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churches' commission for migrants in europe

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Safe Passage:

"Deaths at European Union Borders – There are alternatives"

Rome 23-24 February 2015

Conference Report



Fence at the Spanish enclave of Melilla/http://www.proasyl.de/fileadmin/fm-dam/NEWS/2011/Melilla_Zaun.jpg

Introduction

The conference “Deaths at European Union Borders – there are alternatives!” was jointly organised by the Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) and the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI) and was divided into two parts. The first was public and took place on 23.02.2015 in the premises of the Italian Senate in Rome, the second part in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rome the following day.

The conference brought together politicians, church representatives and non-governmental actors from Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK, to exchange on the situation in the Mediterranean region, particularly regarding the high number of migrants and refugees losing their lives while trying to access Europe to seek protection.

Many conflicts around the world and the brutality of some regimes push part of the population into perilous journeys and, too often, into the hands of criminal networks. The conflict in and around Syria alone has forced around 4 million persons to seek refuge outside their country. Smuggling and trafficking in human beings have become a very lucrative business on the back of persons. 3.400 people are known to have lost their lives in 2014 in the Mediterranean Sea due to shipwrecks and other tragic incidents but the figure may be higher as not all shipwrecks and tragedies may have been detected.

While the tight protection of EU borders and the prevention of irregular immigration are among the EU priorities, the current system does not sufficiently provide the protection needed by many persons arriving. Better solutions ought to be found, including legal and safe channels for accessing protection in Europe.

Due to the complexity of migration in the Mediterranean, a coherent and coordinated approach is needed to look at all possible alternatives.

The conference gave an opportunity to share experiences in different countries in the Mediterranean region and stressed the need to avoid closing eyes to the human catastrophes, but develop a new thinking and a mid-term and long-term vision while addressing immediate needs.

The following pages give an overview of the discussions during the conference.

Objectives of the conference

The conference was organised in the framework of the "Safe Passage" project which is an initiative by churches across Europe, coordinated by CCME. The project aims at making safe passage a reality for migrants and refugees trying to reach the EU through its Southern borders – Mediterranean sea borders, land borders with Turkey, or Ceuta/Melilla-Morocco. In addition, and in a longer term, the project aims at changing European asylum and migration policy so that refugees and migrants no longer have to resort to perilous journeys across the EU borders.

The conference was a first step to hear about experiences of the political actors and churches' responses to the situation in the Mediterranean, particularly the situation in Greece, Italy and Spain in order to plan for further steps.

1. Opening session

Ms Franca Di Lecce, Director of the Service for Migrants and Refugees of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy welcomed all present and indicated,



referring to a UNHCR report, that the situation in the Mediterranean was very critical. At least 218.000 people including migrants and refugees have crossed the Mediterranean in 2014 and the situation is far from changing. A few weeks ago, 300 people have died while searching safety. This situation cannot

continue and there is a need to save lives and see how people can cross safely to Europe.

In his address, **Senator Luigi Manconi**, President of the Extraordinary



Commission for the protection and promotion of human rights of the Senate of the Republic of Italy said that migration was one of the most popular issues that raise concern and social alert. There is hostility against migrants and asylum seekers who are presented as enemies invading the country. He stressed the need to change the culture and the manipulation of the language used in the media that entertain confusion. Migrants are not presented by their names or where they come from but in an anonymous way as if they were objects, thus dehumanising them. Similarly, humanitarian work is viewed negatively. He insisted on the necessity to redefine humanitarian work which is not only philanthropy, and to change the language and culture. He insisted on the need to strengthen our policies and find legitimacy for those seeking safety in Europe.

Rev. **Massimo Aquilante**, President of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy, stated that it is quite easy to



criticise the EU for forgetting its own crucial cultural and political tasks and for erecting borders and evading its own duties; or the Italian government for not having been able to address adequately the issue of migration in all its dimensions and not finding adequate solutions. Politicians and religious communities bear responsibilities and it is crucial to build fora for dialogue among faith communities which actually are trying to claim their own identity. He informed that the Federation of Protestant Churches offers services to refugees and migrants and tries to make hospitality more effective. He referred to the project "Mediterranean Hope" which has conducted exploratory missions in Italy and Morocco to create humanitarian channels. Contacts have been made with authorities in the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior, authorities in Morocco and the Italian Embassy in Morocco to promote the issue of humanitarian visas. He expressed hope that the Italian government will be able to use its relations to bring the European Union to change its regulations in this matter.

