



17.5.2016 – At Brussel’s Palais d’Egmont, prominent UN speakers and Belgian Ministers gathered for a conference with the theme “Migration in the 21st Century: thoughts and prospects 2050”; it was hosted by the Belgian presidency of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The conference comes at a time when already 189,141 people have crossed the Mediterranean and nearly 1,400 have drowned or gone missing since the beginning of 2016.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General Peter Sutherland emphasized the crossroads the European Union inevitably is facing. “We have to ask ourselves: what is the logic of all this? What do we want? If the Schengen agreement falls, it will bring –according to a renowned Brussels think tank – an additional cost of 17 billion euros annually to the European Union. If we pick and choose among refugees and migrants,” he said, “taking in only Christians, is that what we really want? A clashes of civilisations, going back to the crusades? Or, instead, do we seek integration? Speaking without bluntness in these matters is no longer viable.”

Mr Sutherland criticised the lack of concrete policy measures, and stressed the importance of the role of cities. “This is a city issue. If you are going to integrate people, you won’t succeed by stranding them at a reception centre on the most remote island one can find.”



~~The title of this document is "Migration: We need to ask ourselves what we want". The title of this document is "Migration: We need to ask ourselves what we want".~~