

Demetri Papademetriou will speak at Roundtable 3 at 3:10pm titled “***European Pressure Points: Immigration, Energy and Trade.***” The main points of his discussion will focus on the following topics;

- Europe cannot afford to have another year like 2015 with regard to the migration crisis; if it does, it will come apart.
- In order for that not to happen, Germany must continue to walk back from its position of last Fall and virtually all the elements of the deal with Turkey must be ratified by the European Council and must be implemented steadfastly by all parties.
- The twin objectives that must be met is that both the numbers of migrants coming to Europe and the chaotic manner in which they have been coming must change, dramatically. And this must happen very quickly.
- The Central European countries that have been taking matters into their own hands—whether through strict border controls and/or by refusing to participate in the EU’s relocation scheme—must be persuaded to trust their fellow member states in implementing the twin goals outlined immediately above. Only then can unity across the EU stand a chance to be restored.
- Assuming that order can return in the migration front, the most important imperative for all member states that took substantial numbers of newcomers in the last year is their integration. That effort must focus first and foremost in placing them in the labor market at the earliest possible time. Absent a concerted, and successful, effort at integration, the causes of the newcomers’ economic integration and broad social cohesion will become unattainable.
- Austria, because of steps it is taking to reduce the numbers of new migrants from entering and staying in it, and it’s very good recent record on integration, stands a very good chance to meet this last challenge. And it can only do so with the full participation and engagement of all relevant government agencies, employers, labor organizations, and civil society writ large.