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EIN & Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies joint 'Food For Thought' Seminar on 'European migration strategy'

Chair:

- **Paulo RANGEL** MEP, Vice-Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament responsible for the European Ideas Network and Future of Europe

Speakers:

- **Amb. Pierre VIMONT**, Former Executive Secretary-General of the European External Action Service, Personal Envoy of the President of the European Council for the Valletta Conference
- **Cristian Dan PREDA** MEP, EPP Group Member in the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament
- **Vít NOVOTNÝ**, Senior Research Officer, Expert on immigration topics, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- **Roberta METSOLA** MEP (EPP Group), Vice-Coordinator of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the EP, Rapporteur for medium- and long-term response to migration

Moderator:

- **Tomi HUHTANEN**, Executive director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

- > The migration crisis is mainly a foreign policy crisis, however until now it has essentially been dealt with by Justice and Home Affairs Council.
- > This crisis represents an opportunity for the EU to fix its external political priorities and to work on the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- > This is the hottest topic on the political agenda as it creates a feeling of insecurity for the population and is related to our values of humanitarian solidarity.
- > With the refugee crisis, Schengen is clearly at stake and with it, the European Union foundations.
- > The asymmetrical impact of the crisis is a strong obstacle to a coherent response. Achieving solidarity is harder when the interests of the 28 Member States are so diverse. But this year all Member States have discovered that they can all be 'peripheric' and subjected to the problem.
- > The EU has tried to take a certain number of decisions (relocation, hotspots and EU-Turkey Agreement) but the implementation of these decisions is missing. We have a clear lack of cooperation. Instead, Member States have resorted to individual action (re-imposing control of their own borders and even building fences).
- > The EU needs to go much further and has to be comprehensive by including security dialogue and coordination in the fight against terrorism. It is about working very closely with third countries to dismantle the smuggler industry (migrants, drugs, human trafficking). It is about adopting a comprehensive action and about a long-term cooperation in trying to be more successful with our development policy.
- > The technical support that NATO has decided to provide is more than welcome.
- > Turkey is playing according to its interests and the EU has to understand this. The EU leverage could be the upcoming Visa liberalisation. The EU feels so much under pressure that we negotiate in a rather weak position.
- > The situation is not going to end soon. If the EU does not solve the problem, this will directly lead to radicalisation.
- > Even if a solution is found in Syria, in Yemen and in Somalia, there will still be people who would want to come to the EU. The EU needs to be back on the lead and show that it has regained control of its borders.

Full Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies report clicking here:

<http://www.martenscentre.eu/events/european-migration-strategy-reframing-cooperation-third-countries-0>

The 'EIN-A4' represents a summary of the joint 'Food for Thought' initiatives. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the EPP Group political line.

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