



Mercator Dialogue on
Asylum and Migration

MEDAM Seminar

EU 'take-back' agreements with African countries: A promising tool to curb irregular migration?

Date and time: Tuesday, 10 October 2017, 17:00 - 18:30

Venue: CEPS, 1 Place du Congrès, 1000 Brussels

The number of migrants entering the EU irregularly via the Central Mediterranean route has seen a constant increase over the past decade. In the first half of 2017, Italy alone received more than 80,000 irregular migrants, mainly from African countries. The vast majority of these migrants do not qualify for asylum in Italy or elsewhere in the EU. At the same time, efforts to return rejected asylum applicants to their countries of origin for readmission have been plagued with difficulties. In particular, the unwillingness of African countries to accept their citizens back has led large pools of rejected asylum seekers in the EU who are no longer welcome in their countries of origin.

This seminar will consider the merits of two proposals put forward by migration experts to better manage these migration flows across the Mediterranean. First, the proposals emphasise the need to open up more legal pathways to the EU in order to provide alternatives to the perilous Central Mediterranean route. Second, they insist that a sustainable EU asylum system needs to provide stronger motivations to countries of origin to induce them to take back rejected asylum seekers.

Gerald Knaus, Chairman of the European Stability Initiative and architect of the EU-Turkey agreement, will present concrete ideas on how these two approaches can be combined to form effective EU 'take-back' agreements with African countries. An expert EU policymaker will then discuss the feasibility and challenges to Knaus' proposals.

16:30 – 17:00 Registration and coffee

17:00 – 17:45 EU 'take-back' agreements with African countries: A tool to curb irregular migration?,
Gerald Knaus, Chairman, European Stability Initiative

17:45 – 18:00 Comments and critical remarks from the perspective of the EU policymakers

18:00 – 18:30 Questions and answers

18:30 – 19:30 Networking drinks

This MEDAM Seminar is organised by CEPS.

Chair and contact person: Lars Ludolph, lars.ludolph@ceps.eu



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About MEDAM

The Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration is a practical research project aimed at producing informed economic perspectives on migration. With a view to strengthening Europe's ability to act, MEDAM intends to fill the gaps in policy research on asylum and migration and to develop recommendations for decision-makers at the national and European levels. Funded by Stiftung Mercator, the project brings together researchers from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute in Florence and the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. More information can be found at <http://www.medam-migration.eu/>.

Latest publications produced under MEDAM

Barslund, M. and L. Ludolph. "[Mediterranean migrants: Little help on offer for Italy](#)", CEPS Commentary, CEPS, Brussels, July 2017

MEDAM. "[MEDAM Assessment Report on Asylum and Migration Policies 2017](#)", Kiel: Ifw, June 2017

Lücke, M. and C. Schneiderheinze, "[More Financial Burden-Sharing for Developing Countries that Host Refugees](#)", G20 Insights Policy Brief, G20 Insights, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Kiel, March 2017

Barslund, M., A. Di Bartolomeo and L. Ludolph, "[Gender Inequality and Integration of Non-EU Migrants in the EU](#)", CEPS Policy Insights No 2017/06, CEPS, Brussels, February 2017

Barslund, M., M. Busse, K. Lenaerts, L. Ludolph and V. Renman, "[Labour Market Integration of Refugees: A comparative survey of Bosnians in five EU countries](#)", CEPS Special Report No. 155, CEPS, Brussels, December 2016



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