

Austrian National EMN Conference 2023:

Opportunities and Challenges in the Management of EU's External Borders

26 September 2023, 09:00 – 17:00 – Le Méridien Vienna

8:30	<i>Doors open</i>
9:00-9:10	<i>Opening Statement Austrian Mol & IOM Austria</i>
<i>PART I: Recent developments concerning the protection of EU's external borders</i>	
<i>Outcome: Foster knowledge and facilitate a discussion on the status quo, recent developments, and challenges concerning the protection of EU's external borders</i>	
9:10-9:20	<i>Welcome:</i> HSC Peter Webinger, Head of Migration and International Affairs, Austrian Mol
9:20-9:40	<i>Keynote:</i> Ruud Koopmans, Director of the research unit migration, integration, transnationalization, Berlin Social Science Center (tbc)
9:40-10:00	<p><i>Presentation: Overview of policies, action plans and strategies for the protection of EU's external borders</i></p> <p><i>Content:</i> Comprehensive overview of key EU policies, action plans, strategies and support measures relevant for the management and protection of EU's external borders. Overview of the state of play of relevant proposals by the Commission (e.g. related to the revision of the Schengen border Code; the "instrumentalization of migration").</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Corinna Ullrich, Head of Unit Schengen and External Borders, European Commission</p>
10:00-11:00	<p><i>Panel discussion</i></p> <p><i>Content:</i> Status quo, recent developments, and challenges of EU's external borders from a practical perspective. Particular focus on mixed migration flows and the "instrumentalization of migration" for political purposes. EU IBM Strategy and national IBM strategies</p> <p><i>Guiding question:</i> How do EU policies and/ or EU strategies provide a framework to respond when facing mass and sudden migration flows due to multiple and diverse crises?</p> <p><i>Introduction and moderation:</i> Baptiste Amieux, Regional Immigration and Border Governance Specialist, Regional Immigration and Border Support Division, IOM Regional Office for the EEA, the EU and NATO</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lars Gerdes, Deputy Executive Director for Returns and Operations, Frontex • Grigorios Delavekouras, Head of Justice and Home Affairs Unit, Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU • Henrik Ankerstjerne, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hugo Brady, Senior Strategic Advisor, ICMPD
11:00-11:30 – COFFEE BREAK	
<i>PART II: External border protection - legal framework and principles at the EU and international level</i>	
<i>Outcome: Discussion of recent developments concerning the legal framework and policy developments of external border protection</i>	
11:30-12:15	<p><i>Panel discussion: Overview of framework and principles</i></p> <p><u>Content:</u> Overview of the applicable legal framework of border protection and outline the state of play of relevant legislative developments in the context of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum from a practical point of view, focussing also on the new mandatory border procedure. Emphasis on compatibility of secure borders and human rights-compliant border controls/procedures on land and in the sea. In this context, the proposed regulation introducing a screening of third country nationals at the external borders, the usage of IT infrastructure and the introduction of mandatory border procedures are addressed.</p> <p><u>Guiding question:</u> How does the new Pact affect border protection? How can border protection be human rights compliant?</p> <p><u>Introduction and moderation:</u> Franziska Kandolf, Deputy Head of Migration and International Affairs, Austrian Ministry of the Interior</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georg Luke, Head of Unit EU Migration Affairs, Austrian Ministry of the Interior Anna-Carin Svensson, Director General for International Affairs, Swedish Ministry of Justice Jonas Grimheden, Fundamental Rights Officer, Frontex
12:15-13:00	<p><i>Panel discussion: Search and Rescue (SAR)</i></p> <p><u>Content:</u> The discussion will focus on SAR and related questions, developments and challenges. The perspective of EU arrival countries at sea as well as third country perspectives as departing countries are included. Furthermore, new agreements are discussed in this context.</p> <p><u>Guiding question:</u> What are relevant questions, developments and challenges in the context of SAR and how are these embedded in the applicable legal (human rights) framework?</p> <p><u>Introduction and moderation:</u> Federico Soda, Head of Department of Operations and Emergencies, IOM</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vincent Cochetel, Special Envoy for the Western & Central Mediterranean situation, UNHCR Commander General Nicola Carlone, Secretariat of the Chief Commander, Italian Coast Guard (tbc)

13:00-14:00 LUNCH BREAK

PART III: Border protection - practical / operational aspects

Outcome: Facilitate an open and balanced discussion on controversial aspects of operational border protection

14:00-14:45

Panel discussion

Content: Operational challenges and how (new) technology and infrastructure are used in the protection of EU's external borders. In this context, the controversial political discussion on physical barriers and the financing of infrastructures are addressed. To facilitate a balanced discussion, the panel will discuss both advantages and disadvantages of physical barriers.

Guiding questions: What examples of technologies and infrastructures used by MS in the context of border control/protection do you consider as effective and what are the advantages and disadvantages of these instruments? What are the advantages and disadvantages of physical barriers?

Introduction and moderation: Monica Goracci, Director of the Department of Programme Support and Migration Management, IOM

Panellists:

- Janek Mägi, Head of Border Guard and Migration Policy Department, Estonian Mol
- Lars Gerdes, Deputy Executive Director for Returns and Operations, Frontex
- Corinna Ullrich, Head of Unit Schengen and External Borders, European Commission

PART IV: Cooperation with third countries

Outcome: Foster a discussion on cooperation with and capacity building in third countries in the areas of migration management, return and readmissions

14:45-15:30

Presentation: Recent Developments in US Border Management

Objective: To provide an understanding of the new strategy approach, recent developments and actions after the expiration of the Title 42 regulation at U.S. southern border + including cooperation with Mexico and other third countries

Speakers:

- Lindsay Jenkins, Senior Advisor, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration U.S. Department of State
- Adam Hunter, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Border and Immigration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

15:30-16:30	<p><i>Panel discussion</i></p> <p><u>Content:</u> Operational cooperation with third countries and capacity building in third countries. Cooperation agreements between the EU and third countries are reviewed. It discusses how these could be a blueprint for future agreements with other third countries and how third country cooperation in the areas of migration management, return and readmission could be further strengthened. A geographical focus is given to Türkiye (including the EU-Türkiye agreement, the cooperation agreement between Bulgaria and Türkiye, IOM's work at the EU Eastern borders and Türkiye). Another example which could be addressed is the agreement between Frontex and Nigeria or the Status Agreements to be negotiated with Senegal and Mauritania.</p> <p><u>Guiding question:</u> How could the cooperation with third countries and capacity building in the area of EIBM be strengthened and which are lessons learned from previous agreements?</p> <p><u>Introduction and moderation:</u> Baptiste Amieux, Regional Immigration and Border Governance Specialist, Regional Immigration and Border Support Division, IOM Regional Office for the EEA, the EU and NATO</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mehmet Yüzer, Head of Department of Border Management, Directorate General on Provincial Administration, PMM Türkiye (tbc) • Berndt Körner, Head of Joint Coordination Platform, Austrian Mol • Kelly M. Greenhill, Associate Professor of Political Science, Tufts University • Monika Sie Dhian Ho, General Director, Clingendael Institute
16:30-16:45	<p><i>Wrap up and conclusions:</i> Tobias Molander, Head of EU and International Migration Affairs, Austrian Mol</p>

* Please note that by attending the conference you agree to the publication of photos, videos and audio recordings made during the event.