Workshop on Emigration Issues in the Western Balkans – joint approach to linking migration and development of the courtiers of origin

Panel Discussion: Circular or temporary labour migration
Introduction

Fact is, that migration poses fundamental issues for the economic, social, and cultural development of Europe. Certainly migrants have made substantial contributions of every kind to EU Member States throughout history, and continue to do so today.

(Peers, S, EU Justice and Home Affairs Law, Oxford EC Law Library)
Legal Migration to EU – Background

- The development on an EU law or policy on legal migration was for a long period a „missing link“
- Lack of consensus on the Commission's 2001 proposed “horizontal” Directive on legal migration
- Commission policy plan on legal migration (2005) with a sectoral approach
The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum 2008

- Organize legal immigration to take account of the priorities, needs and reception capacities determined by each Member State, and to encourage integration

- Create a comprehensive partnership with the countries of origin and of transit in order to encourage the synergy between migration and development
The Stockholm Programme 2009

- Need to take further steps to maximize the positive and minimize the negative effects of migration and development in line with the Global Approach on Migration
Circular migration in Austria

- No specific programs for circular migration in AT
- No participation in mobility partnerships
Historical experiences in Austria

- ~ 1950 labour shortage in Austria
- Guest worker program based on fixed annual “contingents”
- Rotation Principle
- 1962 contract with Spain
- 1964 contract with Turkey
- 1966 contract with Yugoslavia
Historical experiences in Austria

- ~ 265,000 immigrants came to Austria between 1961 and 1973
- 1974/75 turning point in AT immigration policy
  - International economic crisis (oil crisis)
  - Austrians who had been working abroad were returning home
- Recruitment stop in 1974
Lessons learnt

- Employers were in search of cheap industrial labour force
- Strict “rotation model” implied costs and risks for employers
- High unemployment rates in the countries of origin
- Only few guest workers pursued their initial plan for return
Public consultation on the Global Approach to Migration

- EU action in the external dimension of migration policy adds a value
- It is important that the EU acts in a balanced way
- Lack of EU action would have negative consequences
Public consultation on the Global Approach to Migration

- Migration and development
  - Actions in the field of
    - Remittances
    - Circular migration
    - Reduction of brain drain/waste and
    - Facilitating brain circulation
Public consultation on the Global Approach to Migration

☐ End of 2011

- Migration Package
  - Communication on the Global Approach
  - EC Working Paper on maximizing the positive and minimizing the negative aspects of migration on development
  - EC Working Paper on the effects of climate change on international migration, including its potential effects on immigration the European Union
Challenges and Policy Options

- Finding a common definition of circular migration
- Broaden knowledge on circular migration
- Defining clear objectives for circular migration schemes
- Facilitation circular migration
- Respect of human rights and human dignity
- Awareness over the possibility choice of circular migrants to stay permanently
Man hat Arbeitskräfte gerufen, und es kommen Menschen – sie fressen den Wohlstand nicht auf, im Gegenteil, sie sind für den Wohlstand unerlässlich.

We sent for workers but instead we got people. They do not devour our prosperity; on contrary, they are essential for our prosperity.

(Max Frisch, from his preface to A.J. Seiler “Siamo Italiani, Zürich, 1965)
Thank you for your attention

Andreas Fellner