The General Secretary of the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe, **Ms Doris Peschke** underlined the need for a European toolbox of different measures and policies to better address the needs of those seeking protection. For several

years, CCME and the Conference of European Churches have called for commemorating persons who have lost their lives while trying to access Europe. Churches in Europe have repeatedly underlined the necessity for a commitment to help resolve conflicts, and for better sharing of responsibility with regard to protection for those in need among EU member states. We cannot continue to close our eyes to the realities in the Mediterranean. She recalled the role countries around the Mediterranean Sea had played in providing protection in last centuries, which ought to be recognised and



appreciated. Therefore, the burden ought not to be placed on other countries, rather ways of sharing developed. There are controversies around migration in societies, and a lot of fear, yet the real and daily risk is experienced by many people in the Middle East and in Africa where people are suffering from extremists' attacks. She expressed hope that discussions during the conference will help think about what is necessary and possible to make safe passage for protection a reality, and other good ideas to go further.

2. Saving lives at sea – the Italian Experience

Mr Lapo Pistelli, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and member of the Italian Parliament based his presentation on 3 topics: migration, mobility and asylum. He indicated that

mobility is one of the ideas on which the European Union was built. It has been underlined in the Rome and Schengen Treaties and is acknowledged by young generations. But there have been some limitations to the concept of mobility with freedom of movement for workers especially with EU new members.

Regarding *Migration*, he recalled that Italy used to be an emigration country until the 1980s when it started to become an immigration country. The problem is not the number of migrants but the cultural shock. There are European instruments about sharing data etc. but there are also national policies e.g. for citizenship have a role to play. As an example related to migration, he mentioned the fact that the European population was double the size of the African population in the 50s. The size became the same in the year 2002 and the African population is estimated to be 3 times the European one in 2050, according to UN demographics. It may then become likely that more of the population of Africa may migrate to Europe, however, the majority of the world migration today actually is South-South migration.

In the global dialogue on migration, agreements for migration have been elaborated which work in some cases and do not function for others. He indicated that the "Rabat Process" about Euro-African dialogue on migration and development works very well with West-African countries. The "Khartoum Process"¹ was agreed under the Italian Presidency by the EU Council after an analysis of the situation on the ground. He underlined that, 75% of immigration to Italy in 2013 and 2014 could not be regarded as "illegal" migration, which is

often used for people looking for better opportunity; the majority was coming from Eritrea, Syria, and Sudan, thus likely



to be in need of protection. However, also economic migrants from Gambia and other countries have arrived. There is a problem of dealing with mixed flows of people in need of international protection and others who would be migrants in search of work opportunities.

Regarding *Asylum*, he referred to the example of Germany which had to deal with 85% of asylum seekers from the former Soviet Union bloc in the early 90s, and there was no real responsibility sharing in Europe. Actually, Europe is not ready to manage all the migration flows. There is an issue of a long-term vision where you see millions of jobs to be created in Africa and millions of jobs to be filled in Europe. The issues at stake are about the future, and developing a culture but also a kind of toolbox available at national and European level. Therefore, there is a need for Italy to upgrade its level of international protection and to invest much money to deal with mixed flows and Europe cannot be silent and blind on that. Regarding the "Mare Nostrum" operation, the Vice Minister underlined his pride for being part of a government that has put in place such an instrument. He pointed to the need to first understand why people make a decision to move.

¹ EU and African Union initiative to tackle trafficking and smuggling of migrants between the Horn of Africa and Europe

Italy had to end Mare Nostrum which was "replaced" by the Frontex Joint Operation Triton. But their mission and working methods are different. While dealing with humanitarian and security to achieve political stabilisation of the area around us, we need to understand the relation between migration and development, he said. As an illustration, in 2013 the total Official Development Assistance (ODA) was 140 billion US\$, and remittances from migrant diaspora to their countries was 454 billion US\$. The Vice Minister concluded by stressing the need for a long-term vision and policy for migration and asylum to better understand the world we are living, in and to help future generations.

