

# European Council on Refugees and Exiles

## Annual General Conference 2019

### And UNHCR Europe NGO Consultation

*Organised by ECRE and UNHCR*

Brussels, 23 and 24 October 2019

**Venue:** Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

**Plenary Room (“Brussels” room)**

## WORKSHOP 8

### IMPLEMENTING THE GCR IN AND BY EUROPE – FOCUS ON INCREASING RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

<b>Title</b>	Implementing the GCR in and by Europe – focus on increasing resettlement and complementary pathways
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify priorities for the EU’s implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in and outside Europe and how they should be taken forward</li><li>• Presenting concrete advocacy recommendations for the European Commission and Member States to pledge at the Global Refugee Forum</li><li>• the role of civil society, including refugees in planning, implementing and monitoring the Compact in and by Europe</li><li>• To discuss opportunities for advocacy on the GCR with participants in AGC, both at the national as well as the EU level with a specific focus on expansion of resettlement and legal channels to the EU</li></ul>
<b>Speakers</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Lena Donner, IRC</li><li>2. Desislava Ivanova, UNHCR RREUA</li><li>3. Leïla Bodeux, Caritas Europa</li><li>4. European Commission, DG DEVCO, Erwan Marteil (tbc)</li></ol> <p>Moderator: Reshad Jalali, ECRE</p>

**Description  
and structure**

Following two years of inter-governmental negotiations, in December 2018 the UN Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was adopted by a majority of UN Member States, including EU Member States.

By signing up the GCR, the EU MS committed to implement the four objectives laid down in the Compact. The Compact includes as its four objectives, a better and increased resettlement schemes and the expansion of more legal and safe channels for refugees in need of international protection.

In December 2019, UNHCR will organise the first ever Global Refugee Forum at the Ministerial level for all the UN Member States, together with the relevant stakeholders to announce concrete pledges and contributions towards the objectives of the Compact.

In the view of this important advocacy opportunity, ECRE and its members have developed some recommendations for the EU including its Member States.

EU to agree on an ambitious one year resettlement scheme with at least 30.000 arrivals during the 2020 calendar year

If negotiations on Union Resettlement Framework continue: Agree on a framework which is based on the provisional agreement reached in May 2018 which guarantees the humanitarian nature of resettlement

Member States to remove restrictions to access to family reunification for beneficiaries for subsidiary protection.

Member States to champion inclusive approaches to policy making in the field of asylum and migration, e.g. systematic consultation and ongoing involvement with representatives of refugee communities.

European Commission to commit to evaluate and renew the Action Plan for Integration of Third Country Nationals, creating a system of indicators to assess member states' performance in its implementation and a clear connection with the funding instruments of the EU budget

Against this background, we are organising this workshop to discuss opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the GCR in and by Europe and to present concrete recommendations for the EU Member states.

Guiding questions for discussions:

1. How can the EU take forward the implementation of GCR in and by Europe?
2. What should be the EU's priority in pledging and contributions ahead of the Global Refugee Forum?
3. What are the immediate contributions of the European Commission towards implementing the GCR in Europe?
4. How can the civil society including refugee led-organizations be involved in implementing and monitoring of the Compact?
5. How can Member States increase their resettlement schemes and better coordinate their work?

## Agenda

The workshop is for two hours, where each speaker will have 7 minutes to speak, followed by discussions and Q&A from the participants.

- 14.00 - 14.10 Welcome address and short introduction  
Reshad Jalali, ECRE
- 14.10 - 14.20 The need for an ambitious EU Resettlement target and substantive commitment on integration  
Lena Donner, IRC
- 14.20 - 14.30 Opportunity to expand resettlement and promote integration in 2019 and beyond  
European Commission
- 14.30 - 14.40 Presentation: The possibility of private sponsorship to contribute positively to expanding of safe and legal pathways  
Leïla Bodeux, Caritas Europa
- 14.40 - 14.50 UNHCR's expectations of the EU regarding the implementation of the GCR in and by Europe, and UNHCR's assessment of civil society's analysis  
Desislava Ivanova, UNHCR RREUA
- 14.50 - 15.50 Discussions with the participants
- 15.50 - 16.00 Closing remarks  
Reshad Jalali