

PRESS INVITATION
Vienna, 20 June 2016

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FORUM

“Rights, Respect, Reality: the Europe of Values in Today's World”

Vienna Congress Centre, Messeplatz 1, 1020 Vienna

20 June to 23 June 2016

Opening: 17:00, 20 June, Vienna City Hall

Photo opportunity: 17:30

The European Union **Agency for Fundamental Rights** (FRA) is hosting three days of activities featuring more than 650 experts from academia, business, the arts, and politics, as well as grassroots activists, refugees and professional groups such as educators, health officers and psychologists. They will take part in working groups, inspirational talks, panel debates and discussions with guest speakers to devise innovative solutions to the most pressing problems Europe faces today. Their work will be structured around three themes: the refugee crisis, the digital age and inclusion.

Those attending include Italian film-maker **Gianfranco Rosi**, whose award-winning 2016 documentary 'Fire At Sea' focuses on the lives of migrants on Lampedusa. He will be joined by dozens of other innovators, like digital rights activist **Max Schrems** and academic entrepreneur **Alberto Alemanno**. Senior officials from the EU will appear alongside policy makers from the European Parliament and national governments, not least Slovakia's Deputy Prime Minister **Lucia Žitňanská**, whose country is about to take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Senior managers from businesses including **IKEA, Facebook** and **Google** will also be taking part.

The aim is for everyone to make new commitments to human rights in their field. The commitments will be enshrined in a list of action points at the end of the Forum. The milestones and key findings of the Forum will be summarised in the Chair's Statement.

The Forum will be opened at Vienna City Hall on 20 June by FRA patron **Heinz Fischer**, who is stepping down as Austrian president in July after 12 years. The European Commission's First Vice President **Frans Timmermans** will give a keynote speech.

Journalists have access to all areas of the [Forum](#) and interviews can be arranged with all participants.

For more details and registration, please contact:

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Fundamental Rights Forum: <http://fundamentalrightsforum.eu>