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EIN Seminar on: "Is Europe full?", Budapest, Hungary

11th May

György SCHÖPFLIN MEP, Member of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, EPP Group Coordinator in the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the EP

Speaker:

• **Katalin NOVÁK**, Minister of State for Family and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources

12th May

Chair: György SCHÖPFLIN MEP, Member of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, EPP Group Coordinator in the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the EP

Speakers:

• **Sándor GALLAI**, Scientific Director, Migration Research Institute, Professor of Corvinus University of Budapest

• **Orsolya RÁCZ**, Analyst at Global Risk Insight, London

• **ifj. Zoltán LOMNICI**, Professor of Pázmány Péter Catholic University

- > Immigration flows in Europe are not a new phenomenon. Countries like France, Germany and Sweden have been experiencing migratory inflows for several decades, with different intensities and origins. This migratory past made European societies increasingly diverse which creates challenges, but also opportunities.
- > The European Union is extremely divided on the issue of migration and its diagnosis. Western European countries tend to address migration as a solution for economic labour market problems caused by demographic changes, thus endorsing an "open borders" policy, disregarding other Member States capacities and interest on pursuing the same migration politics, or even that some are eager to preserve their identity and culture, closing their borders.
- > Considering the examples of national public integration policy initiatives to improve integration of the new comers, one concludes that long term programs tend to be more effective, since the integration procedures tend to require more than 5 year term policies.
- > Newcomers' problems of identity contribute to increase radicalization risks, as extremist violent organizations provide these people with strong cohesion social groups were they feel integrated.
- > Once a certain group experiences discrimination thus becoming vulnerable, in case of absence of public intervention, the gap between these groups and mainstream societies becomes wider, making them even more vulnerable to radicalization, which has been found more prominent among 2nd and 3rd generation migrants.
- > Nowadays, the arriving asylum seekers and immigrants tend to be undereducated, with low percentage of foreign languages speakers. In some ethnic groups, new comers don't even need to learn the local language to survive, increasing the risk of segregation from society.
- > There are mainly three different perspectives on how to solve our demographic problem: open border policy, controlled migration policy, birth rate raise policies.
- > The Hungarian government has been promoting an "inner resources" approach on these issues, mainly through family and youth friendly policies which have proven efficient on raising fertility rates while keeping the borders closed to non EU-citizens. However, these are long term policies, and they implicate high financial costs.
- > There will be a new massive wave of migrants coming from Sub-Saharan Africa for which Europe is not prepared, as its policies have proven very ineffective. Europe should focus on promoting cooperation to control southern borders, provide development aid to these countries, and financially support the institutions that were designed for this, like UN and its specialized agencies.

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