

VIENNA MIGRATION CONFERENCE 2023

10-11 October 2023

Draft Programme*

The [Vienna Migration Conference 2023](#) (VMC2023) will take place on 10-11 October in Vienna and online. During two days of lively discussions, this year's conference will touch key themes, including labour migration dynamics, flanked by insights on the future of work and rapid urban transformations; the desire for safe and orderly migration is seen against policy frictions between managing borders and the imperative to protect people on the move; views are exchanged on the results delivered and promised by new initiatives, cooperation and partnerships; and discussions take stock of efforts to move the European policy framework forward.

Now in its 8th edition, VMC is ICMPD's annual flagship event. Every autumn, a diverse expert group of decision-makers and practitioners from governments, international organisations, academia, and civil society come together in Vienna for two days of high-level discussions on contemporary migration trends and dynamics in Europe and beyond. ICMPD livestreams these discussions to bring them to the doorstep of the wider global migration community.

Tuesday, 10 October 2023 – Day 1

09.30 – 09.50

Conference opening

Director General Spindelegger welcomes participants to VMC2023 and highlights ICMPD's growing engagement in regional and global migration governance against the backdrop of a fast-evolving migration landscape. Austria and Switzerland share their national perspectives as founding members of ICMPD, which turned 30 in June, and Türkiye offers their opening remarks as the current chair of ICMPD's Steering Group.

- **Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD**
- **Susanne Raab, Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration and Media, Austria**
- **Ali Yerlikaya, Minister of Interior, Türkiye (tbc)**
- **Christine Schraner Burgener, State Secretary for Migration, Federal Department of Justice and Police, Switzerland**

09.50 – 10.00

A short introduction to VMC2023

Over the years, VMC has asserted itself as Europe's leading forum on migration. ICMPD's VMC leadership walks participants through the rich 2023 conference agenda and presents some of the ingredients for this success. They share with the audience the vision that continues to animate the format after seven successful editions.

- **Lukas Gehrke, Deputy Director General and Director for Policy, Research and Strategy, ICMPD**
- **Malin Frankenhaeuser, Head of Policy and VMC Lead, ICMPD**

10.00 – 10.30

Keynote address

Setting the scene for VMC2023, European Commission Vice-President Schinas assesses where Europe stands in its migration diplomacy efforts, highlights steps that the EU has recently taken to devise a more coherent and comprehensive response, and outlines his vision for moving forward.

- **Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, European Commission**

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00

High-level panel

Decision makers take stock of a turbulent but eventful year, assess successes and failures in the policy response, and identify policy areas in which closer international cooperation remains key to improved migration governance.

- **Imran Ahmad, Minister of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Bangladesh (tbc)**
- **Dimitris Kairidis, Minister of Migration and Asylum, Greece**
- **Matteo Piantedosi, Minister of the Interior, Italy (tbc)**
- **Maria Malmer Stenegerd, Minister of Migration, Sweden**
- **Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD**

12.00 – 12.30

In the spotlight The future of work

The labour market is transforming at an unprecedented speed. Artificial intelligence and other technological innovation, alongside climate change and geopolitical competition – amidst ongoing post-pandemic adaptations – are all shaping the future of work. This spotlight session explores the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and discusses

how the choices made by policymakers today will play a pivotal role in shaping the global workforce of tomorrow.

- **Janina Kugel, Board of Directors at Kyndryl, Chairwoman at Seatti, former CHRO of Siemens, Senior Advisor at Boston Consulting Group**
- **Lukas Gehrke, Deputy Director General and Director for Policy, Research and Strategy, ICMPD**

12.30 – 14.30 Lunch break

13.15 – 14.00 **Side event** **Mobility and the green transition**

2023 has seen extreme weather events attributed to climate change, widespread labour shortages, and a rise in irregular migration to Europe, underscoring the need to foster sustainable growth, recruit and develop the needed workforce, and provide more legal mobility pathways. Against this backdrop, this session will explore how human mobility can serve the green transition, therefore drawing attention also to the opportunity side of the mobility-climate change nexus. Speakers will review the current state of play of the green economy and labour market needs and discuss how major initiatives such as the European Green Deal, the EU's Skills Agenda, and the New Pact on Migration and Asylum can contribute to advancing a new paradigm that turns climate crisis into opportunity.

