



Effective Alternatives to the Detention of Migrants

**International Conference organised jointly by the Council of Europe,
the European Commission and the European Migration Network**

4 April 2019

Agora building, room G3

Council of Europe

Strasbourg

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 4 April 2019

08:00 **Registration opens – welcoming coffee**

09:00 **Opening remarks**

The opening session and keynote speeches will set the scene and provide participants with insights into the current context in the field.

Conference Moderator: Ms Lilja Gretarsdottir, Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

- **Mr Tomas Boček**, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe

09:15 **Keynote speeches: *The detention of migrants and the use of alternatives - the current context***

- **Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos**, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
- **Mr Simon Mordue**, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

09:45 **Panel I: Essential elements of effective alternatives to the detention of migrants**

The session will outline essential elements of effective alternatives and explore the processes by which alternatives have worked successfully in different contexts. It will address the ways in which authorities may ensure effectiveness in their specific circumstances and how critical challenges have been tackled. Particular attention will be paid to vulnerable individuals and groups, including children and their families.

Moderator: Ms Ioana Pelin-Raducu, Policy Officer, Asylum Unit, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

- **Mr Frank Schürmann**, Professor of International Human Rights Law, former Government Agent of Switzerland to the European Court of Human Rights, Rapporteur of CDDH-MIG
- **Ms Sophie Magennis**, Head of Unit, Policy and Legal Support, UNHCR Bureau for Europe

- **Mr Niclas Axelsson**, Specialist on Detention Issues, Swedish Migration Board, Sweden
- **Ms Jem Stevens**, Europe Regional Coordinator, International Detention Coalition

10:30 **Coffee break**

11:00 **Panel I continued**

12:00 **Lunch**

13:00 **Video screening**

13:10 **Panel II: Testing and evaluating alternatives in practice**

The session will highlight ways in which States can test different alternatives to detention in practice. The use of pilot programmes has been shown to offer efficient learning opportunities on a small scale before launching bigger platforms of alternative approaches. Concrete examples will be explored to identify key factors for the effective implementation of alternatives and how to evaluate outcomes.

Moderator: Mr Morten Ruud, Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and Chair of CDDH-MIG, Special Adviser at the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security

- **Ms Alison Wray**, Deputy Director, Strategy and Planning Directorate, Immigration Enforcement, UK Home Office, the United Kingdom
- **Mr Jan Braat**, Senior Policy Advisor, Migration and Integration, City of Utrecht, the Netherlands
- **Mr Thomas Dunning**, Principal Social Worker, TUSLA Child and Family Agency, Ireland
- **Ms Radostina Pavlova**, Legal Expert and Advocacy Officer, Center for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria, Bulgaria

15:00 **Coffee break**

15:30 **Panel III: Good practices and lessons for the future**

Collaboration between diverse stakeholders and sharing of good practices are key aspects in the implementation of alternatives to the detention of migrants. The session will bring together actors from authorities, international institutions and civil society to discuss good examples of initiative and cooperation in achieving results.

Joint avenues for future work will be explored, taking into account practical challenges and lessons learnt.

Moderator: Mr Mikhail Lobov, Head of Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

- **Mr Simon Chassard**, Legal Advisor of the General Director for Foreign Nationals in France, General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France, Ministry of the Interior
- **Ms Kadri Soova**, Deputy Director, PICUM
- **Mr Adriano Silvestri**, Head of Sector, Asylum, Migration and Borders, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- **Mr Laurent Chapuis**, Regional Advisor on Migration for the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- **Ms Eva Pastrana**, Head of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Unit, Council of Europe

17:10

Closing remarks

- **Mr Magnus Ovilus**, Chair of the European Migration Network, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
- **Mr Stephen Ryan**, Deputy Head of Unit, Asylum Unit, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
- **Ambassador Satu Mattila-Budich**, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Ministers' Deputies

17:30

Departure