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**EIN-A4**

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**EIN Seminar on: "In-migration, out-migration: the last 25 years in Central Europe"**

Chair:

**György SCHÖPFLIN MEP**, *EPP Group Coordinator in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in the European Parliament*

Speakers:

**Eric KAUFMANN**, *Professor of Politics, Birkbeck College, University of London*

**Neli DEMIREVA**, *Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Essex*

**Tomas SOBOTKA**, *Researcher at Wittgenstein Centre in Vienna*

- Europe has lost 20 million people since the '90s.
- The phenomena under discussion goes back almost 30 years, since the fall of the Iron Curtain.
- Contemporary migration and demographic trends are challenging the ethnic majorities in the west, which is what is behind the rise of right wing populism.
- In Canada and USA, non white people will be the majority as result of migration and fertility rates among migrants.
- Migration presents itself as a problem in Central and Western Europe.
- It has become a long-standing force on reshaping population trends and the structure of our continent.
- People want and need to pace down the rhythm of cultural change in their countries. We need to find space to open the dialogue between the State and all spectrums of civil society, in order to reach compromises that will avoid the rise of populist movements.
- Some people want more immigration because of economic factors. Others want less because of the identity and cultural fears. We have to allow room for people to express cultural concerns.
- The economic factor is the biggest enabling force of migration. For the countries of origin, it very often represents losing qualified work force that usually has few incentives to return.
- Migrants concentrate specially in large cities, which become engines of economic and population growth. Thus, despite the low fertility, the population renewal is guaranteed.
- In Europe, there is not one single labour market.
- Host country acquisitions such as further qualifications are particularly important in keeping non-economic migrants from lapsing into unemployment.
- Contrary to popular concerns, there is no evidence that majority members have been undercut by migrants either in the context of Europe. On the contrary, their standing in terms of good jobs is actually higher in regions with greater presence of migrants.
- Usually, the problems with migrant's integration affect the second generation.
- Europe's immigration policies are usually ad-hoc, inconsistent and contradictory. We need to find common ground and define our policy in terms of how much and what kind of migration we want, just as the USA, Canada and Australia are doing.
- The challenge is to effectively control the inflow of migrants; pragmatically address irregular migration; apply consistent, transparent and evidence-based rules and criteria on who can be admitted; and pursue more effective integration policies, especially regarding language skills, education and labour market integration.

*The 'EIN-A4' represents a summary of EIN seminar initiatives. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the EPP Group political line.*