

EMN, UNHCR and ENS conference 'Addressing Statelessness in the European Union, One year on from the adoption of European Council Conclusions'

Place: Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155, 1048 Brussels, Belgium

Date : 18 January 2017

Programme

08.30-09.00 Arrival and registration

09.00-09.30 Keynote speakers

- Magnus Ovilus, European Migration Network
- Joseph Mizzi, Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government of Malta
- Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR

09.30-11.00 Identifying and protecting stateless persons in a migratory context

Moderated by Inge Sturkenboom, UNHCR

- Tamas Molnar, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Céline Chateau, European Parliament, LIBE Secretariat
- Stephen Ryan, European Commission, DG Migration and Home Affairs
- Zsófia Huszka, Immigration and Asylum Office (IAO), Hungary

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.20 Preventing childhood statelessness

Moderated by Pascal Schumacher, Luxembourg Permanent Representation

- Chris Nash, European Network on Statelessness
- Verena Knaus, UNICEF
- Margaret Tuite, European Commission, DG Justice

12.20 – 12.30 Conclusions and next steps

Magnus Ovilus, European Migration Network

12.30 -13.00 Lunch



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Biographies of speakers, moderators and panellists.

Opening session:

Joseph Mizzi currently is adviser to the Maltese Government on matters concerning Citizenship and Immigration. He formerly occupied different positions in the Maltese Public Service retiring as Director of the Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs. In the course of his career was involved in the implementation and the introduction of legislation and policies concerning nationality and general immigration matters and participated both in national and international fora related with such matters.

Vincent Cochetel has been appointed Director of the Bureau for Europe of UNHCR as of 1 March 2013. From 2 September 2015 to 1 January 2017, Mr. Cochetel also assumed the function of UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinator for the refugee crisis in Europe. Mr. Cochetel joined UNHCR in 1986, initially working as a legal/protection officer in a number of duty stations, mainly in Europe. He then managed UNHCR field offices in Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Middle East and participated in several emergency missions in Asia, West Africa, and Europe (North Caucasus). In September 2002, he was appointed as Director of the Investigation Unit of the Inspector General's Office at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva. In May 2005, he became Deputy Director of UNHCR's Division of International Protection and Director of the Resettlement Service. He served as UNHCR's Regional Representative for the United States and the Caribbean from August 2010 to February 2013. Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Cochetel collaborated for two years with the European Commission of the European Communities and briefly with the European Court of Human Rights. Mr. Cochetel has written articles on numerous refugee issues and contributed to the drafting of several UNHCR training manuals related to staff safety, emergency management, protection, and durable solutions. Mr. Cochetel graduated from the Law Faculty of Tours (France), Paris II and Paris XI universities.

Magnus Ovilius is the steer of the European Commission's European Migration Network (EMN) since 2013 and the Head of the Return Management Sector. He held various management positions inside the European Commission as Head of Sector, Preparedness and Crisis Management in DG Justice Freedom and Security responsible for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of European Union counter-terrorism policies including defense related aspects of counter-terrorism, law enforcement led civil protection, critical infrastructure protection, crisis management, CBRNE policies, G8 Roma/Lyon meetings and Security Research. Magnus Ovilius holds a degree of Master of Laws from the University of Lund in Sweden.

Panel 1: Identifying and protecting stateless persons in a migratory context

Inge Sturkenboom works since 2012 on statelessness in Europe as a protection officer with UNHCR. She is based with the UNHCR Bureau for Europe in Brussels and works with UNHCR's regional and country offices on addressing statelessness throughout the region. She also engages with regional stakeholders, such as the institutions of the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the EU, and the European Network on Statelessness. Prior to her assignment in Belgium, she worked with UNHCR in its Regional Representation for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal, in Cambodia, Thailand and the Republic of Congo. She also worked for Amnesty International and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has a master's degree in international law from Leiden University, the Netherlands.

Dr Tamás MOLNÁR is a legal research officer on migration and asylum law at the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (Vienna). He read law at the Eötvös Lorand University of Budapest (ELTE), Faculty of Law and the Université libre de Bruxelles, Institut d'Etudes européennes (LLM on EU law); then obtained his Ph.D. in public international law at ELTE. Before joining the EU Fundamental Rights Agency in September 2016, he worked in various ministries in Hungary in the fields of international and EU migration law over a decade (including the drafting of the Hungarian statelessness determination procedure). He has also undertaken ad hoc consultancies for UNHCR on statelessness issues between 2010 and 2016. He is also a part-time adjunct professor of international law at the Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of International Studies (currently on leave). He has published widely in the fields of international law, statelessness law and EU migration law.