- **Raffaella Greco Tonegutti, Lead expert, Migration and Development, Enabel - Belgian Development Agency, Belgium**
- **Diederik de Boer, Associate Professor of Sustainable Business Development and Director of the Expert Centre on Emerging Economies, Maastricht School of Management**
- **Oleg Chirita, Head of Programme, Global Initiatives, ICMPD**

14.30 – 15.00 **Keynote conversation** **The role of cities in managing sustainable migration**

Deputy Mayor Wiederkehr shares his perspectives on the reception and migrant integration challenges facing cities, as major urban centres worldwide are transformed by population growth, climate change and ever more salient socio-economic pressures. What strategies and solutions has the city of Vienna employed to foster sustainable urban development with a view to addressing the impact of migration on infrastructure and services, economic growth and entrepreneurship, culture, diversity, and social cohesion? How does this experience compare with cities in other regions, and what fundamental lessons can be learnt?

- **Christoph Wiederkehr, Deputy Mayor of Vienna, Executive City Councillor for Education, Youth, Integration and Transparency, City of Vienna**
- **Julien Simon, Head of Region, Mediterranean, ICMPD**

15.00 – 16:00 **Panel discussion** **A new era for labour migration?**

Widespread labour shortages in both traditional and non-traditional migrant destination countries are putting increased pressure on governments to review the way they manage labour migration, design international partnerships, and attract global talent. In this panel, a diverse group of government, international and private sector representatives share their insights and experiences on a topic that is seeing rapid changes in policy, practice, and public opinion.

- **Alexander Wilhelm, Director for International Relations, Federal Employment Agency, Germany**

-
- Patrick Philipp, Director, Certification and Standards, International Road Transport Union
 - Hendrik Bourgeois, Vice President, Government Affairs Europe, Intel Corporation
 - Jo Antoons, Managing Partner, Fragomen
 - Jennifer Tangney, Senior Project Manager, Migration Partnership Facility, ICMPD

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 17.45 **Panel discussion** Building migration partnerships that deliver

Migration partnerships are built by listening and investing time and resources to meet each other's needs and interests. Introduced by the President of Türkiye's Migration Management, this session illustrates how partnerships are being put into practice, at different levels and across all areas of migration governance, with the aim of delivering concrete results.

- **Atila Toros, President of Migration Management, Ministry of Interior, Türkiye (tbc)**

In the ensuing discussion, panellists share their experiences and views on good practices, engaging in a discussion about which international cooperation frameworks are needed to maximise opportunities and minimise challenges confronting migrants, returnees, and the societies they live in.

- **Ahmed Munirus Saleheen, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Bangladesh**
- **Akinremi Alade Bolaji, Ambassador, Director for Economic, Trade and Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria**
- **Mário Pedro, Deputy National Director, Immigration and Border Service, Ministry of Internal Administration, Portugal**
- **Anne Dussart, Head, Department Asylum and Migration – Social Programs, Caritas International Belgium**
- **Sedef Dearing, Director a.i., Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, ICMPD**

17.45 – 18.30 **In the spotlight** East-West perspectives on geopolitical Europe

War in Ukraine has helped harmonise European perceptions of collective defence, external threats, economic self-interest, and humanitarian obligations. And yet on certain issues internal divisions remain sharp: enlargement, the rule of law, climate change, transatlantic ties, and migration. Two veteran EU observers discuss whether Europe can still stand united as a geopolitical player in a global system that is characterised more and more by great power rivalry and competition.

