INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

**“THE REFUGEE CRISIS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION.**

**MAPPING THE RIGHT EU POLICIES"**

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2015, SOFIA BULGARIA

*Sofia Hotel Balkan/ former Sheraton Hotel*

*Working languages: Bulgarian and English /simultaneous translation/*

**Day 1: 16 November 2015**

**10:30 - 11:00 Registration and coffee**

**11:00 - 12:30 PANEL 1. INSTITUTIONAL READINESS OF THE EU IN LIGHT OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS. IS THE UNION WELL-EQUIPED TO DEAL WITH COMPLEX CHALLENGES?**

Among the topics for discussion are:

* Is the EU equipped to tackle the complexity of risks and threats at its doorsteps and what are the lessons learned from the responses to the refugee crisis so far?
* What is EU’s latest Agenda on Migration and its status of implementation?
* How suitable are migration quotas and redistribution mechanisms as instruments for dealing with the influx internally?

*Opening words:*

**Marko Arndt**, Head of “Konrad Adenauer Foundation” Sofia

**Vít Novotny,** Senior research officer at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

**Lyubomir Kyuchukov,** Director of the Economics and International Relations Institute

**Daniel Smilov**, Programmes Director at the Centre for Liberal Strategies

*Moderator*: **Vessela Tcherneva**, Programmes and Sofia office director at ECFR

**12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH**

**13:30 - 15:00 PANEL 2. IN SEARCH OF A COMMON RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS: NATIONAL VS. COMMUNITY APPROACH.**

Among the topics for discussion are:

* Public perceptions of migration.
* Mapping the refugee crisis and its political, economic and cultural dimensions.
* The refugee crisis in numbers – costs, funds and burden-sharing in the MS.
* Blue Card – curse or a blessing for EU’s labor market

**Nikola Kovacevic**, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights

**Radu Musetescu**, Associate Professor and Head of Department International Business and Economics, Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest

**Shaun Riordan**, Senior Visiting Fellow, Clingendael

*Moderator*: **Jordan Bozhilov**, Founding Chairman of Sofia Forum for Security

**15:00** **WRAPING UP DAY 1**

**Day 2: 17 November 2015**

**09:00 - 09:30 Registration and coffee**

**09:30 - 11:00 PANEL 3. THE REFUGEE CRISIS – A CRISIS OR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EUROPE’S INTEGRATION POLICY**

Among the topics for discussion are:

* Migration as a positive contribution to European economic growth.
* Existing integrational policies at national and EU levels and their effectiveness.

**Boris Stanimirov**, Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Policy Committee, National Assembly

**Mariyana Stoyanova**, Bulgarian Red Cross

**John M. Nomikos,** Director of the Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS)

*Moderator*: **Krassimira Temelkova**, Standart News

*11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break*

**11:30 - 13:00 PANEL 4. THE PUBLIC DEBATES AND THE MORAL IMPERATIVE OF THE CRISIS: OPPORTUNITY TO REINSTATE TRADITIONAL EUROPEAN VALUES ​​**

Among the topics for discussion are:

* Discussing values: receiving societies meet immigrants.
* Legal and moral obligations of receiving countries.
* Communications strategies in times of crisis – what role to public diplomacy?

**Marta Szpala,** Senior Fellow, Central European Department, Centre for Eastern Studies, Poland

**Betina Zhoteva**, Spokesperson at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Ognyan Minchev**, Executive Director at Institute for Regional and International Studies

*Moderator*: **Irina Nedeva**, Bulgarian National Radio

**13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH**

**14:00 WRAPING UP DAY 2 AND FAREWELL**