

# Mobility vs state sovereignty: old dilemmas and policy solutions

Metropolis 2008 Plenary, Bonn, Germany

Virginie Guiraudon

Researcher at Ceraps (National Center for Scientific

Research and university of Lille 2)



# Historical lessons and legacies

- Noiriél: need to distinguish the foreigner from the national once (social) rights develop and state has bureaucratic capacity and « science » to control populations. (see also Caplan and Torpey)
- Noiriél: pressure from domestic work force and corporations for closure also old phenomenon
- Torpey: pressure for openness from business as well (call to abolish passports and visas)
- Zolberg: US federal state invents ways of sifting migrants carrier sanctions, visas, for fear of those « likely to be a public charge ».
- Favell 2007 and Recchi et al. 2006: intra-EU mobility reveals borders of the welfare state and of the labor market (issues with pensions, health, diplomas)

# The current context: old recipes *au goût du jour*

- Law acts as a constraint (alongside politics and economics)
- State responses include both remote control (Guiraudon 2001) and internal controls (Engbersen, Bommers 2007) to prevent access to labor market and welfare state
- Control technologies updated (digital borders, biometrics...)

# The Southern and Eastern EU border:





- «Sovereignty games » (Adler-Nissen and Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen 2008)
- « remote control » to admit only the desirable « mobiles » rather than the undesirable migrants means enlisting other sovereign states (Guiraudon 2000, 2003) and pushing border outside the EU (Lavenex 2006).

# Frontex Hera II



# 2003 European security strategy « key threats » section (pp. 4-5)

- **Organised Crime:** Europe is a prime target for organised crime. This internal threat to our security has an important external dimension: cross-border trafficking in drugs, women, illegal migrants and weapons accounts for a large part of the activities of criminal gangs. It can have links with terrorism ...

# What's new?

- The role of the EU alongside that of the states
- « The fight against illegal migration » used to legitimize the EU as a political system

= Who is sovereign?

= When can we expect the turning of the tide?