



Seven Strategies to Improve Free Movement

A joint initiative of

University of
Kent

Brussels School
of International
Studies



Anthony Valcke

I. Background

Austria, Germany, Netherlands, UK

DutchNews.nl

March 2013

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Holland, Britain, Germany, Austria join forces to fight 'welfare tourism'

Society     March 7, 2013

EU citizens who have never worked in the Netherlands should not be allowed to claim welfare benefits (*bijstand*), junior justice minister Fred Teeven said on Thursday.

The Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Britain have agreed to write to the European Commission, calling on it to address their concerns about the abuse of the welfare benefit system by the members of other EU states.

Teeven is quoted as saying in the Dutch media that the four countries think it will be possible to declare [welfare claimants who have never worked] undesirable under current EU rules. The issue is seen as a serious problem in all four countries, Teeven said.



Features

► Dealing with debt, Part 2

November 26, 2013 7:10 pm

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Free movement within Europe needs to be less free

By David Cameron

Vast migrations extract talent from countries that need their best people, writes David Cameron

On January 1, the people of Romania and Bulgaria will have the same right to work in the UK as other EU citizens. I know many people are deeply concerned about the impact that could have on our country. I share those concerns.

Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Britain has championed the case for bringing nations which languished behind the Iron Curtain into Nato and the EU. That is important to their prosperity and security – and ours. Britain has also been one of the strongest supporters of a single market. It is in our interests that it should grow, and for our citizens to have the opportunity to work in other European countries

November 2013

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mardi 24 juin 2014



L'Europe ne sera plus jamais un pôle de prospérité si elle laisse grandir à ses portes des viviers d'ennemis de la démocratie

Gérald Papy

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Le Vif » Actualité » Belgique » 2.700 Européens expulsés de Belgique

2.700 Européens expulsés de Belgique

[Le Vif](#)

Source: Belga

vendredi 10 janvier 2014 à 07h52

L'an dernier, 2.712 ressortissants européens ont été privés en Belgique de titre de séjour par l'Office des Etrangers, soit près de 10% de plus qu'un an auparavant, peut-on lire vendredi dans les journaux de Sudpresse.



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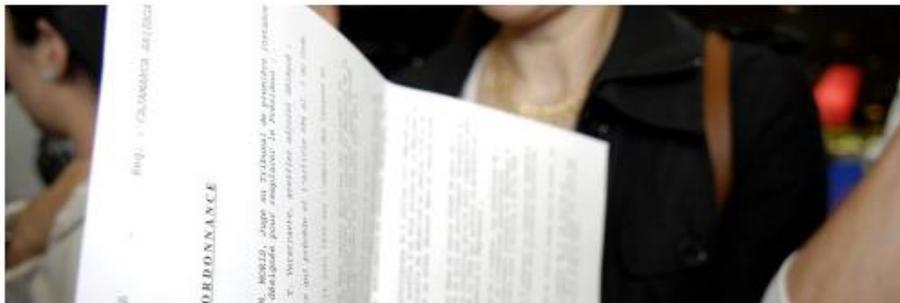
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Les Suisses mettent fin au principe de libre circulation des personnes

LE MONDE | 10.02.2014 à 11h51 • Mis à jour le 10.02.2014 à 12h02 |

Par Alain Salles

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February 14, 2014 1:54 pm

Europe's far-right parties seek Swiss-style immigration curbs

By James Fontanella-Khan in Amsterdam, Richard Milne in Oslo and James Shotter in Zurich



At least a half-dozen far-right European populist parties, some of them leading in national polling, have seized on last Sunday's [Swiss vote](#) limiting immigration to call for similar referendums in their own countries.

Although the parties, which include Dutch, French, Italian and Danish eurosceptic groups, have long been opposed to immigration, many have been galvanised by the Swiss vote, pushing the issue back to the top of the political agenda just three months ahead of elections to the European Parliament.

Marine Le Pen, leader of France's ultranationalist

February 2014

SILK ROAD REDUX

Day 5: China

Chinese migrants smell the coffee at home

Day 4: Spain

Chinese in Spain race up economic ladder

Day 3: Portugal

Sea, sun and easy visas lure China buyers

Day 2: Italy

China swoops in on Italian assets

Day 1: FDI

China investors surged into EU in crisis



France

Le Point.fr

Mise à jour le 11 novembre à 16h47

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Politique | Philippe Tesson | Michèle Cotta |

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Le Point.fr - Publié le 14/01/2014 à 15:46

Roms : le FN veut "traiter" le problème plutôt que le "déplacer"

Florian Philippot, vice-président du Front national, estime qu'il faut mettre fin à la libre circulation totale au sein de l'Union européenne.



