

Questions to Prof. Michael Reiterer

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I have two questions about the proposal “The new pact on migration and asylum,” you mention in your lecture.

(1) You pointed out in the outline paper that one of the fundamental issues raised by the Pact is whether there should be an integrated approach to migration and asylum. Reading the proposal of the Pact, my first impression is that its main purpose is establishing an integrated approach to return and, I dare say, non-admission, rather than migration and asylum. The Pact seems to put heavier burden on the countries with external borders of the Schengen area by strengthening the border control thorough proposed “Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management,” “Screening Regulation,” “Procedures Regulation” and other EU legislation. How do you see these recent developments in the asylum and migration policies of the Union?

(2) My second question is about the solidarity in the context of the relocation of people entering the EU in mass influx. EU attempted the relocation in 2015 crisis only unsatisfactorily, I think, because of the lack of cooperation of eastern members. Proposed “Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management” provides a ‘Solidarity Mechanism,’ presumably drawing a lesson from the 2015 experience, which, under the initiative of the Commission, seems to ensure participation of all members to relocation and the support in the return process. How do you see the effectiveness of the mechanism if it should actually be under operation?