



EMN SPANISH PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE

Shaping the future of EU legal migration: Where are we and where do we want to go?

16-17 November 2023

Aula Maluquer, C/ Alfonso XI, 1, Madrid, Spain

DRAFT Agenda

1. RATIONALE AND AIMS

The European Union faces complex challenges in the area of migration. The EU and its Member States are facing demographic challenges, including declining populations and shrinking labour forces, that require viable legal migration strategies to attract the talent and skills needed from abroad, notably for economic recovery overall and the transition to digital and green economies.

Against the backdrop of the Skills and Talent Package presented by the Commission in April 2022 and its follow-up, it is therefore necessary to reflect on where we stand and where we want to go to ensure that legal pathways to the EU are strengthened and that safe and orderly migration is pursued as part of the comprehensive approach to migration management overall.

The design and implementation of policy and legislative initiatives for labour migration can only be effective by ensuring an adequate match between supply and demand, for which the role of countries of origin and transit is paramount. Cooperation based on political dialogue and mutual trust is a key element for establishing solid institutional relations on which to identify common needs and create joint frameworks and protocols for action, jointly implemented and periodically reviewed. Collaboration in identifying needs and joint actions in the area of legal migration can have a positive impact also on other aspects of migration policy, such as the prevention of irregular migratory flows, the fight against trafficking in human beings, as well as reducing the frustration of unmet expectations and "mismatching" between the migrant worker and the job in the destination country.

In addition to the collaboration with countries of origin, the role of the private sector is essential to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of labour migration projects and pathways. Today more than ever, talent comes in the form of different degrees and qualifications; academic knowledge is complemented by other skills and competences that are increasingly in demand. In a globalised world, the internationalisation, digitalisation of processes and search for appropriate skills and profiles are a reality that presents us with new challenges, but also opportunities.

This conference will be taking place one year and a half after the adoption of the Skills and Talent Package and shortly after the adoption of the EU Talent Pool legislative proposal. This will therefore be a key moment to reflect on the progress made so far, bringing key high-level players together to set a more long-term vision for labour migration to the EU. It will be an opportunity for participants to discuss the successes and challenges we face in designing an orderly migration management system that can: a) point out the value of the skills of third-country nationals and support matching their qualifications and professional background; and b) make Europe a more competitive and attractive labour market from both an economic and social perspective. To this end, we need to capitalise on the lessons learnt since the pandemic and encourage more and better synergies among all actors involved.

Given the priorities of the Spanish Presidency, this conference provides a space for these discussions and debates to unfold at the highest levels. The event will bring together high-level speakers and experts, including Commissioners, interested MEPs, EU Ministers, European social and economic partners, as well as representatives of the private sector. The broader panels and audience participation will be extended to policymakers, practitioners and other interested stakeholders, including invited senior representatives from non-EU Countries currently involved in the development of Talent Partnerships.

During the first day, speakers will include high-level representatives of the European institutions, national authorities from both EU and non-EU countries, as well as business and trade union organisations. It will be an opportunity to reflect on the political momentum and the role of labour migration in the current European and global context. In the morning session, high-level speakers will present the recent developments (legislative and policy-oriented) at EU and national level and elaborate forward-looking inputs to develop synergies toward a common labour mobility agenda between public and private sectors. The afternoon sessions will focus on the perspective of key partner countries concerning legal migration policies and initiatives, as well as recent initiatives and progress made regarding complementary pathways linked to work for people in need of international protection.

During the second day, speakers will include experts in the field of labour migration from EU Institutions, EU Member States, and other stakeholders. It will provide an opportunity to engage in a more detailed discussion on the challenges and successes of the main initiatives developed under the Skills and Talent Package based on testimonials from key actors involved. It will also provide an in-depth discussion on the key sectors facing labour shortages at EU level: long-term care, transport and construction. Experts will provide their insights on how to identify what needs exist in these sectors and what measures can contribute to their development and sustainability.

2. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The event is taking place in person and will also be streamed online.

Venue: Aula Maluquer, C/ Alfonso XI, 1, Madrid

Languages: English-Spanish-French

Contact: emn.preses23@inclusion.gob.es

Website: www.pres23conference-emnspain.com (Available soon)

To attend in person, please register [here](#) starting on **9 October** until **1 November 2023**. Please note that there is no automatic confirmation of your registration through the link. **A confirmation will be sent within a week of your registration.**

Online streaming: The link will be made available closer to the date of the conference.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Please note that participants are requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements.

The event organisers recommend the following hotels for accommodation:

Around 5-minutes walking distance from the venue:

- [Petit Palace Savoy Alfonso XII](#) ****: C/ Alfonso XII, 18.
- [Petit Palace Lealtad Plaza](#) ****: C/ Antonio Maura, 5.
- [Boutique Cibeles](#) ****: C/ Alcalá, 57.
- [One Shot Recoletos](#) ****: C/ Salustiano Olozaga.

