

HUMAN RIGHTS TALK: 'From Pushback to Rollback? – The New EU Asylum and Migration Policy and its Effects'

Date and Time: Thursday, 28 November 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Vienna

After almost ten years of debate, the EU adopted its new Pact on Migration and Asylum in spring 2024. The bundle of regulations and directives provides for procedures at the EU's external borders for the first time: migrants without a chance of asylum can be prevented from travelling further and returned directly from border camps. Deportations to safe third countries are also possible. In addition, a new solidarity mechanism is in place that shares responsibility for receiving asylum seekers between EU external states and the other EU member states. However, member states can 'buy out' of this obligation by paying into an EU refugee fund or providing operational or technical support.

While some criticise the pact for enabling Europe to seal itself off and for not sufficiently guaranteeing the protection of human rights, others believe it does not go far enough to protect Europe from uncontrolled immigration and preserve achievements such as freedom of movement. What about the practical implementation of the pact? And are the measures in line with the right to asylum as recognised by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights? At the end of the politically heated super election and election year 2024, this Human Rights Talk seeks to take a differentiated look at the EU's asylum and migration pact and its effects.

Welcome Notes

Angelika WATZL, Secretary General, Austrian League of Human Rights

Keynote

Anuscheh FARAHAHAT, Professor of Public Law, University of Vienna

Panel Discussion

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Lukas GAHLEITNER-GERTZ, Spokesperson and Expert on Asylum Law, Asylum Coordination Austria

Lukas MANDL, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

Adel-Naim REYHANI, Senior Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights

Kathrin STAINER-HÄMMERLE, Professor of Political Science, University of Applied Sciences Carinthia

Audience Discussion

Chair

Anna-Maria WALLNER, Head of Debates & Podcast Producer, Die Presse

Followed by: Reception



The Human Rights Talks see themselves as a platform for social discourse on current topics with human rights relevance. The events present top-class speakers to the interested public and analyse human rights challenges and socio-political trends in a differentiated manner and with professional expertise, but at the same time in an accessible way and with practical relevance. An important component of the format is the interactive audience discussion in addition to contentual contributions.

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