Dr Christopher Hein, Director of the Italian Refugee Council informed that the Mare Nostrum operations had a huge



positive impact on the image of Italy worldwide . But other EU member states exerted pressure on Italy to stop the operation, considered

as increasing the numbers of people arriving from Africa and the Middle East. But even if it was a good tool, there was a need for a European coordinated action. As there are still tragedies and loss of lives, there is a need to at least maintain Mare Nostrum for a limited period of time while searching for better solutions to fill the gap that exists. He underlined the fact that a considerable number of EU agencies are working in the field of migration, like EASO, FRA, FRONTEX. He indicated that most people who

arrived last year transited through Libya. People continue to cross into Libya and at the same time, there are about 1 million Libyans who crossed into Tunisia. There is a need to open channels for resettlement and additional admission programmes like the German humanitarian temporary protection; the German and Irish sponsorship programmes for Syrians etc. Humanitarian visas are needed and could be issued according to the Schengen provisions for visas. Regarding Libya, there is no protection in place for sub-Saharan African people who are subject to racism and often forced to work as slaves, or forced to embark on makeshift boats. He underlined the need to start something concrete, indicating that when 30.000 Albanian were stuck in Macedonia in 1999, European countries responded to the appeal and granted protection. Today, many people attempting to seek protection do not even arrive, he added.

3. Access to Europe – Safe Passages

Mr Stefan Kessler from the Jesuit Refugee Service Europe recalled that



Churches of different denominations and from all over Europe have repeatedly spoken out against the tragedies at the external borders of the European Union. Most of those crossing the Mediterranean had fled from war, violence and serious human rights violations, from countries

where indiscriminate violence makes life unbearable. Recalling the tragedy of October 2013, off the coasts of Lampedusa and Malta, after which politicians had promised that Europe would offer more protection and safety, he noted that there was a gap between words and action. The Triton operation replacing Mare Nostrum was a normal Frontex coordinated operation to control borders, and not meant for search and rescue. Moreover, the "Mediterranean Taskforce", which was supposed to develop proposals for new policies, had a focus on combatting uncontrolled immigration, and not on granting protection. Against this background, several Christian organisations have issued a joint paper² calling for new policies and stressing the urgent need for opening up legal channels for access to protection in Europe. No single measure would meet the requirements of all different groups. Therefore, a "toolbox" should bring together the various options for legal and safe access to protection in Europe. These tools include an increase in resettlement quotas - some organisations call for an annual figure of 20.000 for the whole of the EU -, simplified procedures on family reunification, humanitarian visa, and the suspension of visa requirements in certain situations of mass flight. The idea is not to create dramatic legislative changes, which were not necessary to start action. However, the upcoming discussions on the Schengen visa code in the EU Parliament and Council should include not only individual technical matters, but also the legal framework for a shared approach to humanitarian visa. Europe

needs to offer legal ways to reduce the number of refugees who currently have no other option than to trust smugglers, thus putting their lives at risk. In view of the negative public opinion against migration, he ended with a call to all churches across Europe to clearly speak out for the need for humanity and solidarity in Europe.

Saving lives at sea and European solidarity

Richard Williams, Expert on refugee and asylum policies (UK) indicated that Mare Nostrum was criticised as being a pull factor, even though this was not substantiated. He outlined the need for more solidarity with host countries which first receive refugees; indicating that only



a small number actually come to Europe. He recalled that EU countries have offered to resettle 33.000 Syrians. The majority of them were received by Germany and Sweden. Since October 2013, Italy saved over 140.000 people with the Mare Nostrum operation, while the UK refused to support any search and rescue operation on the ground that this might encourage more people to attempt the dangerous sea crossing. He noted

² Recommendations for the development of safe and legal paths to protection in the European union, http://www.ccme.be/fileadmin/user_upload/20_Areas_of_Work/01_Refugee_Protection/2014-11-20-Christian_Group_Recomm_for_safe_legal_paths_to_protection_final.pdf

there was rather little solidarity between member states. Moreover, the Dublin regulation undermined solidarity, and, in addition, it did not work. It is based on the assumption that reception conditions are the same across the EU, which however is not the case. There is a need for a fairer way of responsibility sharing, for a fair distribution by different criteria. Relocation could contribute to solidarity; however, some NGOs insist that people should not be moved against their wishes. Regarding rescue at sea, he stressed the fact that people make rational decision to embark on risky boats as they do not have or see any alternative. People rescued should be able to go to a country where they are able to integrate.

