

## Evian Group Debates Double Standards on Migration Policies

Are current migration policies a form of apartheid?

The politically sensitive question of international migration was on the agenda of the Evian Group Plenary Meeting.

Philippe Legrain, author of *Immigrants: Your Country Needs Them*, presented a case for the unhindered liberalisation of the cross-border movement of people. He compared his vision to the past struggle against slavery. “Free migration is not only morally right but also economically right,” he said.

It could be argued that the history of government immigration control is one of successive failures.

“Campaigning for open borders is a noble cause of our time,” he added. “No compromise can be made on liberal values.”

Many believe that the global procedures of liberalization have so far excluded labor mobility in a convention that can be questioned on grounds of equity and freedom.

“The choice for the EU and the US is not between open and closed borders but rather illegal or regulated migration,” emphasized Jean-Pierre Lehmann, Evian Group Founder and IMD Professor of International Political Economy.

The debate highlighted that international migration has humanitarian, security and economic aspects, but it also involves problems of cultural perceptions from which it is impossible to shy away. This is particularly true when it comes to the movement of the more disadvantaged and lesser skilled segments of society.

The Evian Group at IMD will continue to explore and help shape policies on international migration.