

The European Union and migration challenges. Discussing the role of differentiation

6th July 2021, 15.00h-16.00h CEST

Online session via [CIDOB's Youtube channel](#)

Organised by: CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs), under the framework of the H2020 research project EU IDEA - Integration and Differentiation for Effectiveness and Accountability

Dimitris Avramopoulos –former European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs, and Citizenship (2014-2019), former Greek Minister for National Defence (2011-2012, 2013-2014), and former Foreign Minister of Greece (2012-2013)– will discuss migration and differentiation with Blanca Garcés, Research Coordinator and Senior Research Fellow at CIDOB, Emmanuel Comte, Senior Research Fellow at CIDOB, Juha Jokela, Programme Director at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and Eulalia Rubio, Senior Research Fellow at the Jacques Delors Institute.

Dimitris Avramopoulos will share his unique experience as European Commissioner during the 2015–16 migration crisis at the EU borders. In that instance, both the absence of internal border controls inside the EU under Schengen cooperation and the related Dublin mechanism to allocate asylum seekers among EU member states threatened to disintegrate. He will recount the policy preoccupations of the main stakeholders during this episode, including Germany, France, the UK, Italy, Spain, and Greece. He will also present his vision of the best way to organise the EU's migration policies to prevent such crises.

EU IDEA experts will then discuss with Dimitris Avramopoulos the role of differentiation in addressing the EU's migration challenges. Differentiation refers to a degree of flexibility in the cooperation among EU member states. Can we find a solution to migration challenges with less differentiation, i.e., more harmonised rules, and stronger institutions at the European level? Or, on the contrary, in more differentiation, i.e., ad hoc cooperation among selected member states and non-member states? What are the relative strengths and weaknesses, to solve crises, of European harmonisation and unification on the one hand and flexible rules, flexible participation on the other hand?

15.00 **Welcome**

Pol Morillas, Director, CIDOB

Blanca Garcés, Research Coordinator and Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB

15.05 **Key Note Speech**

The European Union and migration challenges

Dimitris Avramopoulos, former European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship (2014-2019), former Greek Minister for National Defence (2011-2012, 2013-2014), and former Foreign Minister of Greece (2012-2013)

15.25 **Short remarks on migration and differentiation by the EU IDEA experts**

Eulalia Rubio, Senior Research Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute

Juha Jokela, Programme Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Emmanuel Comte, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB

15.45 **Open Discussion with the public**

Facilitated by: **Blanca Garcés**, Research Coordinator and Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB

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