During a discussion participants came to assess that 231 million persons (3% of the world population) were migrants. The view was expressed that nobody was happy to pay a lot of money to cross the sea in dangerous conditions. Europe invests in explaining to people from different countries how risky it is to try crossing in those conditions but does not offer alternatives. The problem of migration remains unpopular in European societies, but people have the right to protection when needed. Therefore, fears in societies need to be addressed. The public opinion generally accepts more easily when people arrive in an organised way. However, this is only possible for very few persons. Churches cannot close their eyes as migrants are not enemies. Concrete proposals need to be developed in coordination with different actors, bearing in mind the human dignity and the necessity of European solidarity. The concern was noted that money paid to smugglers could end up in further criminal, terrorist activities. It was deplored that the Triton operation managed by Frontex is a border protection operation and with a marginal

mandate for "search and rescue" aimed at saving lives.

4. The spirit and experience of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy's project "Mediterranean Hope".

Paolo Naso from the Federation of Italian Protestant Churches explained that in 2014, 140.000 people entered Italy from the Southern route; the majority were Sub-Saharan Africans. Many did not manage to cross and died in the Sea. Italy has put in place the Mare Nostrum operation to respond to this humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea. However, it also has to be noted that Italy has one of the lowest percentages of recognised refugees in the EU.

On their side, churches started to ask themselves what could be done. The problem churches had was to identify which kind of populations were trying to come in order to respond adequately. The Federation of Protestant Churches then launched the project "Mediterranean Hope" in Lampedusa to address the humanitarian emergency in relation to the irregular migration at sea. Due to its geographical situation, smugglers and traffickers consider Lampedusa as a good opportunity. The centre in Lampedusa which was planned to receive 300 refugees had to host around 4000 people. Lampedusa is however isolated without hospital or schools. The church has set up an observatory to gather information and data and to promote a culture of hospitality and human rights. The observatory produces a regular newsletter which is available also on a Facebook-page.

In addition FECI dedicated a building to the reception of refugees. The house is called "house of cultures" and can accommodate up to 40 people. It receives particularly minors and single

women. Another part of the work is to break the wall between migrants and the local population. There has been a very vocal opposition to the project from parts of the local community in Sicily. The plan is to also assist with a relocation desk to help people who want to leave Italy for another destination. However, it has to be noted that the total number of immigrants to Italy has decreased and the alarm given in the media is baseless. The main question is how to create a humanitarian corridor to offer protection to those in need in order to avoid the risks created particularly by smugglers or traffickers. A humanitarian corridor could be opened with the provision of humanitarian visa before entering the territory. He pointed to the idea of using the political space and the EU legal basis to allow for temporary protection. E.g. stipulations in the Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas, and the Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons, could be used in this respect. The FCEI has tried to approach authorities, churches and UNHCR in Morocco, and authorities in Italy, and the echo has been quite positive. Yet, the position needs to be clarified, many questions need still to be answered, so far it is an experiment with the idea to create a humanitarian desk to assist for the opening of such a humanitarian corridor. For this model to be effective, European mobility needs to be strengthened for refugees, too, to allow those who are arriving with humanitarian visa to have more chances. One of the limitations remains the Dublin regulation. The model may become complicated in situations of massive requests, and it needs to find solutions for those whose cases are rejected. He made an appeal to participants to approach their respective governments in order to create similar humanitarian

desks and to make European mobility for refugees effective.

5. Preventing deaths at the borders

The topic was presented by Fr. **Mussie Zerai** from "Habeshia Agency for Development Cooperation" who gave a picture of people, mainly Eritreans dying while seeking to escape the dictatorship in Eritrea which imposes compulsory military service to every citizen and punishment for those trying to leave the country. In order to escape the service, young people trying to leave the country resort to smugglers or traffickers who ask them to pay up to 6000 or 7000 Euros. Those who manage to escape are sometimes caught by militia groups in Libya or Sudan and used as slaves, for sex abuse or organ trafficking. Italy and Malta have tried to pushback migrants, and this generated a change of routes towards Israel; as a consequence, trafficking, kidnapping and torture were observed in the Sinai.



