Athens
Musa Shteivi, University of Jordan, Amman

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 **SESSION II – SOLUTIONS TO THE MIGRATION GOVERNANCE CRISIS**

What is presented as the refugee and migration crisis is certainly also, if not mainly, a migration governance crisis which has exposed the shortcomings of the humanitarian response, the limits of solidarity, and the inadequacy of existing refugee assistance schemes and migration management systems. Governance challenges are felt on many levels, from the local to the national, from the regional to the international, forcing a review of main available tools and resources, from border management to integration policy. The session will analyse different policy responses in the Mediterranean region and in Europe, discussing whether different perceptions and experiences of the “crises” can nonetheless coalesce around new common approaches and convergent objectives, transforming the current challenge into an opportunity to mobilize cooperation on a scale yet not seen.

Chair: **Panagiotis Tsakonas**, University of the Aegean, Athens

Panelists: **Emiliano Alessandri**, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Vienna
Roderick Parkes, European Union Institute for Security Studies, Paris
Angelos Syrigos, Panteion University, Athens
Rosa Balfour, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Brussels

15:30-16:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Teresa Albano, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Vienna
Thanos Dokos, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, Athens
Lorenzo Kamel, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

16:00 END OF THE CONFERENCE

In cooperation with

