

EUROPEAN MIGRATION POLICIES MARRED BY “GROSS ANACHRONISMS”

Foreign Policy Centre launches annual index on citizenship and migration

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A new report by the Foreign Policy Centre argues that citizenship and immigration policies in Europe are lagging behind those in new migration countries such as Canada and Australia, and claims that Europe is still littered with "gross anachronisms" when it comes to promoting citizenship and inclusion. It strongly criticises countries that do not allow citizens to have dual citizenship. It also argues that the emphasis on the obligations of migrants is "obscuring the duties of host communities to welcome newcomers" and warns that forcing people through a painful arrival process will make them less willing to integrate: "people who are made to wait indefinitely, are given little information or are treated disrespectfully will clearly be less willing to adapt and co-operate with the integration process"

The criticism comes in a report setting out the remit of a new index to be published comparing citizenship and migration policies across Europe. A group of organisations including the Foreign Policy Centre, the Barrow Cadbury Trust, the Migration Policy Group and the respected French think-tank Sciences Po will rank the performance of member states in this annual publication.

It is hoped that this will act as a spur to improve the debates in member states - and shame those that are failing to meet their obligations under European law. It will measure policies across a broad range of social and economic criteria looking at how easy it is for newcomers to enter the job market; how quickly they can gain income parity with the rest of the population; how well migrants are represented in political parties; how far immigrants have changed the cultural identity of a country; whether newcomers can become full citizens even if they haven't been born in a country; and the kind of work-permit regimes that member states have introduced.

Influential politicians from across Europe have endorsed the project amid fears that countries are competing in a "Dutch auction" to be tough on newcomers. They include Antonio Vitorino, Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs; John Monks, Head of the European Trade Union Confederation; Trevor Phillips, Head of the Commission for Racial Equality; and the Leading Italian socialist Francesco Rutelli, who took on Berlusconi in the 2001 elections. Cem Ozdemir, the first German of Turkish origin to join the Bundestag have all en Rutelli has warned of the rightward drift of Italian politics, whilst John Monks has expressed concern at the hostility to immigration that can be found in Europe's trade Union movement

Mark Leonard, Director of the Foreign Policy Centre, said:

"The lack of objective information on migration and diversity is creating a vacuum in which groups like Migration Watch have been making the intellectual running"

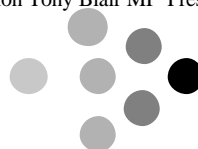
Jan Niesson, Director of the Migration Policy Group, said: "The index will help us push for new policy priorities at a time when a fresh parliament and European Commission will take office"

INCLUSION INDEX REPORT – KEY FINDINGS

- If British democratic institutions were a true reflection of its ethnic diversity there would be 47 Black and Asian MPs in the House of Commons. Currently, there are only twelve. Similarly in Germany, only 4 out of the 605 Bundestag are from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Over fifteen million long-term and legally resident third countries in the EU are excluded because they are not classed as citizens in their respective countries of residence.

**For briefings, interviews or a copy of the pamphlet,
call Rob Blackhurst on 07879423341/ 0207 401 5355**

The Foreign Policy Centre



- Pledges to unify citizenship policies tend to be thin and lacking in genuine commitment. So far the only countries that have signed up to the European Convention on nationality are Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden.
- Migrants make up about 20 million out of 380 million living in the EU and almost two-thirds of net population growth in Europe is due to immigration. In most countries minorities remain severely under-represented in their political institutions.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The Foreign Policy Centre is a leading European think-tank under the patronage of British Prime Minister Tony Blair to develop a vision of fair and rule-based world order.
2. The British Council is an independent non-political organisation that fosters creative links between the UK and the rest of Europe. For more information, contact Sharon Memis, Head of the European Programme, on 7227 0857 or email Sharon.memis@britishcouncil.be
3. The Observatoire de la Politique Etrangere was founded in Paris in 2002, and gathers young specialists in Foreign Policy studies and international Relations. The group's research projects are currently centred on New European foreign policy issues, coping with transnational challenges, and France's foreign policy. For further information please contact: Frederic.charillon@wanadoo.fr
4. The Brussels-based Migration Policy Group is an independent organisation (MPG) is an organisation committed to policy development on migration and mobility, and diversity and anti-discrimination, by facilitating the exchange between stakeholders from all sections of society.
5. The Barrow Cadbury Group is a foundation that seeks to encourage a just, equal, peaceful and democratic society. It supports groups working in the United Kingdom to achieve such objectives. (www.bctrust.org.uk)
7. The Europe in the World Centre at the University of Liverpool is a multi-disciplinary research centre based in the School of Politics and Communication Studies. Its focus is on relationships between Europe and other regions of the world, particularly but not exclusively the developing external relations of the European Union. (www.liv.ac.uk/ewc)
8. The Foreign Policy Centre (London), the British Council (Brussels) and Sciences Po (Paris) will each co-ordinate a seminar on one of three topics in each of their respective cities to brainstorm and engage key academics and policy-makers, inviting them to pool data resources, contacts and ideas.
9. The European Inclusion Index is written by Mark Leonard and Phoebe Griffith working with Kate Arthurs Richard Tite. Mark Leonard is the Director of the Foreign Policy Centre. Phoebe Griffith runs the Foreign Policy Centre's programme on Democracy, Development and Good Governance. Kate Arthurs manages projects as part of the Europe Programme at the British Council Brussels.

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