

# VIENNA MIGRATION CONFERENCE 2022

**11-12 October 2022**

**Palais Niederösterreich, Herrengasse 13, 1010 Vienna, Austria**

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## Draft programme\*

The Vienna Migration Conference 2022 takes as its starting point the return of inter-state war to the borders of the European Union, facilitating two days of frank exchange on the old and new forces shaping international migration – and how governments, international organisations and civil society should respond. High-level speakers and key decision makers will set out the impact of ongoing conflicts and regional instability, instrumentalisation of migration, climate change, and the impact of post-COVID-19 pandemic labour shortages on the cross-border movement of people. Beneath the baroque interiors of the Palais Niederösterreich, a select group of 200 top officials, major stakeholders and key opinion leaders will debate the ramifications of these developments for international cooperation on migration and asylum.

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## Tuesday, 11 October 2022 – Day 1

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### 09.30 – 10.05 **Opening session**

VMC2022 takes place during a turbulent year for Europe and the world alike, including new and persisting conflicts, large-scale displacement, natural hazards, rising living costs, labour shortages and an ongoing pandemic. To open the conference, Austrian Federal Minister of the Interior Gerhard Karner will join ICMPD Director General Michael Spindelegger to set out his concerns and priorities for addressing these significant challenges.

- Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD
- Gerhard Karner, Federal Minister of the Interior, Austria

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### 10.05 – 10.15 **A short introduction to VMC2022**

- Malin Frankenhaeuser, Head of Policy and VMC Lead, ICMPD

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### 10.15 – 10.45 **In the spotlight** Climate change and migration: Do we find ourselves at a crossroads?

Over the last decade, the world has been increasingly concerned by the role of climate change in altering mobility patterns. No region is immune to the adverse impact of the changes taking place, as illustrated by the extreme temperatures and related displacements seen during summer 2022. However, current migration and asylum governance and infrastructure are not yet prepared for the full spectrum of consequences. As our knowledge is advancing, so too must our framing of the impact and required interventions. Award-winning science writer Gaia Vince will raise the temperature of the debate at VMC2022 as she discusses the interconnections between two 'hot' topics: climate change and migration.

- Gaia Vince, Environmental Journalist, Author and Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University College London
- Lukas Gehrke, Deputy Director General and Director for Policy, Research and Strategy, ICMPD

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### 10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

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### 11.15 – 13.00 **High-level panel** Managing migration in turbulent times: Key perspectives from Europe

Europe is experiencing some of its most challenging times in recent history: from instrumentalisation at EU external borders to the ramifications of Russian military aggression against Ukraine and current migration, flight and displacement dynamics. In this panel, senior European politicians discuss where we currently stand and outline their visions for delivering a timely response from Europe.

- Selmo Cikotić, Minister of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ana Revenco, Minister of Internal Affairs, Moldova
- Arnoldas Abramavičius, Vice-Minister of the Interior, Lithuania
- Mahmut Özdemir, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Germany
- Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD

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### 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

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**13.30 – 14.10** **Side event** **Beyond the short term: How to address vulnerability to trafficking in persons in the context of lasting crises?**

Under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), this side event discusses vulnerabilities fuelling trafficking in persons for those who have fled conflict areas, often in haste and in situations of destitution or high precarity. Effective operational responses to such crises require strategies that respond to both the immediate and long-term protection needs of displaced and refugee populations. Panellists will debate current practices and strategies, and the medium- to long-term challenges they foresee.

- Ana Revenco, Minister of Internal Affairs, Moldova
- Ilias Chatzis, Head, Anti-Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Jeanne Celestine, Survivor Leader and Award-Winning Author
- Melita Gruevska-Graham, Head of Anti-Trafficking Programme, ICMPD

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**14.30 – 15.00** **In the spotlight** **Migration and displacement dynamics: What is driving change in Africa?**


Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brutally underscored the reality of global interconnectedness, driving up the price of food, energy and the cost of living more generally in parts of the world far removed from the battlespace, including Africa. These elevated costs have further exacerbated the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic across the African continent. In this one-on-one conversation, African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development H.E. Cessouma Minata Samaté will share the factors and trends driving change across the continent, and how they may impact migration and displacement dynamics within and from Africa. She will also share her views on how AU-EU cooperation can be further strengthened to address new challenges.

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

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**15.00 – 16.15** **Panel discussion** **Same but different: Global perspectives on migration challenges**

We live in times beset by global challenges, including natural disasters linked to climate change, rising living costs, the eruption of new conflicts (and the persistence of longstanding ones), an economic slowdown and acute labour shortages. This panel explores how responsive migration policies can help to mitigate some of the consequences of these challenges for domestic and global publics, including those related to asylum, resettlement and labour migration. Speakers will share the perspectives and recent initiatives of Australia, the EU and the United States – representing some of the most sought-after global migration destinations. How are these countries responding to current events? What innovations are being implemented, and what more can be done to move the needle forward on developing and fine-tuning responsive policy?

