First Annual Policy Conference
organised in the framework of the “OMNIA project”

SEARCHING FOR SOLIDARITY
IN EU ASYLUM AND BORDER POLICIES

Friday 26 (all day) & Saturday 27 (morning) February 2016, ULB (Brussels)

The Odysseus Academic Network coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), in cooperation with the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI), will hold a conference on “Solidarity between Member States in the EU policies on Asylum and Borders” in Brussels on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 February 2016.

Objectives of the conference:
The three types of solidarity (financial, physical and operational) present in the EU will be analysed throughout the different presentations and panels. The conference is legally and policy oriented, but will include practical aspects as well as presentations on relevant issues such as statistics and reflections on international relations. It will give the audience the opportunity to explore the most important policy developments from 2015 related to solidarity, key upcoming proposals from the Commission regarding Frontex and Dublin, and the position of the main stakeholders and of Western, Eastern and Southern Member States of the EU as well as of some third countries.

Structure of the conference:

- **Session One** addresses the specificities of solidarity in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice in comparison with other EU policies as well as with the situation in third countries such as Turkey.
- **Session Two** focussing on EU Asylum Policy, will be devoted to the delicate issue of the relocation of asylum seekers between Member States, and establishing the right balance between solidarity and responsibility in relation to the upcoming revision of the Dublin Regulation.
- **Session Three** centres on the extent to which the current EU institutional framework and, in particular, the status of the relevant agencies (Frontex and EASO), foster solidarity. The Commission proposals made on 15 December to strengthen Frontex will be critically analysed, as well as the need to revise the mandate and structure of EASO. It will also address the functioning of “Hotspots”.

Speakers & the audience:
Speakers and audience will include academics as well as policy-makers from EU Institutions and Agencies (Commission, Council, Parliament, Frontex, EASO), Member States and third countries, as well as stakeholders such as representatives from NGOs and the UNHCR. Sufficient space will be left for question and answer sessions as well as discussions.
**EU LAW: THE SEARCH FOR SOLIDARITY**

**Session 1: Friday 26 (morning)**

**9:00 Welcome Speech**
Professor Philippe De Bruycker (Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI) and Institute for European Studies of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB))

**9:15 Introductory keynote speech**
“Failure by Design? On the Constitution of EU Solidarity”, Professor Gregor Noll (Lund University)

**9:45 Panel**
*Exploring the Solidarity Question*

- **Solidarity and Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**
  Ms Eleni Karageorgiou (PhD Candidate in Public International Law, Lund University)

- **Solidarity with third countries and the future of the external dimension of asylum: Turkey and beyond**
  Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax (Co-Director of CEILA (Centre for European and International Legal Affairs), Queen Mary, University of London)

- **Solidarity and Mutual Recognition: Lessons from European Criminal Justice Cooperation**
  Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas (Queen Mary, University of London)

**10:15 Discussion with the audience**

**11:00 Coffee break**

**11:30 Panel**
*Solidarity from a range of perspectives*

- **The experience of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union**
  by a Representative from the Luxembourg

- **The asylum crisis in figures**
  Professor Philippe Fargues (Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI))

- **A reflection from Turkey**
  Assistant Professor Saime Ozcurumez (Bilkent University), Visiting Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University

**12:15 Discussion with the audience**

**13:00 Lunch break**

**Session 2: Friday 26 (afternoon)**

**EU ASYLUM POLICY: THE SEARCH FOR FAIR SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**14:00 Presentation**
*Solidarity in International Refugee Law and Policy*, Professor Alexander Betts (Director of Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford)

**14:15 Presentation**
*Relocation and Dublin*, Ms Lilian Tsourdi (Université libre de Bruxelles & Université catholique de Louvain)

**14:45 Panel**
*Physical Solidarity*

- **The German perspective**
  Official from Germany

- **A point of view from Eastern Europe**
  Dr Véra Honusková (Charles University, Prague)

- **Relocation in practice from Greece**
  Ms Dionysia Papaiou (Head of Regional Asylum Office of Lesvos)

**15:15 Discussion with the audience**

**15:45 Coffee break**

**16:15 Panel**
*Solidarity versus Responsibility*

- **The Commission proposal for permanent relocation**
  Member of the European Parliament

- **The future of the Dublin system**
  Professor Francesco Maiani (University of Lausanne)

- **The point of view of NGOs**
  Mr Kris Pollet (European Council on Refugees and Exiles - ECRE)

**16:45 Discussion with the audience**

**17:15 General Conclusions Session Two**

**17:30 End of Day One**
EU AGENCIES: THE SEARCH FOR AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF SOLIDARITY

9:00 Presentation
Evaluating the first years of EASO
Ms Madeline Garlick (Chief of the Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section in the Division of International Protection, UNHCR)

9:30 Presentation
Solidarity in external borders policy: the case of Frontex, Ms Andreea Niculiu (Frontex)

10:00 Presentation
Solidarity and EU Agencies: what is the future for Frontex and EASO? Professor Philippe De Bruycker (Migration Policy Centre of the European University Institute (EUI) and Institute for European Studies of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB))

10:30 Discussion with the audience

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Panel
Operational Solidarity
- Control and Closure of Internal Borders in the Schengen Area
  Professor Nuno Piçarra (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
- Comments by a Representative of EASO
  Mr Claus Folden (Head of Operational Support, European Asylum Support Office)
- Comments by a Representative of Frontex
- Comments on the functioning of Hotspots
  Speaker tbc

12:15 Discussion with the audience

13:00 General Conclusions

13:30 End of Conference

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Date and Time
26th February 9:00 – 27th February 13:30

Registration
Online at http://odysseus-network.eu/register/
Fee - EUR 95

Location
Université Libre de Bruxelles
Salle DUPRÉEL
44 Avenue Jeanne
1050 Brussels, Belgium

Catering
Refreshments, and lunch on Friday 26th will be provided and are included in the registration fee