He questioned the Khartoum process of the African Union and the European Union, as some bilateral agreements are concluded with governments which are

responsible for the emigration of their population. In the past, bilateral agreements with Libya led to people being left to die in the desert. Instead of building new camps in North Africa, he proposed to improve those already existing. In Libya where migrants are kidnapped, camps would be no solution; they would be an easy target for traffickers to find more victims. He insisted on the protection of minors against sexual abuses from adults. Legal access to Europe is needed with improved measures for humanitarian visas, family reunification etc. Addressing root causes of migration needs to also develop scholarship opportunities for



young refugees and migrants who are stuck in countries like Ethiopia, Sudan etc., some of them having been in refugee camps or detentions centres for several years. As migration remains a controversial topic, we should give voices to the voiceless, and be ready to face criticism. He concluded by stressing the need to help those refugees in Africa or the Middle East, who constitute the vast majority because those who manage to arrive to Europe remain a very small number.

6. Facing the refugee and migration situation in the Mediterranean Sea

6.1. The case of Greece

The situation in Greece was presented by **Ahmed Moawia**, President of the Greek Forum of Migrants. Many migrants and refugees arrive through the Greek-Turkish land borders at the river Evros and by sea to islands. There is a tight control of borders with the help of Frontex, and the majority of those arriving are Syrians, Afghans, Somalis and Eritreans. They use the services of smugglers' networks and

pay between 1500 to 2500 EUR to cross from Turkey to Greece. The dangerous journeys organized by these criminal networks have caused numerous shipwrecks and other tragic incidents. "Push-backs" occur at both, the Greek-Turkish land and sea borders. Greece is mainly regarded as a transit country: due to the lack of reception facilities, accommodation, difficulties to lodge and process an asylum application, many of those in need of international

protection want to move to other EU countries. He gave an example of recent demonstrations of about 4000 Syrians and Palestinians in Athens asking the government to let them go. In Greece a residence permit is normally linked to a job, thus many become irregular when the job ends. There are 11 detention centres across the country, established to send migrants back or to make them leave by themselves; the main intention is to discourage immigration. The new government has declared their intention to close the detention centres but there

are different opinions discussed, including those who suggest using them as reception centres. The growing neo-Nazism and racism creates a lot of fear among immigrants. He made an appeal to Europe to help refugees and asylum seekers in Greece who are facing a humanitarian crisis. In order to address these challenges, there is a need to put in place legal ways to access Europe for people in need of international protection and for more European solidarity which goes beyond the current legal taboos of the Dublin mechanisms or Schengen regulations.

6.2. The case of Spain: Ceuta and Melilla

Manfred Benzing from the Evangelical Church in Spain first gave figures on migration in Spain. With a GDP of 22300 €, Spain has a population of 46.507.760 inhabitants, 10,7% have a foreign origin: 38% from Europe, 35% from Latin America, 15% from North Africa, 5% from Sub-Saharan Africa and 3% from Asia. The routes inside Africa are cumbersome and many people spend several years on their way before being confronted with the human tragedy at sea. In 2001 18.517 boat people arrived in Spain, and the number dropped to 2.601 in 2014, due to strict controls including also Frontex - Eurosur³ operations. The majority of persons enter at Andalusia



and Melilla and Ceuta exclaves. The exclaves are equipped with double raised fences from three to six metres high. There are surveillance cameras, sound, movement and heat sensors, tear gas sprinklers and other high tech detection equipment. Those who manage to enter do not have any information on the procedure, no translator, legal support etc. Moreover, Spain punishes irregular migrants with a fine or even imprisonment. With bilateral agreements, those who are denied asylum are detained before being sent back to Morocco or their country of origin. In 2013, only 22% of all asylum applicants received protection status. There are no public facilities to accommodate asylum applicants. Expulsions were 13.278 in 2009 and 10.130 in 2012. After escaping Morocco, where they are often used as slaves or in prostitution, many migrants want to get a job and earn money, but the

unemployment rate is nowadays very high in Spain (57% for those under 25). Due to the lack of perspectives, many migrants try to go elsewhere,

e.g. the UK or the Nordic countries. At the ecumenical centre in Malaga the Church is offering help for the most vulnerable (women and children) and serving as a bridge between them and local population. The church has used the slogan "Am I my brother's keeper?" This means: if somebody knocks at your door in need of help, please help! He ended asking to address the root causes of migration, mainly wars and poverty.

