



Invitation

Online-meeting: The prolongation of the Joint Way Forward on migration issues between the EU and Afghanistan

Hosted by MEP Clare Daly, GUE/NGL and MEP Erik Marquardt, Greens/EFA

28th September (16.00 – 17.30 Brussels time) online event

Background:

The European Union (EU) is currently negotiating the prolongation of the [Joint Way Forward](#) (JWF) on migration issues with the government of Afghanistan. The JWF, which is set to expire on 6 October 2020, was signed on the side-lines of the Brussels donor conference in 2016; as is often the case with informal agreements, it was concluded without the involvement of the European Parliament and with no transparent reporting mechanism envisaged for its implementation. The agreement aims to facilitate the deportation to Afghanistan of Afghans who came to Europe to seek protection. It is believed that the EU used the leverage of its development aid to pressure the Afghan government to sign this informal deal.

There are strong concerns that the EU's disproportionate focus on returning and deporting Afghans from Europe will continue to shape the negotiations. This is an important opportunity for the EU to change the negotiations and take into account [recommendations](#) from NGOs and Afghan communities.

Objectives of the meeting:

- To discuss the security situation of Afghanistan and the situation of those returned
- To raise civil society's concern about the JWF prolongation between the EU and Afghanistan
- To present recommendations to the EU policymakers to consider before the prolongation of the JWF

16.00 – 16.10	Opening remarks, MEP Clare Daly
16.10 – 17.00	State of play of negotiations and concerns from NGOs Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paula Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director Asia and Pacific EEAS (tbc)• Francisco GAZTELU MEZQUIRIZ, Head of Unit, Irregular Migration and Return Policy, EC (tbc)• Reshad Jalali, ECRE• Abdul Ghafoor, Afghanistan Migrants Advice and Support org, Afghanistan• Karen Mets, Save the Children Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MEP Clare Daly

17.00 – 17.25	Open discussion session with introduction by MEP Erik Marquardt about the role of the EP in monitoring and implementation Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MEP Erik Marquardt
17.25 – 17.30	Closing remarks, Erik Marquardt

To register for the event, please [fill in this form](#) by Monday 28th September 2020 at 12h00.

The link for the online meeting will be sent to the registered participants.

We very much look forward to your participation.

Kind regards,

Reshad