



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

Promoting better regional cooperation towards smart and humane migration across the Mediterranean

Conference for parliaments from the European Union and from the Mediterranean region organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliament of Malta and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

16 and 17 November 2017, Grand Hotel Excelsior - Grand Ballroom, Valletta (Malta)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

In recent years, a growing number of people have made their way to Europe to flee on-going conflicts and repression or seek a livelihood in the absence of any economic opportunities in their countries.

The significant migration flows around the Mediterranean have an important impact on receiving, transit and countries of origin. Parliaments and their members have a critical role to play in adopting adequate legislation and seeing to it that effective policies are in place and implemented to ensure that migration is governed in a fair, smart and humane way and creating public support for such actions.

The proposed conference aims to bring together parliamentarians from the region in order to discuss concerted responses to current migration challenges and opportunities. In doing so, it takes inspiration from the recommendations contained in the IPU Declaration of October 2015 on "The Imperative for Fairer, Smarter and more Humane Migration" and the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants adopted at the United Nations in September 2016. The outcome of the conference will also contribute to a parliamentary perspective on the negotiation of a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration that will take place at the United Nations between February and July 2018 and discussions on a Global Compact on Refugees in 2018.

Thursday, 16 November 2017

8 a.m. **Registration**

9 a.m. **Opening Ceremony**

9.45 a.m. **Key-note address on “Migration across the Mediterranean: the need for concerted, coherent and holistic action”**

10.15 a.m. *Coffee Break*

10.30 a.m. **Session I: Ensure fair, smart and dignified labour migration: challenges and opportunities**

This session seeks to present trends on labour migration across the Mediterranean. It seeks to explore ways to further promote labour migration that is beneficial to migrants, receiving countries and countries of origin alike. The session will address the effects of existing bilateral agreements to channel migration. It will look at regional and national policies on labour migration and identify opportunities to expand regular labour migration. It will also look at lessons learnt in tackling labour exploitation.

12.30 p.m. *Lunch*

2 p.m. **Session II: Offer a safe haven to refugees**

This session seeks to explore ways to guarantee that refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol continue to receive swift and adequate protection. It will seek to address questions related to where and how asylum claims can best be handled with respect for due process, to inter-state solidarity to accept refugees as well as to the completion of a common European Asylum System. The session will also look at the importance of social and economic integration of refugees and look at concrete national examples of successful integration.

4 p.m. *Coffee break*

4.15 p.m. **Session III: Promote sensible political and societal discourse around migration**

This session will address the importance of politicians speaking out against xenophobia and racism and combatting stereotypes, the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation and criminal legislation against hate speech. The session will also look at ways to expand and use empirically-based knowledge and foster balanced public debate on the causes, challenges and benefits of migration, so as to inform national policies. It will look at best practices of including migrant perspectives in political and public discussions.

6.15 p.m. **End of Day 1**

7.30 p.m. **Dinner or Welcome Cocktail**

Friday, 17 November 2017

9.30 a.m.

Session IV: Bolster border protection and the fight against people's smugglers

This session will deal with strategies to promote stronger border control and management, including through the exchange of information and the sharing of responsibilities between countries across the Mediterranean. It will look at direct ways to tackle people's smuggling and to protect migrants, in particular those at risk of abuse during perilous journey through the desert or at sea, and the specific role of transit countries. This session will also look at ways to promote an effective and dignified return policy for irregular migrants and examine interesting examples of readmission agreements in line with applicable human rights standards.

10.30 a.m.

Coffee break

Session IV: continued

12.30 p.m.

Lunch

2 p.m.

Session V: Address the "push" factors of migration: the importance of promoting sustainable development in countries of origin

The session seeks to address ways to promote social and economic development in countries of origin and transit, particularly so as to promote opportunities for youth. It will look more particularly at the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and at examples of bilateral and regional cooperation to promote such development.

3.30 p.m.

Coffee break

3.45 p.m.

Session V: continued

4.15 p.m.

Closing session: Where do we go from here? Final reflections on migration in the Mediterranean and their relevance for ongoing discussions on a UN Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

4.45 p.m.

Closing remarks



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PRACTICAL INFORMATION NOTE

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

In recent years, a growing number of people have made their way to Europe to flee on-going conflicts and repression or seek a livelihood in the absence of any economic opportunities in their countries.

The significant migration flows around the Mediterranean have an important impact on receiving, transit and countries of origin. Parliaments and their members have a critical role to play in adopting adequate legislation and seeing to it that effective policies are in place and are implemented to ensure that migration is governed in a fair, smart and humane way, and in creating public support for such actions.

