

SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

8 December 2011

Venue: European Commission, Berlaymont Building, Room Walter Hallstein
Rue de la Loi 200, Brussels, Belgium

Programme

1. Global context and objectives

Over the next 50 years profound changes in natural and human environments across the world are foreseen: climate change, global population growth and fast urbanisation. These changes affect migration flows and result in new migratory patterns.

In the framework of environmental change, migration is a multi-causal phenomenon. Understanding the links between migration and environmental change are particularly important for tackling the challenges and for having a new strategic approach for policy making.

Environmental change will affect migration now and in the future, especially through its influence on a range of economic, social and political drivers which themselves influence migration. However, the range and complexity of the interactions between these drivers means that it is difficult to distinguish migrants for whom environmental factors are the sole driver.

Furthermore, a large number of people migrate into urban areas for largely economic reasons and they are often the most vulnerable: settling in risk areas, putting themselves at risk of disasters and poverty related problems such as no access to water, sanitation, health services or education. Another group who are in danger, but have received little policy attention, are those who are trapped and unable to migrate from dangerous environmental circumstances.

It is necessary to raise awareness on the potential future impact of environmental change on migration due the expected and ongoing changes in natural and human environments across the world.

On the occasion of the publication of the report on "Migration and Global Environment Change" by the UK Government Office for Science a seminar is being organised in Brussels on 8 December 2011 by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre together with the UK Government Office for Science.

This seminar will provide an opportunity to present scientific analysis of selected aspects of migration and global environmental change with the aim to develop understanding at the EC and stakeholder level of the evidence base in relation to environmental change and migration, and in particular challenges for policy makers. The discussions will allow participants to consider important interventions and

solutions that may be appropriate to address these challenges. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre will present its main activities in this field with the participation of other Commission services which are concerned, (DG Environment, DG Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid, DG Home Affairs, DG Climate Action, DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Bureau of European Policy Advisers) as well as the UK Government Office for Science and international organisations.

09.30 - 10.00 Registration and welcome coffee

10.00 - 10.45 OPENING SESSION

- **Dominique Ristori**, Director General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Sir John Beddington**, Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government
Presentation of the conclusions of the report: Migration and Global Environmental Change
- **Laurent Muschel**, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Malmström, European Commission

10:45 – 12:30 PANEL 1: THE STATE OF THE EVIDENCE

Description:

Migration is a complex, mostly multi-causal phenomenon. The expected and ongoing changes in natural and human environments across the world will strongly influence migration in the future. This panel will discuss the effects of global environmental change on migration flows. As part of this discussion, it is important to understand the impact of environmental change in the next 50 years and showcase scientific monitoring and modelling tools. Furthermore this panel will highlight the rapid urban growth and the challenges it poses to decision making on one hand and on the other it will highlight how this decision making is supported by scientific expertise.

Moderator:

Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission

Panellists:

- Foresight, Government Office for Science, UK Government
- Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- UN – HABITAT, Global Urban Observatory
- Directorate General Home Affairs, European Commission

Discussion between the participants

12.30 - 13.30 *Lunch*

13.30 – 14.45 PANEL 2: MIGRATION IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS: CHALLENGES

Description:

The previous panel has highlighted the links between global environmental change, population growth and migration. Can we distil this science and evidence into a concrete set of challenges?

Moderator:

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Panellists:

- Foresight, Government Office for Science, UK Government
- Directorate General Development and Cooperation – Europe Aid, European Commission
- United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security

Discussion between the participants

14:45 – 15:00 *Coffee*

15.00 – 16.15 PANEL 3: THE POLICY LANDSCAPE: WHAT CAN BE DONE AT EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS?

Description:

Environmental and development policy makers are already implementing a wide range of policies in light of future global environmental change. However, on the basis of scientific monitoring and modelling tools, further actions for stakeholders and the implications for policy making need to be further defined.

Moderator:

Directorate-General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission

Panellists:

- Member of the European Parliament:
- Bureau of European Policy Advisers
- Representative from the Global Forum on Migration and Development

Discussion between the participants

16.15 – 16.45 CONCLUSIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

- **Sandy Thomas**, Foresight, Government Office for Science, UK Government
- **David Wilkinson**, Director of Scientific Policy and Stakeholder Relations, Joint Research Centre, European Commission