Draft programme*

The Vienna Migration Conference 2022 takes the return of inter-state war to the borders of the EU as the starting point for two days of frank exchanges on the old and new forces shaping international migration and how governments, international organisations and civil society should respond. High-level speakers and key decision makers will set out the impact of ongoing conflicts and regional instability; instrumentalisation of migrant flows; climate change; and the impact of post-pandemic labour market shortages, on the cross-border movement of people. Beneath the baroque interiors of the Palais Niederösterreich, a select group of 200 top officials, major stakeholders and key opinion formers will debate the ramifications these developments have for international cooperation on migration and asylum.

*List of invited speakers to be confirmed
Tuesday, 11 October 2022, Day 1

09.30 – 10.00 Welcome and opening remarks
- Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD
- Gerhard Karner, Federal Minister of the Interior, Austria

10.00 – 11.00 Keynotes
Russia’s aggression against Ukraine has shocked the world, victimised millions and upended deeply-held assumptions in European security and migration policy. On March 4th, with the flight to Europe of around 7 million people already well underway, the EU triggered a two-year temporary protection period for those fleeing the war. Border guards were given orders to facilitate entry. And European societies opened their arms. Setting the stage for VMC2022, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and EU Commissioner Ylva Johansson join ICMPD Director General Michael Spindelegger to reflect on this watershed moment and subsequent developments, setting out the building blocks of cooperation during the Ukrainian crisis and beyond.
- Dmytro Kuleba, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine
- Ylva Johansson, Commissioner for Home Affairs, European Commission
- Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD

11.00 – 11.30 Break

11.30 – 13.00 High-level panel Managing migration in turbulent times: Key perspectives from Europe
Europe is experiencing some of the most challenging times in recent history: from instrumentalisation at the EU’s external borders to the ramifications of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and current migration, flight and displacement dynamics. Senior European politicians discuss where we currently stand and outline their visions for delivering a timely response from Europe.
- Selmo Cikotić, Minister of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Gérald Darmanin, Minister of the Interior, France
- Ana Revenco, Minister of Internal Affairs, Moldova
- Arnoldas Abramavičius, Vice-Minister of the Interior, Lithuania
- Mahmut Özdemir, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Germany

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break
13.30 – 14.10 Side event Beyond the short term: How to address vulnerability to trafficking in persons in the context of lasting crises?

Under the auspices of the Inter Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) this side event discusses vulnerabilities that fuel trafficking in persons for those who have fled conflict areas, often in haste and in situations of destitution or high precariousness. Effective operational responses to such crises require strategies that respond to both immediate and long-term protection needs of displaced and refugee populations. Panellists will debate on current practices and strategies, and on the medium to long term challenges they foresee.

- Ana Revenco, Minister of Internal Affairs, Moldova
- Ilias Chatzis, Head of the Anti-Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime
- Nadia Murad, Survivor of trafficking in persons, UNODC Goodwill Ambassador and 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

14.30 – 16.00 Conflict, fragility and scarcity: A global outlook

The invasion of Ukraine and blockage of grain shipments through the Black Sea brutally underscored the reality of global inter-connectedness, driving up the price of food, fuelling inflation and heightening security tensions at geopolitical flashpoints. This two-part session turns to the rest of the world to examine the broader context in which policies on migration, protection and integration are embedded. What mega trends are driving change on the African continent and to what extent can African-European cooperation be strengthened further to address new challenges? Where are external or internal pressures pushing states towards serious instability and how might this impact migration dynamics for Europe and its partners? Where do we need to focus our attention to avoid serious systemic consequences on the level of those experienced from Ukraine?

In conversation The state of affairs in Africa

- Cessouma Minata Samaté, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union Commission

Panel discussion When crises overlap: the conflict, food security and migration nexus

- Luigi Soreca, Ambassador-at-Large, Special Envoy for External Aspects of Migration, European External Action Service
- Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization
- Koko Warner, Manager, Vulnerability subdivision, Adaptation division, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat
- Pierre Vimont, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe
- Representative of the European Investment Bank

16.00 – 16.30 Break
Migration as a geopolitical weapon? How powerful a force in international relations?

In 2010, Kelly M. Greenhill published ‘Weapons of Mass Migration: Forced Displacement, Coercion and Foreign Policy’, citing “the intentional creation, manipulation and exploitation of migration and refugee crises” by rogue states and other actors seeking to bend stronger countries to their will. Greenhill documented dozens of such cases taking place since the 1951 UN Refugee Convention came into force, including early threats in 2002 and 2004 by Belarus’s Aleksander Lukashenko to “flood the European Union with asylum seekers if it failed to meet his demands”. With events at Europe’s external borders in 2021 clearly validating her work’s prescience, the Harvard and Tufts University academic will address VMC2022 on a form of political blackmail becoming more common, including why liberal democracies are not always necessarily the passive victim; how perpetrators can miscalculate; and whether these hybrid attacks can be deterred by policy makers.

- Kelly M. Greenhill, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Tufts University

Panel discussion Regional perspectives and priorities: Finding the right political and policy formula for successful partnerships

As the European Union and its partners face new and persistent migration challenges, including a rise in forced displacement and irregular migration, effective cooperation along migration routes plays a critical role. This panel discusses where interests and strategies converge and diverge with a view to identifying priorities for building stronger migration partnerships. Amid a shifting geopolitical landscape, climate change, a stuttering global economy and a food crisis, how should we work together to better manage migration? In which ways do current dynamics constrain or support opportunities for practical cooperation?

- Savaş Ünlü, President, Presidency of Migration Management, Ministry of Interior, Türkiye
- Usman Jadoon, Director General, United Nations Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan
- Neveen El-Husseiny, Deputy Assistant Minister for Migration, Refugees and Combating Human Trafficking, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt
- Khalid Zerouali, Wali, Director of Migration and Border Surveillance, Ministry of the Interior, Morocco
- Chiara Adamo, Director, Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission

Break
11.00 – 12.45 **Panel discussion** European migration and asylum policy reform: Are we breaking gridlocks?

The road to a comprehensive EU approach on migration, as envisioned in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, has seen many challenges. Crises – such as the instrumentalisation of migrants for geopolitical gains at EU external borders and the reception of people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine – have affected the bloc’s identity as a whole and become a significant factor shaping the prospects for achieving progress and finding mutual responses on migration matters. VMC2022’s final panel brings critical actors in this process together to discuss what steps are necessary to secure EU asylum reform during this mandate. Was the moment of unity fleeting, or is a true breakthrough imminent?

- Beate Gminder, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
- Jean Mafart, Director, Directorate of European and International Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, France
- Elena Yoncheva, Member, European Parliament
- Suzanne Lynch, Chief Brussels Correspondent, Politico Europe

12.45 – 13.00 **Closing remarks**

- Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD