Asylum and migration policy continues to be high up on the EU policy agenda and will remain an important topic for the next European Commission. Though current positions in the European Council regarding how to make progress on the Common European Asylum System seem deadlocked, there is considerable scope for dialogue and debate on the future of EU asylum policy as well as the wider issue of improving overall management of migration.

This conference is launching our annual assessment report on asylum and migration policy and related outreach activities is a central element in this effort. This year’s report is titled “Rethinking EU migration and asylum policies: Managing immigration jointly with countries of origin and transit”. It has three chapters, each of which will be debated at the conference:

1) Citizens’ attitudes towards the design of asylum policies from 9.30 - 11.05
2) Cooperation with third countries on migration from 11.30 - 13.00
3) Moving EU asylum and migration policy forward from 14.00 - 15.30

Anyone working on international migration, development and cooperation is encouraged to join our panellists in the debate and to contribute to the discussion during the three Q&A sessions, and coffee and lunch breaks.

State Secretary for Migration María del Consuelo Rumí Ibáñez (Spain), Ambassador H.E. Ms. Teneng Mba Jaiteh (Gambia), MEP Delara Burkhardt and IOM Director Ola Henrikson are among the confirmed speakers.

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 in this field, 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.
Agenda
Wednesday, October 16th 2019: 09:30 – 15:30

09:00-09:30  Registration & Coffee
09:30-09:40  Opening & Welcome
             Karel Lannoo, CEO, CEPS
09:40-11:05  What asylum and refugee policies do Europeans want?
             Moderator: Andreas Backhaus, Research Fellow, CEPS/MEDAM
             Speakers: Martin Ruhs, Professor EUI and Deputy Director MPC
                        Delara Burkhardt, MEP, S&D, Deputy Federal Chair of Young German Socialists
                        Marc Helbling, Professor, University of Bamberg
                        Ola Henrikson, IOM Regional Director for the EU, Norway and Switzerland

11:05-11:30  Coffee break
11:30-13:00  EU Migration and Asylum policy: A West African perspective
             Moderator: Mikkel Barslund, Research Fellow, CEPS/MEDAM
             Speakers: Franziska Zanker, Head of Research Cluster “Patterns of (Forced) migration”,
                        Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute
                        H.E. Ms. Teneng Mba Jaiteh, Ambassador of Gambia to the EU
                        Richard Young, Advisor on Migration, EEA
                        Philip Bob Jusu, Socio-Economist, Permanent Mission to the Africa Union to the EU

13:00-14:00  Lunch
14:00-15:30  Moving forward on EU Migration and Asylum policy
             Speaker: María del Consuelo Rumí Ibáñez, State Secretary for Migration,
                        Ministry of Labour, Migrations and Social Security, Spain

             Panel debate
             Moderator: Anita Bay Bundegaard, EU Director, Save the Children, Former Danish Minister
                        for Development
             María del Consuelo Rumí Ibáñez, State Secretary for Migration, Ministry of
                        Labour, Migrations and Social Security, Spain
             Matthias Lücke, Senior Researcher, Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW),
                        Project Director MEDAM
             Michael Shotter, Director, Migration and Protection, DG Home

Contact person: Mikkel Barslund