

TÄLLBERG FOUNDATION

How on earth can we live together?

The Tällberg Workshop on Lesbos: *Clash of Civilizations?*

Program

Day One - Thursday, 17 March 2016

Theme: From the micro to the meta; from the ground to the heavens

Morning-late afternoon

We will start the workshop with a series of trips around Lesbos to understand at least a bit of the reality at what has become “ground zero” of the European immigration crisis. The idea is to gather impressions, which we will share at dinner and during the more formal workshop conversations.

The details of your particular trip are outlined in the practical details you have received by email and it will be in your welcome letter. Since participants will be arriving at different times, not everyone will see everything during Thursday afternoon and evening. We will also organize repeat opportunities on Saturday, after the closing conversation in the morning.

19.30 Open conversations

Gather at the Heliotrope Hotel for open conversations and drinks, followed by dinner.

20.00 Dinner

Welcome: Alan Stoga, “Why Lesbos; why now?”

Curated dinner conversation: Why are YOU here; What impressions from today? What questions for tomorrow? What thoughts about the future?

Post dinner remarks:

Stelios Vasilakis, “Lesbos: poetry, history and man’s lesser angels”

Day Two

Friday, 18 March 2016

Theme: Unpacking the crisis (or, at least, asking questions)

Each session will consist of a series of inputs intended to provoke conversation, with the moderator tasked not only to keep the conversation moving, but to engage all participants.

The sessions will take place in the conference venue at the Heliotrope Hotel.

9.00 Session I

Who are the immigrants? Why are they coming? When will they stop?

The idea of the session is to discuss the push factors of demographics, war, lagging development and economic opportunity and the likelihood that the mass movement of people from the Middle East, Balkans and Africa toward Europe could persist (or try to?) over the coming years.

Moderator: *Tom Cummings*

Inputs: *Friedrich Bokern, Samar Muhareb, Abdulkader Sinno, Oli Brown, Sasha Polakow-Suransky*

10.45 Short break

11.00 Session II

Do immigrants pose a new security threat, now in terms of facilitating the inflow of jihadis seeking to join cells already operating in Europe, or later in terms of the potential radicalization of refugees due to discrimination or poor treatment?

Moderator: *Alan Stoga*

Inputs: *Elizabeth Prodromou, Michael Niconchuk*

12.00 Lunch (open) at the Heliotrope Hotel

13.00 Session III

Will Europe change the (mostly) Muslim migrants or will the migrants change Europe? What do we know about the pre-crisis experiences of Muslims in Europe? What do migrants expect in Europe and from Europeans? How might Europe's politics evolve?

There are almost endless issues: identity, the role of religion in Europe, multiculturalism vs. integration, nationalism, leadership, etc. What matters most—now and, more importantly, into the future?

Moderator: *Nora Bateson*

Inputs: *Kurt Lauk, Niels Van Tomme, Maureen Eger, Dilsa Demirbag-Sten, Miguel Ángel Moratinos*

14.45 Short break

15.00 Session IV

Can Europe “outsource” the problem by trying to keep migrants from leaving their countries or by creating buffers on Europe’s periphery?

What would it take in terms of development assistance, military resources, diplomacy? What might be the consequences for Turkey, the Middle East, Africa? What consequences for European relations with these countries? What are the potential feedback loops between Europe and the periphery?

Moderator: *Maarten Koets*

Inputs: *Fabienne Hara, Zeynep Oral, Kees Rietveld*

16.45 Short break

17.00 Session V

Where are we? What are the questions we haven’t yet asked? What’s bothering you?

Moderator: *Tom Cummings*

18.00 Day Two concludes

19.30 Dinner

off-site at Tavern Antonis, Kayani, Mytilene

Post dinner remarks: *Nikos Xyadkis, “The view from Athens”*

Day Three
Saturday, 19 March 2016
Theme: Rights and wrongs

9.00 Breakfast (working) at the Heliotrope Hotel

Session VI

What are the ethical and humanitarian obligations of Europe and the United States and, more importantly, of the European and American peoples? If the human catastrophe continues, what are the moral consequences for the West and, indeed, for the countries of the Middle East and Africa?

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." How to balance a state's right to exclude outsiders against this widely accepted human right? Is it legitimate that some countries in Europe (and beyond) are unwilling to accept any refugees? For their part, do refugees have the right to choose destinations? Are numerical limits morally defensible?

Moderator: *Sherman Teichman*

Inputs: *Defne Ayas, Rufo Quintavalle, Andrew Bushell*

11.00 Closing - Why Lesbos?

Moderator: *Alan Stoga*

Midday

Trips to other parts of islands, time to explore on your own, etc. Departures.

If you are staying until Sunday, there is a group dinner planned. (Transportation will be provided between the hotels and the restaurant).

19.30 Dinner at Nirvana Restaurant