



HEINRICH
BÖLL
FOUNDATION

European Conference

Fortress Europe?

Effects and Consequences of Labour Migration

Date: February 16 - 17, 2006

Venue: Hamburg, Handwerkskammer Hamburg
(Holstentorwall 12, 20355 Hamburg)

European countries have accumulated extensive experience with labour immigration. Yet, there is substantial controversy about the lessons to be learned from these experiences for the formulation of future labour migration policies. In the face of considerable public anxiety about the wage and employment effects of migration, European countries have been extremely cautious about introducing labour migration schemes.

In a recent Green Paper, the European Commission has invited EU institutions, Member States and civil society to engage in an in-depth discussion on the formulation of a common EU approach to labour migration.¹ The Heinrich Böll Foundation would like to make a contribution to this ongoing Europe wide discussion process by organizing an international conference on labour migration in February 2006 with participation from scholars, policy experts and NGOs across Europe. The conference aims to explore the potential of labour migration for Europe in view of "best practices" and realistic options in migration policy and governance.

The conference will be organized around three thematic blocs that draw on the experiences that some European countries have recently made with opening up towards labour migration. In the first bloc, we will discuss the legalisation campaigns carried out in Italy and Spain, which particularly benefited migrant workers in low-wage sectors such as agriculture, construction and domestic work. In the second bloc, we will use the United Kingdom's granting of free movement to citizens of the new EU Member States as a case study to discuss the option of a more general (i.e. not industry or skill specific) opening of the European labour market to migrants. Thirdly, we will discuss the long term consequences of labour migration with a view towards the social and economic challenges faced by established migrant communities in Europe. The high level of unemployment in some of these communities and the ethnically marked social tensions that exist in European societies will be the focus of debate in this section.

¹ Commission of the European Communities(2005). Green Paper "On an EU Approach to Managing Economic Migration"

Programme

Thursday, February 16th

- 14.00 h Reception
- 14.30h **Welcome**
Mekonnen Mesghena
Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin
Ursula Neumann
Umdenken Heinrich Böll Foundation, Hamburg
- 14.45h Keynote
Stephen Castles, University of Oxford, UK
- 15.30h **Panel I**
**Longterm Consequences of Labour Migration:
Social and Economic Challenges**
Chair: **Mariam Tutakhel**, Heinrich Böll Foundation
Patrick Taran, International Labour Organization,
Geneva
Jeroen Doomernik, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam
Omid Nouripour, Member of the Federal Board of the German
Green Party
Discussant: **Esra Erdem**, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst
- 17.00h Tea / Coffee break
- 17.30 h **Panel II**
**Opening Europe up to Labour Migration:
The UK and Swedish examples**
Chair: **Yongmi Schibel**, Migration Policy Group, Brussels
Jane Hardy, University of Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire, UK
Norbert Cyrus, Universität Oldenburg, Oldenburg
Julianna Traser, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary
Discussant: **Krystyna Iglicka**, Leon Kozminski Academy of
Entrepreneurship and Management, Warsaw
- 19.00 h Dinner

Friday, February 17th

09.00 h

**Panel III
Legalisation Campaigns in Europe**

Chair: **Antje Möller**, MHB, GAL, Speaker for BAG Migration and Refugees, Hamburg

Emilio Reyneri, University of Milan, Milan

Vassilis Tsianos, Society for Legalization, Frankfurt and Hamburg

Micaela Sampedro, ACCEM Spain

Discussant: **Karen Schönwälder**, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, Berlin

10.30 h

Coffee break

11.00 h

Final Discussion: Fortress Europe?

Chair: **Mekonnen Mesghena**, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

Egbert Holthuis, European Commission Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs, Brussels

Antje Möller, MHB, GAL, Speaker for BAG Migration and Refugees, Hamburg

Liz Fekete, Institute of Race Relations, London

René Plaetevoet, december 18, Brussels

13.00 h

Lunch & Closure