

Nordic perspectives on the European Asylum System:

The cases of Sweden and Finland

FIW Bonn University, Heussallee 18-24

June 30, 2016

Conference Outline

The Common European Asylum System (CEAS) has been put to the test since the beginning of the refugee crisis in the summer of 2015. In a much contested process the CEAS has been shaped to the current status quo in which the observable problematic consequences for the Union as a whole have arisen. A huge divide seems to go through Europe regarding the question on how to handle the challenge politically.

Particularly interesting are the different approaches of two neighboring member states in the north of the EU with similar economic and political impact: Sweden and Finland. Their distinctly diverse asylum policies as well as their different interpretation of the CEAS are exemplary for the fragmentation within the EU. Therefore, the conference will focus on the Nordic perspective on the European Asylum System and the refugee crisis by including experts from the academic, non-governmental, and political level. The aim is to shed some light on the two polarizing case studies by identifying and ascertaining differences in their national interests, agendas and political practices in relation to each other and how this can be mirrored in the greater context of the European Union.

Conference Program

9.00 a.m. Welcome address

Prof. Dr. Wolfram Hilz (*University of Bonn*)

Nadja Cornelius-Pieplow (*Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation*)

Sakarias Rantala (*The Finnish Institute*)

9.15 a.m. Panel 1: State of affairs

Prof. Fred Dervin (*University of Helsinki*)

Dr. Olaf Kleist (*IMIS, University of Osnabrück*)

Dr. Bernd Parusel (*Swedish Migration Agency*)

Moderator: Daniele Saracino (*University of Bonn*)

11.00 a.m. Coffee break

11.15 a.m. Panel 2: Ascertaining differences: Case studies Finland and Sweden

Prof. Peo Hansen (*Linköping University*)

Dr. Lisa Pelling (*Arena Idé, Stockholm*)

Dr. Camilla Nordberg (*Helsingfors University*)

Janne Leskinen (*Red Cross Finland*)

Moderator: Sanni Kunnas (*University of Bonn*)

1.15 p.m. Lunch

2.15 p.m. Keynote: The Refugee Crisis from a Brussels Perspective

Henna Virkkunen, MEP (*European People's Party*)

2.45 p.m. Roundtable Discussion: How to move forward in the refugee crisis?

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Moderator: Prof. Dr. Wolfram Hitz (*University of Bonn*)

4.00 p.m. End of conference