

Joint Policy Meeting

Irregular Migrants in Europe:

Public Attitudes, Protection Needs and EU Responses

Wednesday, 25 March 2026 | 08:45 – 12:15
Room VMA 21, 2nd floor, Rue Van Maerlant
Committee of the Regions, Brussels

08:00 **Arrival and Registration**

08:45–09:00 **Welcome Panel**

Luca Menesini (President of the PES Group in the CoR)
Tesseltje de Lange (Radboud University - DignityFIRM)
Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham) & Ilse van Liempt (Utrecht
University – I-CLAIM)
Martin Ruhs (EUI - PRIME)

09:00–10:00 **Panel 1: What are Europeans' attitudes and policy preferences
toward irregular migrants, and what are the implications for
policymaking?**

Chair: *Ilse van Liempt (Utrecht University)*

Olivier Bergeau (European Commission, DG HOME)
Martin Ruhs (EUI)
Laurence Lessard-Phillips / Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham)
Tesseltje de Lange (Radboud University)

10:00–11:00 **Panel 2: What are key vulnerabilities of irregular migrants, and what
policies are needed to ensure effective access to basic rights?**

Chair: *Bridget Anderson (University of Bristol)*

Letizia Palumbo (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
Rocio Flores Torres (Latin American Workers Union in Poland) - *Video*
Joakim Palme (Uppsala University)
Michele LeVoy (PICUM)

11:00–11:30 **Coffee Break with short screening of the Documentary ‘The Others’**
The Others is a documentary, directed by Ofelia de Pablo and Javier Zurita, developed in dialogue with the European DignityFIRM project that examines the hidden realities sustaining one of Europe’s most emblematic agricultural models, questioning the human cost of a system that promises sustainability while rendering invisible those who sustain it.

11:30–12:15 **Panel 3: Responding to irregular migration: What can and should the European Union do?**

Chair: *Tesseltje de Lange (Radboud University)*

Krzysztof Nowaczek (European Commission, DG HOME)

Alberto Horst-Neidhardt (European Policy Center)

Iris Goldner Lang (University of Zagreb)

Davide Colombi (CEPS)

12:15–13:00 **Lunch**