January 2014

Politique

- 16h41 11 Novembre : François Hollande inaugure l'"Anneau de la Mémoire"
- 15h47 EXCLUSIF. François Bayrou : "La démission de Jouyet est inéluctable"
- 14h07 Affaire Jouyet-Fillon : ce que contiennent les enregistrements du "Monde"
- 13h01 Un avion survole le mémorial ND-de-Lorette avec une banderole "Hollande..."
- 11h59 Affaire Jouyet-Fillon : Manuel Valls appelle à "sortir de ce débat"
- 11h29 Affaire Jouyet/Fillon: Valls ne commente pas, appelle au "rassemblement"

Politique : l'actualité en direct >>

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EU migrants face new curbs on claiming benefits in an attempt to reduce Britain's 'pull factor'



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3 America is now Ebola free, why not celebrate with this tasteful doll?



4 Who said it: Katie Hopkins or Stormfront?

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Wer nicht arbeitet, fliegt

Ohne Zahlen vorzulegen, fabuliert die Bundesregierung über Mißbrauch von Sozialleistungen durch EU-Bürger und kündigt Maßnahmen dagegen an

Von *Elsa Koester*



Nach dem Willen der Bundesregierung soll das Recht auf Freizügigkeit nicht für alle EU-Bürger gelten - Busbahnhof im bulgarischen Sofia



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Tory plan to cap EU migration

A partial ban on EU migration could be included in David Cameron's sweeping renegotiation of Britain's relationship with Brussels, senior sources tell The Telegraph



Photo: Reuters

By **Tim Ross**, Political Correspondent

7:00AM BST 06 Jul 2014

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II. Seven Strategies to Improve the Free Movement of Persons



www.RightToMove.eu

1. Directive 2004/38 should be recast into a Regulation

- * This would reduce divergence in administrative formalities in the EU and further facilitate the exercise of the right of free movement by EU citizens and their family members.*
- * It would also make it more difficult for private transport companies and visa processing agents to circumvent the rules*

2. The Commission's powers of investigation should be strengthened

- * The Commission needs to have a full range of measures at its disposal to investigate and enforce the free movement rules more efficiently and fulfil its mission as Guardian of the EU Treaties.*
- * The Commission should have the power to make unannounced inspections, interview witnesses and take copies of records.*

3. Member states should collate better statistics on the free movement of persons

- * The collection of data on the free movement of EU citizens and their family members would encourage better evidence-based policy-making by the Member States as well as the EU.*

4. Member states should deepen their collaboration on the free movement of persons

- * Member States can only develop appropriate and effective responses to challenges generated by the free movement of persons through cooperation guided by independent expertise.*
- * The output of such cooperation should be made public in order to ensure transparency and promote the sharing of best practices*

5. Civil society organisations should be empowered to help citizens overcome obstacles

- * Empowering civil society groups to inform and assist mobile citizens will ensure that these citizens can make effective use of those rights and overcome obstacles that may come their way.*
- * In view of cuts made to legal aid in several Member States, the Commission should also review its opposition to funding “actions consisting in legal actions”. Civil society should be empowered to litigate strategic issues in the national courts.*

6. Judgments of the EU Court of Justice prior to 2004 should be translated into all languages

- * Citizens and their advisers need to be able to rely on the relevant judgments of the EU Court of Justice in all EU official languages irrespective of when the judgment may have been issued.*
- * Seminal judgments of the EU Court of Justice pre-dating 2004 are not available in the official languages of the new Member States.*

7. A pro free movement counterfactual should be developed to refute anti-migrant rhetoric

- * Politicians who believe in the benefits of European integration must learn to present the benefits of free movement using similar tactics and terminology deployed by populist politicians.*
- * The benefits of free movement must be explained in an accessible and relevant way.*

Further information

rights.clinic@ecas.org

- * EU Rights Clinic blog
 - * <http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/eu-rights-clinic/>
- * ECAS website
 - * <http://www.ecas.org/eu-rights/eu-rights-clinic/>