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EIN-A4

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EIN Seminar on: "The fairness mechanism; a Common European Asylum System", Brussels

Chair:

• **Roberta METSOLA MEP**, EPP Group Coordinator in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs in the European Parliament

Speakers:

- **Elspeth GUILD**, Professor of Law at Queen Mary, University of London and Associate Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies
- **Roderick PARKES**, Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies
- **Elizabeth COLLETT**, Founding Director of Migration Policy Institute Europe

- > The Common European Asylum System is half built. We are reaching a crossroads moment without being aware of that.
- > The poor conditions of reception, internal border control, low capacity and the statements to refuse refugees are not enough to solve the crisis we have been living the last few years.
- > The asylum mechanism must be settled on full and fair procedures. The percentage of acceptance of migrants is high in the hotspot countries, while in the other Member States the same percentage is much lower. EU Member States must work together to improve the asylum measures.
- > The Dublin Regulation collapsed on account of the permanent burden that it constituted for the countries with greater flow of migration.
- > The motivation on setting up an efficient mechanism is connected to the will on maintaining the Schengen Area.
- > A strong trust between the Member States is the key on sharing responsibilities. How can we build that trust?
- > The current system is good on a technical level but it is not functional. Registration and reception of asylum seekers is a major concern and it is mandatory to think over the action plan.
- > The relocation of people who ask for asylum is difficult, since the number of requests is too high under the conditions that countries have to offer.
- > Transit countries must turn into receiving countries to relieve the hotspots.
- > The mechanism should be build taking into account other regional blocs abroad such as the Balkans, to assure a proper relocation of the migrants.
- > Returns are part of the migration processes too and this should be looked at as soon as the conditions allow. Nevertheless, we must be aware that after settling down with families and be integrated in the countries, it is very difficult to change life again. It is important to reframe the "return" talks regarding how to determine when it is time to leave.
- > It is necessary to think on what to do in terms of education and integration of the migrants in the new countries, without forgetting that we are dealing with vulnerable groups, which means that their process can be challenging but must be done. Europe must consider a more mainstream solution.
- > Being widely exposed to the migration crisis, the countries which belong to the European Union can influence the drivers of migration around the world and establish a new system. The Common European Asylum System can allow the EU to make a statement in the world.
- > The investment on building a fairer and dignified mechanism is required. We are going to spend less than what we are spending now.

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