

the future of protection

forum

AGENDA

July 2, 2026 | 17:00 | UNESCO Amphitheatre, UNIC

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17:00 **Registrations**

17:15 **Welcome address**

Dr. Achilles C. Emilianides

Professor of Law, Dean of the School of Law, University of Nicosia (UNIC)

Dr. Markos Karavias

Director, Mediterranean Migration & Asylum Policy Hub (MedMA)

17:30 **Keynote Speech**

Dr. Nicholas A. Ioannides

Deputy Minister of Migration and International Protection, Republic of Cyprus

17:45 **Rethinking Protection: Refugees, Mobility, and the Limits of Existing Frameworks**

Moderator: *Dr. Markos Karavias, Director, MedMA*

Dr. Ioannis Papageorgiou

Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU

Nikos Sitaropoulos (online)

Head of Division on Migration & Refugees, Council of Europe

Ella Dodd

Migration and Freedom of Movement Adviser, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Susan Frantzke

Senior Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Institute

Martin Wagner (online)

Senior Policy Advisor for Asylum, Policy Unit, International Centre for Migration Policy Development

19:15 **Closing Remarks**

19:30 **Light Food & Networking**

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SPEAKERS' BIO

Dr. Nicholas A. Ioannides

Deputy Minister of Migration and International Protection, Republic of Cyprus

Dr. Nicholas A. Ioannides holds a PhD in Public International Law from the University of Bristol and an LL.M. in Public International Law. He has taught Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and European Law in Cyprus and abroad, and has served as a legal advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on public international and European law matters.

He has represented the Republic of Cyprus before the International Court of Justice and within Council of the European Union working groups. A recipient of awards from the Hellenic Society of International Law and International Relations and the International Association for the Law of the Sea, he has published extensively in the field of international law, including books, journal articles, and book chapters. He also served as Chairman of the International and European Law Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association.

Prof. Dr Achilles C. Emilianides

Professor of Law, Dean of the School of Law, UNIC

Achilles C. Emilianides is Professor and Dean of the School of Law of the University of Nicosia and a practising advocate. He has been elected as the President of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts, as an ordinary member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and as a member of the UNESCO Conciliation and Good Offices Commission. He further represents the Cyprus Academy to ALLEA (All European Academies).

He holds a PhD and an LL.M from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and an LL.M from Leicester University. He is the Consulting Editor of the Cyprus Review and the Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society Cyprus Branch. His publications include, Religion and Law in Cyprus (5th, 2026), Constitutional Law in Cyprus (4th, 2026), Labour Law in Cyprus (4th 2025), Family and Succession Law in Cyprus (3rd, 2024), Media Law in Cyprus (3rd, 2024).

Dr. Markos Karavias

Director, MedMA

Dr. Markos Karavias is the Director of the Mediterranean Migration and Asylum Policy Hub. Dr Karavias practises law at the Athens Bar Association, having led counsel on human rights and asylum law cases before domestic and European courts.

Dr. Karavias has served as the lead negotiator on the EU Migration and Asylum Pact on behalf of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. Between 2018 and 2021, he served as the Director, then Governor, of the Asylum Service of the Hellenic Republic, and in this capacity, as a Member of the EUAA Management Board. Between 2014 and 2018, he held various academic positions at the Faculties of Law of the Universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht. Dr Karavias has further acted as a Member of the Asylum Appeals Committees of the Ministry of Citizen Protection (2011-2012). Markos Karavias studied law at the Universities of Athens and Oxford, where he completed his doctoral dissertation. He is the author of Corporate Obligations in International Law (Oxford University Press, 2013), as well as of numerous academic publications in international law.

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Dr. Ioannis Papageorgiou

Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU

Dr. Ioannis Papageorgiou is Professor at the School of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, specialising in European integration, comparative politics, migration, asylum, and refugee law.

A lawyer and political scientist, he holds degrees from the University of Athens, the University of Paris-I, and the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), where he earned his PhD in 2001. He has served as Director of the Greek Asylum Service (2011-2012), Chair of the Council of the EU Asylum Working Party during the 2012 and 2026 Cyprus Presidencies, and policy expert at the European Parliament (2016-2018), focusing on Brexit and civil liberties.

Since 2003, he has participated in numerous international migration and asylum projects. He holds a Jean Monnet Chair, was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University Law Center in 2021, and served as Head of the School of Political Sciences from 2022 to 2025.

Nikos Sitaropoulos

Head of Division on Migration and Refugees, DGI, CoE

Nikos Sitaropoulos is Head of Division on Migration and Refugees, DGI, Council of Europe. Formerly Head of Division in: European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. He has been also Legal Officer at the Greek National Commission for Human Rights and Head of Legal Unit, Greek Council for Refugees.

Nikos Sitaropoulos holds a PhD in Law from University College London (1995), an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex (1991) and an LLB from the School of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (1988). Founding member of the European Society of International Law Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law, and of the Editorial Board of the Greek Yearbook of Refugee and Aliens Law (UNHCR, Greece). He has been visiting lecturer in European immigration and asylum policies at the Institute of Political Studies, University of Strasbourg, and has published on subjects relating to international and European human rights, international humanitarian law, immigration and refugee law, as well as minority, nationality and anti-discrimination law.

Ella Dodd

Migration and Freedom of Movement Adviser, ODIHR

Ella Dodd is a Migration and Freedom of Movement Adviser at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw. She leads work on migration governance, integration, and the protection of human rights at borders across the OSCE region. Previously, she served as a Senior Project Officer with the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and coordinated migration-focused civil society organisations and regional human rights monitoring initiatives in Greece and across the Balkans. She has led litigation before the European Court of Human Rights and international treaty bodies, and has held academic research roles in migration, human trafficking, human rights, and criminal law. She was also a study visitor at the European Court of Human Rights. She holds an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies from the University of Oxford and a LLB from Durham University.

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SPEAKERS' BIO

Susan Fratzke

Senior Policy Analyst, MPI

Susan Fratzke is a Senior Policy Analyst with the International Program of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), based in Germany. Her work focuses on asylum policy, forced migration, refugee resettlement, and complementary pathways for protection.

She has authored and contributed to numerous influential publications on refugee sponsorship and humanitarian pathways, and has led research on national asylum systems and international cooperation in response to displacement. She has played a key role in MPI initiatives examining asylum system reform globally and has been a longstanding contributor to the Institute's work on the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

Prior to joining MPI, she worked with the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration in Brussels and Washington, DC, and coordinated an adult literacy program for resettled refugees in Minnesota. She holds an MA in German and European Studies, with a concentration in European migration policy, from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

Martin Wagner

Senior Policy Advisor for Asylum, Policy Unit, ICMPD

Martin Wagner has been with ICMPD since 2006. From 2006 to 2010, he worked in the Border Management Team before becoming Programme Manager for ICMPD's Asylum Competence Centre. Since 2017, he has served as Senior Policy Advisor for Asylum.

Martin holds a law degree and specialises in international protection, asylum systems, irregular migration, and return. Before joining ICMPD, he worked for NGOs, the office of the Human Rights Advisory Board at the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, and implemented EU twinning projects in Lithuania and Ukraine.

Martin has 30 years of professional experience in migration and asylum and has managed international projects in these fields for over 20 years. He has authored and co-authored comparative studies on European asylum systems, as well as working papers and policy publications on solidarity, harmonisation of asylum policies, the CEAS, protracted displacement and temporary protection.

In recent years, his work has focused on exit strategies from temporary protection and assisting Member States in preparing for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

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