Around 10-minutes walking distance from venue:

- [AC Hotel Recoletos](#) ****: C/ Recoletos, 18
- [VP Jardín de Recoletos](#) ****: C/ Gil de Santivañes, 6
- [Vincci The Mint](#) ****: C/ Gran Vía, 10

3.DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1 (16 November 2023)	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration and coffee
9:00 – 9:10	Welcoming remarks and opening of the conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ José Luis Escrivá Belmonte, <i>Spanish Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration</i> ▪ Margaritis Schinas, <i>Vice-President of the European Commission</i> ▪ Ylva Johansson, <i>European Commissioner for Home Affairs</i>
9:10 – 10:50	High-level session 1: European labour migration policies to face different challenges – <i>This panel will analyse the challenges we face, specifically whether the measures being adopted at national and EU level are enough or whether it is necessary to consider other tools and initiatives, both legislative and otherwise, in order to address these challenges.</i> <p>Moderator: Belén Carreño, <i>Journalist, Reuters (TBC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ylva Johansson, <i>European Commissioner for Home Affairs</i> ▪ Nicolas Schmit, <i>European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (video message)</i> ▪ José Luis Escrivá Belmonte, <i>Spanish Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration</i> ▪ Luca de Meo, <i>President of the European Automobile Manufacturer's Association (ACEA) (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Representative from France (TBC)</i> <p>Questions and Answers/Moderated Discussion</p>
10:50 – 11:20	Coffee break
11:20 – 12:00	High-level session 1 (continued) <p>Moderator: Belén Carreño, <i>Journalist, Reuters (TBC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damian Boeselager, <i>Member of the European Parliament (TBC)</i> ▪ Paul Nowak/Kate Bell, <i>Representative of trade unions: Trade Union Congress TUC (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Representative of SMEs associations (TBC)</i> <p>Questions and Answers/Moderated Discussion</p>

12:00 – 12:30	Press Announcement (TBC)
12:30 – 12:40	Family photo
12:40 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	<p>High-level session 2: External dimension of labour migration policies - Tools and good practices – <i>This panel aims to identify the needs of countries of origin and transit, challenges to be addressed, good practices and areas for improvement and consensus, as well as to reflect on current and future ways of labour migration to develop based on collaboration and cooperation between States.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Xavier Vidal-Folch De Balanzó, <i>Journalist, El Pais</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ylva Johansson, <i>European Commissioner for Home Affairs</i> ▪ Younes Sekkouri, <i>Moroccan Minister for Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills (TBC)</i> ▪ José Luis Escrivá Belmonte, <i>Spanish Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration</i> ▪ Luis Miguel de Camps, <i>Minister of Labour of the Dominican Republic (TBC)</i> <p>Questions and Answers/ Moderated Discussion with the involvement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>High-level Representative from Tunisia</i> ▪ <i>High-level Representative from Bangladesh</i> ▪ <i>High-level Representative from Pakistan</i> ▪ <i>High-level Representative from Egypt</i>
15:30 – 15:50	Coffee break
15:50 – 17:00	<p>High-level session 3: Complementary labour pathways – <i>This panel aims to highlight recent initiatives and progress made regarding complementary pathways linked to work for people in need of international protection. Complementing resettlement, these pathways enable displaced persons to access existing labour migration pathways, utilise their skills, and help address labour shortages in receiving countries. The panel will provide insights from diverse stakeholders on why such complementary pathways linked to work should be expanded across the globe and how this can be done in practice.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Amparo González Ferrer, <i>Deputy Director General for Migration Analysis, Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uzra Zeya, <i>Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, USA, (TBC)</i> ▪ Christiane Fox, <i>Deputy Minister for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada (TBC)</i> ▪ José Luis Escrivá Belmonte, <i>Spanish Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration</i>

	<p>Questions and Answers/ Moderated Discussion with the involvement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Representative from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (TBC)</i> ▪ Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection from UNHCR, leading on complementary labour pathways (TBC) ▪ <i>Representative from Grupo Cobra, participating in the project in Spain (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Refugee who benefitted from a complementary labour pathway to the EU (TBC)</i>
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Day 2 (17 November 2023)	
9:30 – 10:00	Arrival of participants and coffee
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Expert Session 1: Progress, achievements, and best practices on labour migration policies – <i>This session aims to address, from a technical point of view, the regulatory framework for migration and reforms that are being carried out in the EU and its Member States. The purpose of this session will be to identify good practices, analyse the lessons learnt and how to continue to advance coherent and pragmatic regulations.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Blanca Breñosa Sáez de Ibarra, Legal Regime, Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, Spain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anita Vella, Head of Unit, Legal Pathways and Integration, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission ▪ Ainara Dorremochea, Deputy Director General for Legal Regime, Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration ▪ Jean-Christophe Dumont, Head of the International Migration Division in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ▪ <i>Representative from Germany (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Representative from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (TBC)</i> <p>Questions and Answers/ Moderated Discussion</p>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee break
9:10 – 10:50	<p>Expert Session 2: A sector-wide vision: Long-term care, transport and construction sectors – <i>The main purpose of this session is to analyse the specific situation in various sectors where there are foreseen vacancies in the coming years. To this end, the possible measures that are being taken or that can be taken from a migratory point of view will be analysed.</i></p> <p>Moderator: (TBC)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>European Federation for Family, Employment & Home Care (EFFE) (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Sweden (long-term care perspective) (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Czech Republic (transport sector perspective) (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>IRU Certification & Standards, International Road Transport Union (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Employer's association/trade union representative from the construction sector (TBC)</i> <p>Questions and Answers/ Moderated Discussion</p>
13:15 - 13:30	<p>Closing of the conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Isabel Castro, <i>Secretary of State for Migration of Spain</i>
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch