



Time to act: finding a realistic strategy for the migration challenge

26th of April 2018

15.30-17.00

Stanhope Hotel, Brussels

In recent years, the number of irregular migrants entering Europe via the Central Mediterranean route has consistently increased, creating an unprecedented challenge for the whole EU. From mid-2017, there has been a decrease in this number attributed to the new cooperation agreement with Libya and the improved management of migrant flows and asylum requests. However, together with the humanitarian crisis, these remain pressing issues. Migration has dominated many of the recent elections held in European countries. It has become a divisive topic, within societies and between the EU member states themselves. The hysteria surrounding migration has become a phenomenon which is clearly having a destabilising impact, for which the EU is still struggling to find an adequate response. It is therefore time to act, to go beyond the emergency, in order to find a common solution for a common challenge: a credible policy on asylum and border management, which combines the control of borders and deterrence of irregular migration, with the respect for existing refugee law and crucially, the protection of people in need. The aim of the panel is to discuss the national and European implications of the current migration challenge and to debate concrete proposals to overcome the emergency, contain the fears and manage the phenomenon.

KICK- OFF SPEAKER

Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies; Former Prime Minister of Slovakia (1998-2006)

SPEAKERS

Federico Soda, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Roderick Parkes, Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

Francois Bienfait, Liaison Officer to the EU, European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

MODERATOR

Loredana Teodorescu, Istituto Luigi Sturzo

Q&A SESSION