



State Secretary Jan Pörksen, Ministry for Labour, Social and Family Affairs and Integration of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the **Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration (SVR)** and the **Hanse-Office** have the pleasure of inviting you to an expert discussion with lunch reception on

Legalise labour migration to reduce irregular migration? – Discussion on the proposals of the SVR’s Annual Report 2018 –



18th June 2018, 12h30 – 15h30

at the Hanse-Office, Avenue Palmerston 20, 1000 Brussels.

In view of the disastrous situation of migrants in Libya, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker reiterated in November 2017 his call for legal ways for migrants to Europe as it would clearly need immigration in the coming decades. Labour migration policies have so far largely focused on the highly skilled. In order to be an effective instrument to counter irregular migration, they would have to be more aligned to the qualifications of this group – vocationally-trained and unskilled people. The demand for people with vocational training rises in Germany and other EU countries, as demographic change begins to play out in labour intensive sectors such as health care. In its **Annual Report 2018 “Steering What Can Be Steered: What Can Immigration and Integration Laws Do?”**, the SVR gives recommendations to facilitate immigration for vocationally-trained workers within the framework of German immigration legislation.

Taking these ideas of the SVR as a starting point, this event aims at stimulating a dialogue with representatives of the EU institutions, the Member States and other key stakeholders on the future shape of EU labour migration policies. The exchange will focus on the relationship between national and European legislation, and the capacity of labour migration policies to contribute to a reduction of illegal migration. To start off the discussion, Professor Daniel Thym, co-author of the SVR’s Annual Report 2018, will present the proposals of the SVR.

We would be delighted if you could attend the event. Please **confirm your participation** by replying to events@hanse-office.de by 12th June 2018 at the latest. For further details, please refer to the programme attached.

The expert conference will be held in English. Please find a summary of the SVR’s Annual Report 2018 (English) [here](#) and the original German version of the report [here](#). This event will be documented by pictures. By participating you declare to agree that these pictures may be used and published. If you don’t agree please inform us previous to the event.