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UNHCR
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IOM-UNHCR Project "Managing Asylum Seeking, Refugee and Human Rights Protection in the Baltic States" funded by the European Commission and co-funded by Finland and Sweden

Regional Conference

Asylum and Migration in a Diverse Enlarging Europe: a Baltic Perspective

Riga, 14-15 March 2002

Conference Venue
MARITIM Park Hotel
1 Slokas Street
Riga 1048
Tel: +371 7069000
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Agenda

Day One

14 March 2002

Chair: Mr Gary Troeller, UNHCR Regional Representative for the Baltic and Nordic Countries

Co-chair: Mr Erikas Slavenas, IOM Deputy Regional Representative

9:00 – 9:30 Registration and Coffee

9:30 - 10:00 Opening and Welcome remarks
Mr Gary Troeller, UNHCR Regional Representative for the Baltic and Nordic Countries
Mr Erikas Slavenas, IOM Deputy Regional Representative

Migration dynamics and the perception of migrants in Europe: the context the Baltic States have re-entered after prolonged artificial isolation a decade ago

10:00 -- 10:40 Changing migration patterns in Europe since the end of World War II: the dynamics of welcoming attitudes and restrictive measures. Implications to public perception of migrants.
Ms Wiwi Samuelsson, Information Officer, Swedish Migration Board

10:40 - 11:00 Coffee

11:00 - 12:00 Development of migration and asylum law and policy in the EU. Likely further implications of an EU enlargement
Prof. Jens Vested-Hansen, LLD, University of Aarhus, Denmark

12:00 - 13:00 **Workshop I**
The free movement of persons within the enlarged EU: are the Baltic States ready?

Facilitators: Ms Liucia Voišnis, Ministry of Interior, Lithuania
Prof. Jens Vested-Hansen, University of Aarhus
Mr Juris Gromovs, European Integration Office, Latvia

DETAILS OF EACH WORKSHOP ARE AT THE END OF THE AGENDA

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:30 Reports from Workshop I

14:30 - 15:30 Perception of migrants and social security: destabilising potential of xenophobic attitudes and other migration-related human rights violations
Mr Erik Stenstrom, International co-ordinator, Swedish Integration Board

15:30 - 15:45 Coffee

15:45 - 16:30 The role of the media in shaping the perception of asylum seekers and migrants
Ms Anki Eriksson, Senior Regional External Affairs Officer, UNHCR Stockholm

16:30 - 17:30 **Workshop II**
Asylum seekers and migrants: a burden or advantage? Developing stereotypes and xenophobic attitudes in relation to migrants and asylum seekers.

Facilitators: Mr Erik Stenstrom, Swedish Integration Board
Ms Anki Eriksson, UNHCR Stockholm
Mr Nils Muiznieks, Centre of Human Rights and Ethnic Studies, Latvia

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17:30 - 18:00 Reports from Workshop II.

18:00 - 18:10 Wrap up of day one. The Chair's conclusions

Day two

15 March 2002

Chair: *Mr Erikas Slavenas, IOM Deputy Regional Representative*

Co-chair: *Mr Lars Jönsson, Head of UNHCR Liaison Office for the Baltic Countries*

Developments in the Baltic States: public perception of migrants and implications to human rights

- 8:40 - 09:00 Coffee
- 09:00 - 09:10 Opening
- 09:10 - 10:00 Migration dynamics in the Baltic States: changing policies and patterns from internal migration within the USSR to international migration.
Mr Kalev Katus, Estonian Centre of Demography
- 10:00 Migration and asylum policies in the Baltic States since the restoration of independence: national perspectives.
- 10:00 - 10:20 Estonia
Ms Ruth Annus
Deputy Head of the Aliens Department, Ministry of Interior
- 10:20 - 10:40 Latvia
Mr Martins Bicevskis, Head of Citizenship and Migration Departments, Ministry of Interior
- 10:40 - 11:00 Lithuania
Mr Janas Vidickas, Deputy Head of the Migration Department, Ministry of Interior
- 11:00 - 11:20 Coffee
- 11:20 - 12:20 **Workshop III**
Interrelation between migration and asylum policy in the EU and the Baltic countries. "Fortress Europe" - myth or reality?

Facilitators: Mr Juris Gromovs, European Integration Office, Latvia
Mr Klen Jäärats, Citizenship and Migration Board, Estonia
Mr Lars Jönsson, UNHCR Liaison Office for the Baltic Countries
- DETAILS OF EACH WORKSHOP ARE AT THE END OF THE AGENDA
- 12:30 - 13:40 Lunch
- 13:40 - 14:20 Reports from Workshop III.
- 14:20 - 14:50 Questions and discussions
- 14:50 - 15:10 **Wrap up session. The Chair's closing remarks**