The proposed conference aims to bring together parliamentarians from the region in order to discuss concerted responses to current migration challenges and opportunities. In doing so, it takes inspiration from the recommendations contained in the IPU Declaration of October 2015 on "The Imperative for Fairer, Smarter and more Humane Migration" and the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants adopted at the United Nations in September 2016. The outcome of the conference will also contribute to a parliamentary perspective on the negotiation of a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration that will take place at the UN Headquarters between February and July 2018.

In doing so, the conference aims to address solutions to the following questions:

- What essential pillars of migration policies respond to labour market needs while respecting the human rights of migrants and their families, and how do receiving, transit and countries of origin fit in?
- How and where to handle asylum claims in ways that respect due process?
- What lessons can be learnt in the fight against trafficking in persons, including in the area of border management, information-sharing, and the emasculation of the smugglers' "business model", and what are the implications for receiving, transit and countries of origin?
- How to promote evidence-based political discussions around the impact of migration on the labour market and national cohesion?

2. VENUE, DATE AND PROGRAMME

The conference will be held on 16 and 17 November 2017 at the Grand Hotel Excelsior - Grand Ballroom. Access to the conference venue is from the main entrance and all badges and seminar documents should be collected from the registration area located in the reception area. The programme of the seminar is attached.

3. PARTICIPATION

This conference is open to the parliaments from the European Union and the Mediterranean region. These parliaments are invited to send a delegation of five members at most, gender-balanced and reflecting the political representation of the parliament. It is recommended that the members of the delegation work directly on migration issues in their parliaments.

4. ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In keeping with IPU practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. In order to ensure that the discussions are as fruitful and constructive as possible, the following rules will apply:

- (a) There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item. After the experts have introduced an agenda item, the floor will be open to participants for questions and comments.
- (b) Experience has shown that this kind of meeting does not lend itself to the reading out of prepared statements. Subject to arrangements that the Chair may make to suit the circumstances, oral contributions may not exceed **three minutes**. Participants may speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.
- (c) A Rapporteur will sum up the work of the seminar at its concluding session.

The seminar proceedings will be conducted in English, French and Arabic.

5. DOCUMENTS

Participants will receive hard copies of the experts' presentations as they become available.

To the extent possible and for the information of participants, the IPU Secretariat will make available background documentation on the topics under discussion.

Participants wishing to distribute relevant documentation to their colleagues will be required to provide it in sufficient quantities and place it on a table set aside for the purpose.

6. REGISTRATION

Invited parliaments are requested to send their list of participants attending the conference **no later than 15 October 2017**, using the enclosed Registration Form to the following addresses:

Ms. Eleanor SCERRI Director (International Relations) Parliament of Malta The Palace Valletta VLT 1115 (Malta) Tel. +356 356 2559 6321 Fax: + 356 255 96 400 e-mail: eleanor.scerri@parlament.mt	Mr. Akiyo AFOUDA Inter-Parliamentary Union 5, Chemin du Pommier 1218 Grand-Saconnex Geneva (Switzerland) Tel.: + 41 22 919 41 23 Fax: + 41 22 919 41 60 e-mail: aa@ipu.org / postbox@ipu.org
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7. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND RESERVATIONS

In keeping with usual IPU practice, all matters relating to hotel reservations, travel and visas must be dealt with by the participants themselves.

The House of Representatives (Parliament of Malta) has made a block reservation for three nights (15, 16 and 17 November 2017) at the hotels indicated below. Participants are kindly requested to duly complete and return the Hotel Registration Form as soon as possible and **no later than 15 October 2017, with copy to the Parliament of Malta by email to eleanor.scerri@parlament.mt.**

Hotel	Room type	Price in euros per room / per night (incl. breakfast & VAT)
Grand Hotel Excelsior 5 * <i>15 minutes' walk from the City centre</i> Complete and return booking form to: Promocode: IPUBB http://www.excelsior.com.mt/#bookingengine	Single Deluxe (Inland view)	<input type="checkbox"/> € 115
	Single Deluxe (Partial sea view)	<input type="checkbox"/> € 135
	2 nd person sharing supplement: € 20 per person / per night	
Osborne Hotel 3* <i>5 minutes' walk from the meeting venue</i> Email: reservations@osbornehotel.com Quote the following reservation number: IPU Meeting - reservation 45371	Standard Double - single use (Inland view)	<input type="checkbox"/> € 100
	Standard Double/Twin (Inland view)	<input type="checkbox"/> € 120
	Superior sea view supplement € 20 per room per night	
	Deluxe sea view supplement € 35 per room per night	
Castille Hotel 3 * <i>15 minutes' walk from the meeting venue</i> Email: reservations.reservations@castillemalta.com	Single Room	<input type="checkbox"/> € 70
	Twin Room (Single Use)	<input type="checkbox"/> € 120

We recommend that participants' credit card information be sent by fax/email to the hotel only. Please note that the Parliament of Malta does not require a copy of credit card information.

