

ECRE/ICVA/UNHCR  
Online consultation<sup>1</sup>  
**The EU's New Pact for Migration and Asylum**

### 1. 9h30 – 09h45: Welcome address

- **Sophie Magennis**, Head of the Policy and Legal Unit, UNHCR Representation for EU Affairs
- **Catherine Woollard**, Director, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)

### 2. 09h45 – 11h15: Session I: Working together: Responses to the proposed Pact

**Chair: Jerome Elie, Head of Forced Migration, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)**

The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum was proposed to EU Member States by the Commission in September 2020. The Pact contains a set of legislative proposals to reform the EU Common European Asylum System (CEAS), in part relating to the 2016 proposals, as well as political and operational proposals. This session will examine the responses to the Pact, including proposed legislation, of UNHCR and civil society by focusing on two main questions:

- Question 1: How can the proposed Pact improve protection and access to solutions for refugees in Europe?
- Question 2: What are UNHCR and civil society's strategies in response to the Pact? What are the opportunities for joint or coordinated action?

#### **Panellists:**

- **Sophie Magennis**, Head of the Policy and Legal Unit, UNHCR Representation for EU Affairs
- **Adam Elsod**, Voicify Project Manager, The Young Republic
- **Anneliese Baldaccini**, Executive Officer Asylum and Migration, Amnesty International EU Office

**Moderated discussion: Questions, comments, views from civil society participants. Moderated by ICVA.**

### 3. 11h15 – 11h25: Break

### 4. 11h25 – 13h00: Session II: The Pact – The state of play for EU Institutions

**Chair: Catherine Woollard, Director, ECRE**

The Pact has been heavily debated and the two co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, have worked on it extensively. What is the current state of play? What is the emerging positioning on the Pact? What are the next steps for each of the EU's Institutions?

In this session, lead policymakers from the Institutions will provide an update followed by an interactive discussion with civil society participants. Following their interventions, the moderator will summarise the outcomes from Session 1 and seek the panellists' comments on them.

#### **Panellists:**

- European Commission, **Henrik Nielsen**, Head of the Asylum Unit, DG Home
- European Parliament, **MEP Juan Fernando López Aguilar**, Chair of the LIBE Committee
- The Council Presidency, **Nataša Potočnik**, Director General, Directorate for Migration, Ministry of the Interior, Slovenia

### 5. Moderated discussion

Questions, comments, views from civil society participants.

### 6. Closing remarks

**Nicolas Brass, Head of External Engagement, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe**

---

<sup>1</sup> This event is part of the 2021 UNHCR Regional Consultations with NGOs in Europe.

\*\*\*

### **Background**

The policy roundtable is the latest in a series of roundtables on asylum in Europe which is part of the Strategic Partnership between the UNHCR Representation for EU Affairs and ECRE. It also forms part of the 2021 UNHCR Regional Consultations with NGOs in Europe and is therefore co-organised by ECRE, ICVA and UNHCR.

### **Participants and format**

The meeting will take place over Webex.

Participants will consist of civil society working on asylum in Europe, including members of ECRE and ICVA, UNHCR staff and EU policymakers from the European Commission, European Parliament, and EU Member States.

### **Outcome**

A short report on the meeting will be circulated to participants afterwards.