

[en](#) | [fr](#)

[Event](#) | 12.05.2021 | 14:00 - 16:00

## Europe welcomes: The role of municipalities in EU's asylum system

### Live Webinar - Register here!

Speakers from local governments, faith-organisation networks, NGO communities, migrant-led organisations and institutions will explore the welcoming nature of local communities and municipalities and discuss **how municipalities can be better integrated in EU asylum policy**.

The conference will explore alternatives which can better **highlight the crucial role of local communities in EU legislations** including through better and simplified access to structural funds and a more active role in the future relocation mechanism.

Since 2015, it has become more and more apparent that the European Union needs to reform its asylum system to ensure that a fair, efficient and humane approach is put in place. For the system to be effective, all Member States must take responsibility and contribute to EU-wide solidarity. However, the last years have shown that there is a lack of political will from national governments to contribute to relocations in a meaningful and sustainable way. [WN1]

Over the past years, hundreds of cities, municipalities as well as many regions in Europe have spoken out more clearly on the question of asylum policy. Many have declared their willingness and preparedness to welcome asylum-seekers and refugees. Despite being the ones to cope with the accommodation, care and integration of refugees, municipalities have been consulted and included only to a limited extent in institutional and legal frameworks.

To read more about this initiative, visit our website: [www.europewelcomes.org](http://www.europewelcomes.org)

### **Programme**

*IT - DE - ES- EN - FR interpretation will be provided*

**14:00 - 14:05:** MEP **Damian Boeselager** to open event

**14:05 - 14:10:** Opening Remarks by the Portuguese Presidency, State Secretary, **Claudia Pereira**

**14:10-15:00: Panel 1 - The experience of willing communities (50 mins)**

Moderated by **Teri Schultz**

- Deputy Mayor of Leuven, **Lies Corneillie**
- Seebrücke, **Alina Lyapina**
- Unire, European Coalition of Refugees, **Syed Hasnain**
- ARCI Italy, **Filippo Miraglia**
- MEP **Damien Careme**, Chair of ANVITA

**15:00-15:50: Panel 2 on the role of municipalities in the future EU asylum policy (50 mins)**

Moderated by **Shada Islam**

- Mayor of Strasbourg, **Jeanne Barseghian**
- Caritas Belgium, **Anne Dussart**
- Co-founder and President of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, **Gesine Schwan**
- Barcelona Councillor's Office for Citizen Rights, **Júlia Trias**

**15:50 - 15:55: Remarks by the European Commission, DG HOME Legal Migration and Integration, Laura Corrado**

**15:55 - 16:00: Closure of the event by MEP Tineke Strik, Ernest Urtasun and Saskia Bricmont**

**REGISTER BELOW**

**Recommended**

Press release

Stuti .....



## [Returns Regulation vote marks a shameful turn for Euro...](#)

26.03.2026

Press release

European Union

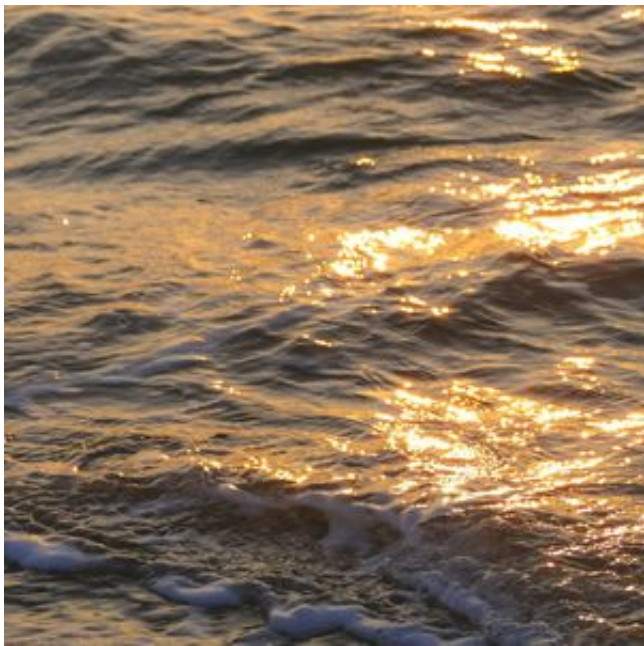


[EU Ministers' decision on return hubs & "safe countrie...](#)

08.12.2025

Press release

Photo by Elinda Gjonomadhi on Unsplash



[EU must not bow down to far-right fear mongering & pop...](#)

23.10.2024

Press release



[Diana Riba MEP Calls for End to Outsourcing Migration ...](#)

23.10.2024

**Responsible MEPs**



Damian Boeselager

Member



Saskia Bricmont

Member



Damien Carême

Member



Tineke Strik

Member



Ernest Urtasun

Vice-President

## Contact person



Nina Walch

Stakeholder Engagement Officer

**Please share**

[E-Mail](#)

