

European Council on Refugees and Exiles Annual General Conference 2018 and UNHCR Europe NGO Consultation

Organised by Grupa 484, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, ECRE and UNHCR

Belgrade, 7 to 9 November 2018

Venue: Hotel M, Bulevar oslobođenja 56 a, Voždovac, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

AGENDA

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER	
<i>8h30 to 9h00</i>	<i>REGISTRATION</i>
<i>9h00 to 10h00</i> Plenary room (Atrijum)	Opening and Chair: Morten Kjaerum – Chair of ECRE Board and Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute Formal Opening Address Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia (tbc)
<i>10h00 to 11h30</i> Plenary room	Asylum in Europe: The State of Play Panellists will give their assessment of the recent developments in the law, policy and practice of asylum in Europe, the likely future scenarios and their recommendations for the defence of the right to asylum. - Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, Regional Representative for EU Affairs, UNHCR - Catherine Woollard, ECRE - Vladimir Petronijević, Grupa 484 Moderator: Morten Kjaerum, Chair of ECRE Board
<i>11h30 to 12h00</i>	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>
<i>12h00 to 13h30</i> Workshop rooms	UNHCR Europe NGO Consultation (Regional Workshops I) 4 regional workshops co-chaired by representatives of UNHCR and ECRE's membership. Please see separate agendas (www.ecre.org) - Central Europe and South Eastern Europe – Plenary Room - Western Europe – Horizont room - Northern Europe – Forum room - Southern Europe – Klub M room
<i>13h30 to 14h30</i>	<i>LUNCH</i>
<i>14h30 to 16h00</i>	UNHCR Europe NGO Consultation (Regional Workshops II) Regional workshops continue.
<i>16h00 to 16h30</i>	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>
<i>16h30 to 18h00</i> Plenary room	Plenary discussion: Implementing the Global Compact on Refugees: the role of Europe The discussion of the GCR will focus on the role of Europe in its implementation. UNHCR and civil society, including refugee advocates, will provide input to kick off an interactive discussion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annabelle Roig-Granjon, UNHCR Regional Representation for EU Affairs - Najib Babakerkhail, French Refugee Council - Josephine Liebl, ECRE <p>Moderator: Jasper Kuipers, Dutch Refugee Council</p>			
18h00 – 19h00 19h00 – onwards	<p><i>Welcome drink at the hotel</i></p> <p><i>Free evening – No organised dinner. Please see logistical information for list of nearby restaurants and instructions for reaching the centre.</i></p>			
DAY 2, THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER				
9h30 to 11h00 Plenary room	<p>Panel debate: Asylum in the Western Balkans: findings, experience and proposals for change</p> <p>Debate with asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in the region, CSOs and UNHCR, including presentation of the findings of the Balkans Refugee Council study on asylum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jafar Fatahian from Iran, refugee in Serbia - Jawad Nagham, from Iraq, asylum seeker in Serbia - Zoran Dragovski, MYLA (Macedonian Young Lawyers Association) and Balkans Refugee Council <p>Moderator: Sonja Tošković, Belgrade Center for Human Rights and ECRE Board</p>			
11h00 to 11h30	COFFEE BREAK			
11h30 to 13h30 Workshop rooms	<p>Workshops: Interactive workshops will bring together experts on the topics to share ideas</p> <p>Each workshop will include interactive discussion on the topic with ECRE members, ECRE Secretariat and others sharing their views, along with presentation of ECRE's strategy and activities on the issue in question. Please see separate agendas.</p>			
	<p>Workshop 1: EU Funding for Refugee Rights <i>Input into ECRE and UNHCR study</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitators: Daphne Bouteillet-Paquet, ECRE Annabelle Roig-Granjon, UNHCR - Plenary room 	<p>Workshop 2: Return: current policy and practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitator: Neil Falzon, aditus foundation and ECRE Board - Horizont room 	<p>Workshop 3: European Parliament elections <i>Update on the EP elections and ECRE's campaign.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Led by ECRE - Forum room 	<p>Workshop 4: Refugee rights in Serbia <i>Projects and examples of work in Serbia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitator: Sonja Tošković, Belgrade Center for Human Rights and ECRE Board - Klub Room
13h00 to 14h00	LUNCH			

14h00 to 16h00	Workshop 5: EU Asylum Law: reform or compliance - Facilitator: Morten Kjaerum, RWI and ECRE Board - Plenary room	Workshop 6: Europe in the World: pursuing the migration control agenda - Facilitator: Catherine Woollard, ECRE - Beograd room	Workshop 7: Containment Policies in Europe: perspectives from border countries - Facilitator: tbc - Horizont room	Workshop 8: Strategic Litigation in Practice – What, When, Where? - Facilitator: Corina Drousiotou, Cyprus Refugee Council - Klub Room
16h00 to 16h30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>			
16h30 to 18h00	Plenary room Plenary discussion: Protecting the rule of law: the far right, populism and migration Over the last ten years there has been a decline in the rule of law and democracy in Europe, with a rapid deterioration in the last 2 to 3 years. This includes restrictions on and repression of civil society. Civil society working on the rights of refugees and migrants has been particularly affected. Speakers will focus on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions can be taken to protect the rule of law and to defend civil society? Who should act? How can we work together? • What actions can be taken to prevent the risk of “contagion” to other regions, including the Western Balkans? • What advice would you give to civil society to prevent deterioration? - Hungary: the original – Anikó Bakonyi, Hungarian Helsinki Committee - The Balkans: a spillover effect? – Dr. Katarina Golubović, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (YUKOM), Serbia - Solidarity from the outside – Karl Kopp, Pro Asyl Moderator: Dorine Manson, Dutch Postcode Lottery			
20h00 onwards	<i>SOCIAL EVENING – Hush-Hush Restaurant, information available on the day</i>			
DAY 3, FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER (FOR ECRE MEMBERS ONLY)				
09h30 to 11h00	Regional meetings (for ECRE regional groupings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Europe (Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine) – Karl Kopp, ECRE Board (Plenary room) • Mediterranean (Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Turkey) – Neil Falzon, ECRE Board (Horizont room) • NOCRE (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden) – Morten Kjaerum, Chair of ECRE Board (Forum room) • Western Europe (Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, UK, and international) – (Beograd room) • Southeast Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Kosovo*, Romania, Serbia) – Sonja Tošković, ECRE Board (Klub room) (*Designation in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.) 			
11h00 to 11h30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>			
11h30 to 13h30	ECRE General Assembly (agenda available for ECRE members)			
13h30	<i>MEETING ENDS WITH LUNCH</i>			