³ Eurosur is an information-exchange system designed to improve management of the EU external borders. Eurosur enables near real-time sharing of border-related data between members of the network, consisting of Schengen countries and Frontex.

7. Towards Safe Passage: developing the project

Patterns and methods of cooperation in pilot phase

Participants in the conference agreed that a mapping was useful of what is in place in different countries to avoid duplication. As migration is a controversial subject, it requires in-depth discussions within local churches to get sincere and sustainable support from their constituency in order to be efficient and convincing in their responses.

The project should be closely linked with activities of CCME Southern European members (France, Greece, Italy and Spain) and members that have shown an interest.

Plans for mid to long-term project

A brainstorming was organised to give participants an opportunity to express their thoughts about short and long-term perspectives to tackle the complex topic.



Regarding short-term, following ideas were suggested:

- Create a more unified EU migration policy;
- Stop human rights abuse;
- Improve living conditions in sending countries;
- Modification of Dublin regulation;
- Put in place humanitarian admission and resettlement policies;
- Improve welcome policies;
- Put in place a reflection group to think about new migration policies;
- Focus on border monitoring;
- Use of temporary protection and family reunification;
- Coordination of local and regional initiatives;
- Use of churches' networks to relocate migrants;
- Improving communication on dangers of irregular migration.

Long-terms plans:

- Use of the "Ebola Model" (developed for health services) to address root causes of forced migration;
- Political stabilisation of countries of origin without violating state sovereignty (good governance);
- Cooperation and development to create good living conditions in the emigration countries;
- Fight against human and organ trafficking;
- Development of legal access to Europe;
- Change in European policy on migration;
- Responsibility sharing;
- Give opportunities and choices to migrants;
- Move from thinking to acting;
- Increase cooperation among churches;
- Stop Dublin regulation and give space to citizenship;
- More social justice;
- Change of mentality of EU citizens;
- Improving positive mobility in Europe;
- Reinforce the presence in international waters and apply maritime law;
- Initiate a reflection with human rights organisations and legal experts on additional protocol to the UN 1951

Refugee Convention regarding climate change.

The project will encourage and plan visits to Southern European churches. Links with ongoing initiatives and other actors in this field will be enhanced to create synergies, foster cooperation and the transfer of experiences.

8. Conclusion

After thorough exchange and discussions, participants agreed that currently there are too limited legal options for persons in need of international protection to enter the EU. Those who are facing threats to their safety therefore have no option than to resort to smuggles, pay huge amounts of money and undertake perilous journey, hoping to find protection in Europe. Far too many lose their lives on the way, mainly in the Mediterranean Sea, when they are forced to embark on makeshift boats. It was noted that no one would leave his/her land and undertake such perilous journeys if s/he has realistic alternatives. Participants underlined the need for offering protection to those in need and finding legal and safe ways for accessing Europe. For that, different issues need to be addressed:

- ✚ Need to hear European citizens and address their fears; explain that those seeking protection are not their enemies but people fleeing conflicts, persecution, exploitation and abuse.
- ✚ Make known the gravity of the humanitarian crisis and lobby governments and EU institutions to revitalise existing legislation to include legal ways for refugees and asylum seekers to safely and legally access Europe. This would help reducing deaths at EU borders, smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and it would increase security.
- ✚ Exploring new ideas to bring new solutions to the challenges posed by

the phenomenon to European countries, and elaborate pragmatic ways of tackling them.

- ✚ Recognising that there is no single measure that would respond to the complexity of the migration flows, participants agreed to the need for a toolbox that would include humanitarian visas, resettlement, visa waiver for certain categories, family reunification, humanitarian admission, etc.
- ✚ Need for more European mobility and solidarity to allow those refugees who are already on European territory to move to another EU country where they have more chances to integrate, and to alleviate the burden on countries at the EU external borders. Avoid sending migrants to a particular country against their will.
- ✚ Need for a thorough mapping of different categories of persons entering Europe to better manage the complexity and to respond with appropriate solutions. Need to talk with refugees and to hear their stories, and not just to talk about them.
- ✚ Need to address the root causes of forced migration by promoting the creation of jobs and opportunities, offering scholarships in countries of origin and transit, enlarging charities in the receiving countries and investing in the prevention of war and conflicts.