Stephen Ryan is Deputy Head of the Asylum Policy Unit in the European Commission's DG HOME (Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs), a position he has held since October 2012. From 2008-2012, Mr. Ryan held various positions in the Border Management/Return Policy and Asylum Units at the Commission's DG HOME, and as member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs), with responsibility for legal and labour migration, integration, and asylum policy. From 1993 to 2008, Mr Ryan worked as an official in the Commission's DG COMP (Competition), holding a number of different positions, and has published on competition law/policy in several leading EU periodicals and textbooks. Mr Ryan is a barrister-at-law (Republic of Ireland, 1990). He holds a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) from University College Dublin (1988), and a Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Cambridge (1991).

Céline Chateau is Administrator at the Secretariat of the European Parliament (EP), having started as Policy Analyst in the Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs and currently working for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). LIBE is the main EP Committee dealing with statelessness issues, responsible for the protection within the territory of the Union of citizen's rights, human rights and fundamental rights, as well as for measures concerning the entry and movement of persons, asylum and migration. Céline joined the EU institutions in 2010, as Administrator at the Committee of the Regions (CIVEX commission, on justice and home affairs). Before that, she had worked for nine years at the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (Director of Administration).

Zsófia Huszka has been working for the Aliens Policing Directorate of the Immigration and Asylum Office (IAO) in Hungary since 2010. The legal migration is the main focus of her work. She is involved in the "Quality Evaluation and Development in the Stateless Determination" Project coordinated by the IAO and the UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe. She participated in several conferences and workshops on statelessness presenting the Hungarian statelessness determination procedure.

Panel 2: Preventing childhood statelessness

Pascal Schumacher studied European law, International law of human rights, and criminology. In the field of practical EU cooperation, he intervened as Deputy Head of Mission of EUBAM Rafah (European Union Border Assistance Mission) and he has represented Luxembourg in the Europol and Frontex Management Boards. He works for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is currently delegated to the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the European Union. As a Justice and Home Affairs Counsellor, he is in charge of asylum, immigration, legal migration, borders, Schengen, free movement of persons and visa policies. He is a regular lecturer on EU affairs at Belgian and Luxembourgish universities and he published a series of articles on international and EU law. During the Luxembourg Presidency in 2015 he chaired the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA), the Friends of Valetta (EU-Africa Summit on migration) and JHA Counsellors.

Chris Nash is the Director and co-founder of the European Network on Statelessness. He has worked in the refugee and migration field for 18 years, initially as an asylum lawyer and then at the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (Head of Policy and Advocacy), the Refugee Council of Australia (National Policy Director), Amnesty International (Head of Refugee and Migrant Rights Team) and Asylum Aid (International Protection Policy Coordinator). He has written widely on asylum, migration and statelessness policy, and is joint author of the 2011 UNHCR/Asylum Aid report Mapping Statelessness in the United Kingdom.

Margaret Tuite is the European Commission coordinator for rights of the child since 1 November 2011 in the unit responsible for fundamental rights policy in DG Justice and Consumers. From 2008-2011, she was deputy head of unit for criminal justice. She has worked for the European Commission for 31 years, 15 of them in the justice and home affairs domains.

Verena Knaus. As Senior Policy Advisor in the UNICEF Brussels office, Verena aims to strengthen the UNICEF-EU Partnership to promote the rights of all children and deliver results that benefit the most excluded, most affected and most disadvantaged children worldwide. In her day-to-day work Verena focuses on child rights mainstreaming in EU internal and external policies and programmes, on scaling up EU investments and leveraging domestic resources for children and adolescents, on advocating for integrated and inclusive child protection system and, as Migration Focal Point, on ensuring that EU migration policies and practices are child-rights compliant.

Verena also authored a study series on the impact of repatriation and returns on vulnerable children, including their psycho-social health. The reports ('Integration Subject to Conditions' 2010, 'No Place to Call Home' 2011, 'Silent Harm' 2012) won the 2013 'Best of UNICEF Research' award. Verena also supported the Kosovo Ministry of European Integration as independent strategy advisor and from 2008-2009 advised the mayor of the ethnically divided city of Mitrovica on inclusive and participatory development and youth engagement.

Between 1999 and 2010, Verena was based in Istanbul, Turkey, and Prishtina, Kosovo, as a co-founder and Senior Policy Analyst with the European Stability Initiative (ESI), an independent policy think tank. She spearheaded empirical research and advocacy campaigns on women's rights or visa liberalization, political Islam and post-war economic recovery.



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