Reservations received after that date cannot be guaranteed and will depend on room availability. Requests for hotel reservations will be treated on a first-come-first-served basis. Participants are kindly requested to settle their bills directly with the hotel concerned.

8. TRAVEL, ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Parliaments participating in the Conference are kindly reminded that they should make their own travel arrangements. They will bear all costs related to their delegates' travel and participation.

All participants are kindly requested to provide their arrival and departure details (date, time, flight no., etc.) on the Registration Form.

Participants are kindly advised that the organizers will not provide transportation from and to the airport. Participants are advised to take a taxi or contact their respective Embassies and/or consulates to determine the possibility of embassy assistance in arranging transport from/to the airport.

Transport from the Osborne and the Castille Hotels to and from the conference venue will be provided by the organizers.

9. VISAS

Participants requiring an entry visa to Malta are invited to make their own visa arrangements.

10. REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

A Registration and Information Desk will be available to participants at the reception area of the Grand Hotel Excelsior and will operate from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 16 November and from 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 17 November.

11. SECURITY

Participants are required to wear their identity badges at all times during the conference.

12. WEATHER CONDITIONS

Weather conditions in Malta can be consulted at the following link www.malairport.com/weather/.

13. CURRENCY REGULATIONS

The local currency in Malta is the EUR (euro).

Major international currencies can be exchanged at banks and exchange offices and most major credit cards are widely accepted.



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REGISTRATION FORM

[One form per participant]

COUNTRY / ORGANISATION

Ms.	Mr.				
FAMILY NAME:		FIRST NAME:			
Address:					
City:		Country:			
Telephone:		Mobile:			
Parliament / Chamber:					
Function:		Member of Parliament	Senator	Aide or staff	
Full title:					
Office E-mail:					
Personal E-mail:					

Parliamentarians only

Please list up to three parliamentary committees to which you belong

1.	
2.	
3.	

Date of arrival:	Flight No.:	Arrival time:
Date of departure:	Flight No.:	Departure time:
HOTEL	Arriving from:	
	Final destination:	

DATE

SIGNATURE

Kindly complete return this form to the addresses below no later than **15 October 2017**

Ms. Eleanor SCERRI

Director (International Relations)
Parliament of Malta
The Palace
Valletta VLT 1115 (Malta)
Tel. +356 2559 6321 / Fax: + 356 255 96 400
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HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

[One form per participant]

DELEGATION / ORGANISATION

Ms.	Mr.		
FAMILY NAME		FIRST NAME	
Address			
City			
Country			
Telephone		Mobile	
Date of arrival		Flight No.	
Date of departure		Flight No.	
		Arrival time	
		Departure time	

HOTEL OF YOUR CHOICE

Hotel	Room type Price in euros per room / per night (incl. breakfast & VAT)		
Grand Hotel Excelsior 5 * <i>15 minutes' walk from the City centre</i> Complete and return booking form to: Promocode: IPUBB http://www.excelsior.com.mt/#bookingengine	Single Deluxe (Inland view) <input type="checkbox"/> € 115	Single Deluxe (Partial sea view) <input type="checkbox"/> € 135	2 nd person sharing supplement: € 20 per person / per night
Osborne Hotel 3* <i>5 minutes' walk from the meeting venue</i> Email: reservations@osbornehotel.com Quote the following reservation number: IPU Meeting - reservation 45371	Standard Double - single use (Inland view) <input type="checkbox"/> € 100	Standard Double/Twin (Inland view) <input type="checkbox"/> € 120	Superior sea view supplement € 20 per room per night Deluxe sea view supplement € 35 per room per night
Castille Hotel 3 * <i>5 minutes' walk from the meeting venue</i> Email: reservations.reservations@castillemalta.com	Single Room <input type="checkbox"/> € 70	Twin Room (Single Use) <input type="checkbox"/> € 120	

Credit card:	Visa	Master Card	American Express	Diners
Name of credit card holder:				
Credit card number:			Expiry Date:	

Participants have the choice of paying by credit card or cash upon checking in at the hotel upon arrival

DATE

SIGNATURE

Kindly complete and return this form to the addresses below no later than **15 October 2017**.

Ms. Eleanor SCERRI Director (International Relations) - Parliament of Malta Tel. +356 +356 2559 6321 / Fax: + 356 255 96 400 e-mail: eleanor.scerri@parlament.mt	Mr. Akiyo AFOUDA Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva (Switzerland) Tel.: + 41 22 919 41 23 / Fax: + 41 22 919 41 60 e-mail: aa@ipu.org / postbox@ipu.org
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