



Panel Discussion

Realising solidarity under the Pact: from theory to practice

Date and time: Monday, 27 October (14h00-17h30)

Location: Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 95, 1040, Brussels

Background

The launch of the mandatory solidarity mechanism under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum is currently under preparation. The mechanism is designed to provide a framework through which Member States (MS) can support each other in situations of migratory pressure, through relocations, financial contributions, or other forms of solidarity.

The piloting of the mechanism will be a crucial test of whether the Pact provides a sufficient balance between responsibility and solidarity, whether meaningful solidarity between Member States can be achieved, if the mechanism is workable in practice, and what effects it will have on the people concerned.

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are co-organising this event to provide a space for discussion among EU institutions, national authorities, academics, and civil society. The aim is to take stock of the state of play in relation to the solidarity mechanism, discuss emerging challenges and opportunities, and put forward recommendations regarding its functioning.

Format and participants

The event will feature two panels:

- Panel 1 – Functioning of the solidarity mechanism and implementation expectations

Organised and moderated by ECRE, this panel will explore how the solidarity mechanism is functioning in practice and what outcomes can be expected. Discussions will consider the key findings of the first Annual Asylum Report, examine concerns over possible shortcomings, assess whether the mechanism strikes an adequate balance between solidarity and responsibility, and put forward recommendations ahead of the first High-Level Solidarity Forum.

- Panel 2 – Relocations under the solidarity mechanism

Organised and moderated by IRC, this panel will focus on relocation practices, drawing lessons from previous experiences and looking at what will change under the new system. Speakers will reflect on operational challenges, safeguards, and the role of solidarity among Member States, while highlighting the contributions of civil society and international organisations in supporting effective and humane relocation.

The event will be open to the public and will gather a broad audience including EU officials, Member State representatives, civil society organisations, international organisations, academics, and other stakeholders interested in the implementation of the Pact.

Agenda:

13h30	Registration and welcoming coffee
14h00	<p>Panel 1 – Functioning of the solidarity mechanism and implementation expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Xx xx, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission (tbc)• Mr Jaime Maria de Sicart Larrotcha, Home Affairs Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU• Ms Evangelia (Lilian) Tsourdi, Professor and Jean Monnet Chair in European Migration Law and Governance at the Law Faculty of Maastricht University <p>Moderator: Ms Eleonora Testi, Senior Legal Officer, ECRE</p>
15h30	Coffee break
16h00	<p>Panel 2 – Relocations under the solidarity mechanism</p> <p>(all tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maria Voica, Regional Thematic Specialist on Resettlement and Relocation• xx xx, HOME Affairs Coordinator, Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU• Ruben Wissing, senior researcher at the Migration Law Research Group at Ghent University <p>Moderator: Ms Meron Ameha Knikman, Senior EU Advocacy Adviser, IRC</p>
17h30	End of the meeting