



PANEL DEBATE ON VOLUNTARY RETURN POLICY AS A TOOL FOR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

21 NOVEMBER / BRUSSELS

REGISTRATION & WELCOME

16:30 Registration

17:00 Welcome & Introduction

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jörg MONAR, Rector, College of Europe

Mr Emmanuel BICHET, Second Deputy Head of the Mission of Switzerland to the EU

Mr Jesús BALLESTEROS, Director, Development Office, College of Europe

PANEL

17:15 The Challenges of Assisted Voluntary Return from Europe

Dr. Katie KUSCHMINDER, Research Fellow at the Global Governance Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute

17:25 Assessment of the 'EU Action Plan on Return'

Mr Magnus OVILJUS, Head of Return Sector Irregular Migration, European Commission, DG HOME

17:35 The Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme: The Experience of Switzerland with Nigeria

Mr Sylvain ASTIER, Head of Division, Federal Department of Justice and Police, Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, Directorate International Cooperation

17:45 The Protection of Human Rights of Forced Return Migrants: 'The Forced Return Monitoring Project'

Ms Kadri SOOVA, Advocacy Officer, EU Migration Policies, PICUM-Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants

17:55 Debate

The Panel Debate will be moderated by Mr Jesús BALLESTEROS, Director of the College of Europe Development Office.

NETWORKING

18:30 Cocktail

20:00 End of the event



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SPEAKERS // PANEL DEBATE



Dr. Katie Kuschminder, is a Research Fellow at the Global Governance Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute where she is currently completing a Rubicon Fellowship from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). Dr. Kuschminder is also an Affiliated Researcher at Maastricht University/ UNU-Merit. She has been working in the field of return migration for almost ten years and recently published the book Reintegration Strategies with Palgrave Macmillan.



Mr Magnus Ovilius, is responsible for Return Policy and Return Management of irregular migration in the EU. Mr Ovilius is also Chair and Manager of the European Migration Network (EMN). Prior to that he was responsible for coordination and direction of global government relations issues and group initiatives for Smiths Group. Prior to joining Smiths Group, Mr Ovilius was with the European Commission where he held various management positions most recently as Head of Sector, Preparedness and Crisis Management in DG Justice Freedom and Security. There he was responsible for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of European Union counter-terrorism policies including defence related aspects of counter-terrorism, law enforcement led civil protection, critical infrastructure protection, crisis management, CBRNE policies, G8 Roma/Lyon meetings and Security Research. His career includes being posted as a diplomat responsible for operations and coordination of cooperation to the Russian Federation representing the European Commission. He holds a Master of Laws from the University of Lund in Sweden. He has military training as an officer with the Swedish Armed Forces (Royal Coastal Artillery) serving as an operations officer in the UN Forces in Lebanon.



Mr Sylvain Astier, is the deputy Head of the Directorate for International Cooperation and Head of the Return Division at the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) since September 2013. Before, he held various senior positions at the SEM (formerly known as the Federal Office for Migration). From 2011 to 2013, he was Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO) at the Swiss Embassy in Pristina and, from September to December 2017, ILO at the Swiss Embassy in Khartoum (Sudan). He holds a law degree from Paris II University as well as a post graduate degree (DES) in international relations, with a specialization in international law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.



Ms Kadri Soova, joined the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) in 2009 and is now leading PICUM's work on EU migration policies. She previously worked as an Adviser on social rights for the Chancellor of Justice of Estonia and as consultant for SOS Children's Villages in Estonia. Ms Soova studied Law and has a Master Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation.

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