

## Annual General Conference 2023, 15 June, Torino

Europe and Displacement: What works?

Polo del '900

### Workshop 2: Sala Didattica, 12h00 – 13h30

**Title:** Conditionality and incentives in European external policy: trade, development, visas

**Lead organisation(s):** ECRE

**Objectives:**

- To discuss latest developments related to conditionality and incentives related to migration in European external policy covering trade, development assistance and visa measures
- To assess the impact of these measures on displaced people and relations between the EU and third countries as well as the extent to which they meet their own objectives
- To present recommendations for an approach on asylum and migration focused on rights

**Moderator:** Josephine Liebl, ECRE

**Speakers:**

- Ms Camilla Hagstrom, Deputy Head of Unit, Migration and Forced Displacement, DG INTPA, European Commission
- Ms Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, University of Cologne
- Mr. Alagie Jinkang, University of Bologna

**Structure/method:** Following input from the speakers, there will be a moderated discussion to which all participants are welcome to contribute.

**Description:**

Considerations related to asylum and migration have been an integral part of EU external action for decades. More recently, more targeted attempts have been made to ensure that asylum and migration feature prominently and that 'cooperation' with third countries on migration, often focused on readmission cooperation, is included in EU external action by introducing relevant provisions in the legislative pieces that guide external policies.

For instance, the 2019 revisions of the Visa Code introduced the obligation for the EC to assess cooperation with third countries on readmission annually with the possibility to alter the visa regime between the EU and the respective country accordingly. This can affect processing times, cost of visas and the validity of multi-entry visas. As a result, the EU has adopted measures against The Gambia in October 2021 which make it more difficult to obtain visas. Those measures were further tightened in December 2022.

The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe includes an indicative spending target of 10% on actions related to forced displacement and migration the financial envelope, thus EUR 7.9 billion and conditionality related to migration in EU development assistance.

On trade, the European Commission has suggested to link readmission cooperation to the General System of Preferences (GSP). The GSP removes import duties from products coming into the EU market from developing countries. It aims to support sustainable development, poverty reduction and compliance with human rights and is linked to incentives and disincentives regarding human rights, including labour rights, and environmental protection standards. As part of the revision of the GSP which started in 2021, the European Commission has proposed making the conclusion and enforcement of readmission agreements a condition for tariff reductions of products from all third countries who potentially could benefit from the GSP including vulnerable lower income countries as well as least developing countries. This goes far beyond previous inclusion of migration related provisions in preferential trade agreements. The proposal been adopted by Member States in its negotiation position and has been rejected by the European Parliament. This difference of position has become the main point of contention during the negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament which are ongoing and which may have just concluded by the time of the AGC.