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THE MANY FACES OF MIGRANT SMUGGLING: FROM A CRIME TO A HUMANITARIAN ACT

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Malbeek room, Residence Palace, 155 rue de la Loi - 1040 Brussels, Belgium

 @MigrPolCentre @CEPS_thinktank #HelpIsNoCrime

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■ INTRODUCTION

This event, co-organised by the [Migration Policy Centre \(MPC\)](#) at the European University Institute and [CEPS](#), seeks to foster a dialog on smuggling policy and research. Academics, government, law enforcement and civil society will gather to discuss findings from the March issue of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science [Migrant smuggling as a collective strategy and insurance policy: views from the margins, a publication](#) co-edited by the MPC, and from the research project '[Anti-Smuggling Policies and their Intersection with Humanitarian Assistance and Social Trust](#)' led by Queen Mary University London in cooperation with CEPS and PICUM with the support of UK's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Governments around the world largely consider fighting and eradicating migrant smuggling an important, if not *the* most important aspect in stopping or reducing irregular migration flows. In February 2016, Europol launched the European Migrant Smuggling Center to “proactively support EU Member States in dismantling criminal networks involved in organizing migrant smuggling” and in turn reduce unauthorized arrivals. The U.S. government has for decades been involved in surveillance and enforcement efforts to reduce illegal entries by foreign nationals across its borders in what has been claimed to be an effort to combat transnational criminal smuggling organizations and control irregular migration. Turkey, Libya, Niger, Morocco, Mexico and Papua New Guinea among other countries have signed controversial agreements which under the claim of seeking to bring down “the smuggling business model” have often led to the detention and removal of hundreds of thousands of migrants. In Europe and the United States arrests involving NGO personnel on smuggling grounds have also generated concerns over the criminalisation of solidarity.

The underlying logic for all these responses seems remarkably similar—combating smuggling organizations is key to reducing the influx of irregular migrants. Yet their effectiveness at containing the spread of organized crime, curtailing irregular migration flows or protecting human rights has



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increasingly come into question. This event, by bringing together multiple voices, seeks to shed light on smuggling and the many responses it generates.

■ PROGRAMME

- 8.45 - 9.00 *Registration*
- 9.15 - 9.35 **Welcome and introduction**
Sergio Carrera | CEPS and Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute
Gabriella Sanchez | Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute
- 9.35 - 10.50 **Criminalisation of solidarity with refugees and other migrants**
Moderator: **Sergio Carrera** | CEPS and Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute
Speakers:
Luigi Achilli | European University Institute and San Diego State University
Morality of Smuggling
Jennifer Allsopp | University of Oxford and **Lina Vosyliūtė** | CEPS
Policing Mobility Society: Key findings
Discussants:
Kadri Soova | Advocacy Officer at PICUM
Tamas Molinar | Legal Research Officer, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Q&A session with participants
- 10.50 - 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.00 - 12.15 **Migrant smuggling as a 'crime'**
Moderator: **Gabriella Sanchez** | Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute
Speakers:
Julien Brachet | University of Cambridge
Smuggling in Niger
Soledad Alvarez-Velasco (tbc) | King's College
Smuggling in the Americas
Nassim Majidi | Sciences Po and Samuel Hall
Smuggling from Afghanistan and Somalia
David J. Danelo | Senior Fellow, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime
Discussants:
Representative tbc | DG Home, European Commission
Panagiotis Papadimitriou | Officer, Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Ana Hinojosa | Director of Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization
Q&A session with participants

12.15 - 12.30

Conclusions

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