

CONFERENCE

External borders and internal divisions of Europe: Policies and politics of migration

ROME, 6 DECEMBER 2018
14:15-17:45

ROMA EVENTI FONTANA DI TREVI
PIAZZA DELLA PILOTTA, 4

Three years after Europe's "migration crisis", we are no longer facing a crisis of numbers, but a crisis of intra-EU solidarity and trust, with implications for both policies and politics of migration. At the **policy level**, the Commission pushes for piecemeal reform before the end of its term, on asylum, control of external borders, and return. Yet, political will to find compromise as to address the deficiencies of the EU's migration and asylum system continues to erode. Looking beyond the governance crisis, what is the actual migratory situation at the EU's Southern borders? What are the major challenges? How effectively can partial reform respond to these challenges? Which prospects are there for policy reform before and after the European Parliament elections? At the **political level**, we witness increasing polarisation over what constitutes an appropriate response to migration. Populist-nationalist forces, mainly led by Orbán and Salvini, have become particularly vocal on migration as part of their preparation for the European campaign, promoting a pan-European alliance to completely block migration to the Union. Yet, despite the converging ways in which these actors politicise migration, their interests regarding the management of migration and asylum in Europe diverge considerably. How stable is this alliance? What are the consequences of its rise for Europe? How can progressive forces counterbalance populist narratives, politics, and policies on migration? On the eve of the European Parliament elections, the conference co-organised by the *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung* and *Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)* aims to foster debate on European migration and asylum governance by approaching it both as a policy issue and a political question.

PROGRAMME

14:00-14:15 **Registration**

14:15-14:30 **Welcome and introduction**

Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, President, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Michael Braun, Program Manager, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Rome (FES)

14:30-16:00 **Panel 1: The southern external borders of the EU: The state of play and prospects of reform**

María José Castaño Reyero, University Institute of Studies on Migration, Comillas Pontical University (ICADE), Madrid

Angeliki Dimitriadi, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Athens

Cecilia Estrada Villaseñor, Chair of Refugees and Forced Migrants – INDITEX, Madrid

Antonio Ricci, Study and Research Centre IDOS / Voci di Confine Project, Rome

Bodo Weber, Democratization Policy Council (DPC), Berlin

Chair: **Asli Okay**, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

16:00-16:15 **Coffee Break**

16:15-17:45 **Panel 2: Political perspectives: Migration as a determining factor in Europe's forthcoming elections**

Tamas Boros, Policy Solutions Research Institute, Budapest

Costanza Hermanin, former Special adviser to Italy's Under-Secretary for Justice, Rome

Timo Rinke, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

Elly Schlein, MEP

Chair: **Michael Braun**, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Rome (FES)