Antoine Savary, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission.

Main points for the research-migration conference 04/02/2016

- Thanks for timely initiative. Shaping migration policy with robust analysis has never been more needed. Dissemination of results to policy makers is also important.

- There is great need to better connect the worlds of research and policy and in the area of migration and related subjects.

- Research and policies can interact in two way:
  - Policy makers have the duty to explain the key policy areas where research is needed; there might be a need that we are more precise about what we exactly are looking for.
  - On the other side: in case a researcher chooses to do policy relevant research, he or she must be very much aware of the needs of the policymaker who in a sense is his or her customer;

- Migration: a complex phenomenon, result of wider trends that require careful study to understand their impact:
  - Demographic change, not only in Europe, but also in other continents and especially Africa;
  - Increasing mobility with lowering of costs and unprecedented travel connections;
  - Changing socio-economic realities with increasing inequalities both within and between countries;
  - Geopolitical changes with continued war and conflicts that take on different forms than we are used to;

- A policy area with very specific features – which make research and objective analysis all the more useful.

- More than any other EU policy, an immigration policy at EU level is not necessarily perceived as necessary: Rather new policy, fragmented approach / failure of a general approach 15 years ago, opt outs of some MS (UK/IE/DK) and growing negative perceptions by public opinions towards the EU in general. Migration is often perceived as a problem rather than a solution.

- Migration is also a policy area where confusion is very common (migration mixed up with EU citizens' mobility, refugees/asylum seekers, etc...)

- The pace of events in the migration field requires urgent action (eg borders/asylum) whereas robust analysis requires time. Short term action is needed but medium/long term actions should be shaped with robust analysis. We need to know in a quicker way the current state of research (rather than waiting for a 5-year research project to be over) – hence the usefulness of the policy review presented and the current conference.
• Example of main issues/concerns where research is needed to underpin policy proposals

- How will migration evolve over time and to what extend can policies influence such developments?
- What will be labour market and employment realities in the next two decades? Can migration held addressing demographic trends and labour shortages in some sectors? Are the current admission and integration policies of Member States adequate for this?
- Should we be looking at new/best ways of integrating those who have arrived?
- Can we learn more from experiences in other countries and from what is happening at the local level?
- Should we look again at the way the EU provides international protection and should we revise the international governance structures?
- What are the possibilities of new technology in the various policy areas?

• Upcoming initiatives in the field of legal migration/integration

- Legal migration package, including blue card revision
- Action plan on integration

To prepare these initiatives, the result of research projects have been used