- **Jana Kobzova, Foreign Policy Advisor to the President, Office of the President of the Slovak Republic**
- **Luuk van Middelaar, Founder and Director, Brussels Institute for Geopolitics**
- **Hugo Brady, Senior Strategic Advisor, ICMPD**

Wednesday, 11 October 2023 – Day 2

09.00 – 09.30 **In conversation** A Pan-African vision for safe and secure cross-border movements

African Union Commissioner Samate shares Africa's vision for safe and secure migration on the continent and discusses how Africa, Europe, and other relevant stakeholders can

join forces to ensure better standards and practices in managing cross-border movements.

- **Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union Commission**
- **Mojisola Sodeinde, Head of Region, West Africa, ICMPD**

09.30 – 10.30

In conversation People on the move: Protecting lives, managing borders

Around the world, thousands of migrants risk their lives by taking dangerous land and sea migration routes, not least across the Sahara and the Mediterranean. Policies that steer border and immigration control must seek to protect and keep the state, its population, and people on the move safe and secure. Speakers focus on the policy frictions that arise when people are on the move and explores how and with whom pragmatic solutions can be forged to ensure higher standards for safe migration.

- **Vincent Cochetel, Special Envoy of the UNHCR for the Central Mediterranean Situation, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**
- **Jonas Grimheden, Head of the Fundamental Rights Office, Frontex**
- **Marija Raus, Head of Region a.i., Silk Routes, ICMPD**

10.30 – 11.15

In conversation People on the move: Shared leadership for safe and orderly migration

In continuation of the discussion on people on the move, this conversation sheds light on how cooperation between African and European partners is moving towards joint leadership and shared responsibilities to ensure safe and orderly migration.

- **Peter Webinger, Director-General, Directorate-General for Migration and International Affairs, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria**
- **Khalid Zerouali, Wali, Director of Migration and Border Surveillance, Ministry of the Interior, Morocco**
- **Donya Smida, Regional Portfolio Manager and Head of Tunis Office, ICMPD**

11.15 – 11.45

Coffee break

11.45– 12.45

Panel discussion A vision for Europe's migration policy framework

A sensitive and often controversial issue, migration will determine the future of Europe's integration process as well as crucially contribute to defining Europe's external action. A breakthrough political agreement the New Pact on Migration and Asylum reached at the Home Affairs Council on June 8 raised hopes that a comprehensive package can be finalized before European elections take place next year. Yet, negotiations are still in full swing, the exact outcome remaining far from certain. Spain, holding the Presidency of the Council, will kick off this session and take stock of how far we have come and where we currently stand.

- **Javier Conde y Martínez de Irujo, Deputy Director-General for Justice and Interior, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain**

Two distinguished speakers then chime in on the most recent developments in European migration governance and discuss what may lie ahead as migration remains front and centre of discussions among European decision makers and the European public.

- **Ulrich Weinbrenner, Director General, Directorate General for Migration, Refugees and Return Policy, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Germany**
- **Pavla Novotná, Director, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Ministry of the Interior, Czechia (tbc)**

-
- **Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Director, European Affairs Programme, Egmont Institute**
 - **Ralph Genetzke, Director, Brussels Mission, ICMPD**
-

12.45 – 13.30

Conference closing

The conference will wrap up with key stakeholders offering their takeaways on the themes toured by VMC2023, with a view to understanding what is next in migration governance. Representatives from the media, think tank and private sectors will identify topics that deserve closer scrutiny and further debate, thus kicking off the process leading to VMC2024.

- **Victoria Rietig, Head, Migration Program, German Council on Foreign Relations**
- **Ana Sofia Walsh, Senior Knowledge Manager, Fragomen**
- **Laura Dubois, Europe Express editor, Financial Times**
- **Malin Frankenhaeuser, Head of Policy and VMC Lead, ICMPD**

Closing remarks

- **Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD**
-

ICMPD strives to ensure an inclusive working environment and be attentive to gender diversity and the plurality of voices represented in our initiatives. In any instances where this ethos is not reflected in our events, it is due to the unavailability of speakers or challenges in identifying suitable profiles in our network.

* This **draft** version lists confirmed and invited speakers. Sessions and timeframes are subject to change.