- Marta Youth, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, U.S. Department of State, United States
  - Andrew Rose, Minister Counsellor, Home Affairs, Australian Permanent Mission to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva
  - Luigi Soreca, Ambassador-at-Large, Special Envoy for External Aspects of Migration, European External Action Service
  - Pierre Vimont, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe
  - Ralph Genetzke, Director, Brussels Mission, ICMPD
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16.15 – 16.45 Coffee break

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**16.45 – 17.30** **In the spotlight** **Migration as a geopolitical weapon? How powerful a force in international relations?**

In 2010, Kelly M. Greenhill published *Weapons of Mass Migration: Forced Displacement, Coercion and Foreign Policy*, citing “the intentional creation, manipulation and exploitation of migration and refugee crises” by rogue states and other actors seeking to bend stronger countries to their will. Greenhill documented dozens of such cases that have occurred since the 1951 UN Refugee Convention came into force, including early threats in 2002 and 2004 by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko to “flood the European Union with asylum seekers” if it failed to meet his demands. With events at EU external borders in 2021 clearly validating the prescience of her work, the Harvard and Tufts University academic will address VMC2022 on a form of political blackmail that is becoming more common. Some questions she will delve into include why liberal democracies are not always necessarily the passive victim; how perpetrators can miscalculate; and whether these hybrid attacks can be deterred by policy makers.

- Kelly M. Greenhill, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Tufts University
- Hugo Brady, Senior Strategic Advisor, Directorate for Policy, Research and Strategy, ICMPD

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**17.30 – 20.00** **Reception** upon invitation of the Mayor and Governor of Vienna, Dr Michael Ludwig

- Welcome remarks by Dr Kurt Stürzenbecher, Member of the City Council and Provincial Parliament of Vienna, on behalf of the Mayor and Governor of Vienna, Dr Michael Ludwig.
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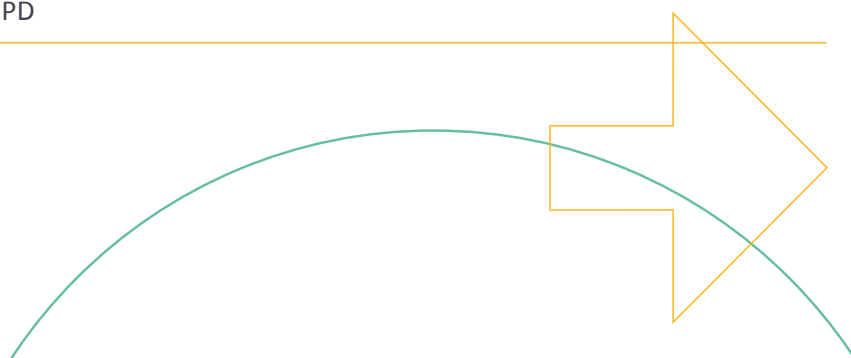
**Wednesday, 12 October 2022 – Day 2**

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**09.00 – 09.30** **In the spotlight** **Ukraine, Southeastern Europe and the future of European integration**

Veteran broadcaster and journalist Misha Glenny is one of Europe’s foremost authorities on Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the Western Balkans, where he covered the breakup of the former Yugoslavia and its aftermath for The Guardian and the BBC. Glenny is also one of the first authors to chronicle the rise of organised crime in the era of the internet and globalisation, most notably in the 2008 book *McMafia: A journey through the global criminal underworld*. In 2022, he became Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, host to some of Eastern Europe’s most prominent liberal and dissenting thinkers. To open Day 2 of VMC2022, Glenny returns directly from Ukraine to discuss what victory or defeat there will mean for liberal democracy and openness in Europe, and what the future holds for the regions he has spent a lifetime observing.

- Misha Glenny, Rector, Institute for Human Sciences
  - Lukas Gehrke, Deputy Director General and Director for Policy, Research and Strategy, ICMPD
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**09.30 – 11.00** **Panel discussion** **Regional perspectives and priorities: Finding the right political and policy formula for successful partnerships**

As the EU and its partners face new and persistent migration challenges, including a rise in forced displacement and irregular migration, effective cooperation along migration routes is playing a critical role. This panel discusses where interests and strategies converge and diverge, with a view to identifying priorities for building stronger migration partnerships. Amid a shifting geopolitical landscape, climate change, a stuttering global economy and a food crisis, how should we work together to better manage migration? In which ways do current dynamics constrain or support opportunities for practical cooperation?

- Savaş Ünlü, President, Presidency of Migration Management, Ministry of Interior, Türkiye
- Usman Jadoon, Director General, United Nations Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan
- Neveen El-Husseiny, Deputy Assistant Minister for Migration, Refugees and Combatting Human Trafficking, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt
- Chiara Adamo, Acting Director, Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission
- Jennifer Tangney, Senior Project Manager, ICMPD

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11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

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**11.30 – 12.50** **Panel discussion** **European migration and asylum policy reform: Are we breaking gridlocks?**

The road to a comprehensive EU approach on migration, as envisioned in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, has seen many challenges. Multiple crises – such as the instrumentalisation of migrants for geopolitical gains at EU external borders and the reception of people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine – have affected EU collective identity and shaped the prospects for progress and mutual responses on migration. The final VMC2022 panel brings together critical actors in this process to discuss the necessary steps for securing EU asylum reform during this mandate. Was the moment of unity fleeting, or is a true breakthrough imminent?

- Beate Gminder, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
- Jean Mafart, Director, Directorate of European and International Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, France
- Elena Yoncheva, Member, European Parliament
- Suzanne Lynch, Chief Brussels Correspondent, Politico Europe
- Sarah Schlaeger, Senior Lead, Policy and Liaison, ICMPD

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**12.50 – 13.00** **Closing remarks**

- Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD
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\* The list of speakers is tentative. 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.