

EU-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS: MIGRATION AND RETURNS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Round Table Discussion

29th June 2017, Brussels

Programme

9.00 – 9.30 Registration

9.30-9.45 **Opening Remarks**
Malin Björk MEP

9.45- 11.00 EU-Afghanistan Relations and their changing dynamics

The European Union has had a long-term commitment to Afghanistan in a wide range of areas including governance, development, human rights, trade, health and education and is its fourth largest donor. Although migration has been addressed previously, the dynamic of EU-Afghan relations began to change in 2016 with large numbers of new arrivals in Europe, including from Afghanistan. This led to an increased focus on migration by the EU and the idea of using increased return as a tool for migration control, accompanied by a renewed interest in returns to Afghanistan. This session will look at what effect this is having on EU-Afghanistan relations, EU priorities in Afghanistan, Member States' policies.

Experts from the European Commission, EEAS, ECRE, Afghanistan Analysts Network have been invited to give short interventions before discussions.

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00 A focus on returns to Afghanistan

This second session will look at returns to Afghanistan, the impact on asylum seekers and refugees in Europe, the situation for returnees, questions of safety and sustainability of returns, and any impact on the situation in Afghanistan in-country.

Experts from IOM, Afghanistan Migrants Advice and Support Organisation, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Germany and Sweden have been invited to give short interventions before discussions.

13.00 – 14.00 Networking and informal discussions over a light lunch.

VENUE

Quaker Council for European Affairs,
Square Ambiorix 50,
1000 Brussels.

REGISTRATION

Please register by email before 22nd June. Unfortunately we cannot cover travel expenses to this event.

CONTACT

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