



**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

**Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017**

**REDEFINING THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL INTEREST  
IN GLOBAL MIGRATION MANAGEMENT:  
THE DIASPORA FACTOR & FACILITATOR ROLE**

**Collins NWEKE**

**Councillor Ostend City Council Belgium**

**Chairman NIDO Europe 2011 - 2013**





**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit, Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

**REDEFINING THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL INTEREST  
IN GLOBAL MIGRATION MANAGEMENT:  
THE DIASPORA FACTOR & FACILITATOR ROLE**

**Video link interview on EU Migration  
Trust Fund**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kfd8ZMV5Ajo>







**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

# Central premise of the Discourse

- **Changing times:** must changing times warrant changing National Interest(s)?
- **Morality & Interests:** should the distinction between morality-based & interest-based foreign policy be accepted?
- **Ideological dichotomy:** those on the Political Left are more prone to argue for change while those on the Political Right often with a pronounced moral compass will argue for status quo





# COLLINS NWEKE

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*



**Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017**

## Legal Basis & Objectives of EU Migration Policy

- **Legal basis:** Articles 79 and 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)
- **Objectives:** to set up a **balanced** approach to dealing with regular immigration and **combating** irregular immigration. Proper management of migration flows entails ensuring fair treatment of third-country nationals residing legally in Member States, enhancing measures to combat irregular immigration and promoting closer cooperation with non-member countries in all fields. It is the EU's aim to establish a uniform level of rights and obligations for regular immigrants, comparable with that for EU citizens







# COLLINS NWEKE

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

## Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

### 4 Central Pillars of EU Migration Policy

- **Regular immigration:** the EU is competent to lay down the conditions governing entry into and legal residence in a Member State, including for the purposes of family reunification, for third-country nationals. Member States retain the right to determine volumes of admission for people coming from third countries to seek work.
- **Integration:** the EU may provide incentives and support for measures taken by Member States to promote the integration of legally resident third-country nationals; EU law makes no provision for the harmonization of national laws and regulations, however.





**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

**Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017**

## **4 Central Pillars of EU Migration Policy**

- **Combating irregular immigration:** the European Union is required to prevent and reduce irregular immigration, in particular by means of an effective return policy, in a manner consistent with fundamental rights.
- **Readmission agreements:** the European Union is competent to conclude agreements with third countries for the readmission to their country of origin or provenance of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry into, or presence or residence in, a Member State







**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

**Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017**

## **Why Europeans Should Like the EU Migration Policy**

- Because it is meant to control immigration and combat irregular migration
- It's meant to make the citizens safer
- Key Question: has it achieved all of these?





**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

## The Issues with EU Migration Policy

- Strongest criticism is that there is no EU Policy on Migration *per se*
- It is said that what exists are sets of reactive, repressive measures aimed more at managing crisis situation: combating irregular migration







**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

**Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017**

# Aspirational Development

“During the reorganization of the European Commission in late 2014, the Home Affairs portfolio was renamed and restructured as the new Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), reflecting the high priority of the topic for the new president and other leaders. However, the change has yet to be substantiated with deeper reconfiguration to the supporting framework on coordination, which must be strengthened for existing policy to be sustained and effective new policy created”

- Elizabeth Collet | Migration Policy Institute





# COLLINS NWEKE

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

**Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017**

## **Towards a Middle-Ground**

- Does a middle-ground exist? Can a middle-ground exist?
  - At the heart of a middle-ground is the issue of morality vs interest
  - leaders and experts may point out the costs of indulging these values
  - If an informed public disagrees, experts cannot deny the legitimacy of public opinion. Numerous polls have shown both in Europe and the United States that the citizens are neither isolationist nor eager to see their leaders serve as the world's police .
  - Finding a middle course is proving difficult and complex particularly in light of the election of President Donald Trump







# COLLINS NWEKE

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GRÖEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

## Shared Priorities, Strategic, then National Interest

- Evidence are beginning to emerge that not only debunks the complexity around finding the needed middle-ground, but also supports the reasoning that national interest of a nation state can be seen from a broader prism of **shared priorities** regarding relations with the rest of the world.
- Though broader than **strategic interests**, national interest is always an integral part thereof. **National interest** does include values such as human rights and democracy, if the public feels that those values are important to its identity that it is willing to pay a price to promote them.
- The European Union obviously believes that their interests include certain values, such as protection of lives of young desperate migrants in the Mediterranean Sea, human rights, female circumcision, living in human dignity,... The promotion of these values abroad is to the EU and the vast majority of its citizens of vital rather than secondary importance





# COLLINS NWEKE

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

## A Silent Turning Point

- In the management of international migration especially from the Sub-Sahara Region of Africa, signs are that the EU may be rethinking its concept of national interest.
- An agreement which came on the back of the Valletta Summit, a high-level meeting between EU and African leaders that took place in Malta in November 2015 is a good pointer.
- The summit resulted in the establishment of an Emergency Trust Fund for Africa aimed at tackling the root causes of irregular migration, to which the EU pledged 1.8 billion euros (\$1.9 billion). The EU has proposed partnerships with four other African countries — Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal — in a bid to cut the flow of migrants arriving in Italy. The EU has stated it will “apply the necessary leverage” in order to secure them. This has been interpreted to be an apparent threat to cut foreign aid to African countries unless they cooperate in reducing irregular migration.







# COLLINS NWEKE

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

## The Diaspora Factor

The situation today offers opportunity for African Diaspora led by NIDO Europe to:

- Initiate relevant strategic high-level debates in other that the definition of national interest is officially broader than its current narrow perspective. Speak out for LEGAL MIGRATION e.g. Australian Point System, US and Canadian Visa Lottery.
- Work with African home governments to carry out needs analysis aimed at identifying sustainable areas where EU Migration funds should be channeled towards and encourage activation of matching funds.
- Identify international project partners to assess and partly manage the funds for the mutual benefit of Europe, their host and Africa, the homeland.





**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

## The Diaspora as Facilitator

### Basis: 1,8 Billion Euro EU Migration Fund

- Diaspora Role: initiate debates, influence public opinion, work with relevant partners and thoughts leaders
- Political participation is an option, please don't rule it out
- **African Governments are expected to put forward a proposal on how fund should be expended but no tangible action taken so far**
- The Diaspora must facilitate their governments to come up with projects
- **Good news is that virtually every project presented here so far as long as it targets young people from, Nigeria Solar Academy to Edwin Akabuilo's Silent Generator, AfricanTide Policy Academy, et cetera**







# COLLINS NWEKE

Organizing for a Fairer Europe

**ORIGEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

## How To Proceed from Here?

- 1st Step: *Project Partnership Meeting to determine concept and strategy*
- 2nd Step: *Who does what?*
- 3rd Step: *What other crowdfunding matching funds are available, at national and regional level? Quite a bit, some actually funding regular operations, others under international development*
- 4th Step: *spell out a well articulated strategy Paper and step in to talk to Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).*
- *Critical Point: Get as many Members European Parliaments as possible from all political families involved: positive coalition building*





**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

## Will it be Easy?

- Certainly not but it is perfectly doable
- Above all, there is the intellectual capacity within the Diaspora to achieve the goal







**COLLINS NWEKE**

*Organizing for a Fairer Europe*

**GROEN**  
werkt voor iedereen

Diaspora Project Summit | Dortmund, Germany 26-27 May 2017

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

**Collins NWEKE**

[admin@collinsnweke.eu](mailto:admin@collinsnweke.eu)

[www.collinsnweke.eu](http://www.collinsnweke.eu)

