

High Level Conference on the prevention of radicalisation

Draft programme

4 November 2019, Brussels (BE)

European Committee of the Regions

Jacques Delors Building, Belliardstraat 99-101, B-1040 Brussel

Interpretation will be provided in English, French and German

The Commission will host the 5th Radicalisation Awareness Network High-Level Conference (RAN HLC) on Monday, 4 November 2019 in Brussels. The RAN HLC will bring together the European Commission, senior officials of Member States and first-line practitioners to discuss ways forward and further improve the effectiveness of our responses to continued and emerging challenges in the field of radicalisation towards violent extremism and terrorism.

This year, the HLC will be different in character from its predecessors since the event will centre on the viewing of **Le Jeune Ahmed**, a 2019 movie by Belgian film directors Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, which premiered at Cannes in May this year. The film tells the story of a Belgian Muslim teenager whose father is no longer on the scene and has become radicalised by a local extremist imam. Ahmed tries to kill his teacher which lands him in youth custody.

Following the film, a discussion between the directors and the audience and discussion in smaller groups will follow, hovering around questions such as: What can we learn from juxtaposing the events in the film and daily reality? How do the events in the film relate to your practitioner field experience? Could things have gone differently, and if so, what would it require in terms of policy and practice?

11.30 - 12.00	Registration
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch (Ledra Street)
13.00 - 13.15	Opening comments (Atrium) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Karl-Heinz Lambertz (President of the Committee of the Regions) <i>tbc</i>▪ Paraskevi Michou (Director General, DG HOME)
13.15 - 13.25	Introduction of today's programme, the film <i>[in English]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Moderator: Eddy Caekelberghs
13.25 - 14.45	Viewing
14.45 - 15.25	Discussion with film directors Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne and the audience, moderated by Eddy Caekelberghs <i>[in French]</i>
15.25 - 15.35	Introduction break-out sessions by Naeeda Aurangzeb <i>tbc</i>
15.35 - 16.00	Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00

JDE 3253 ➤ 1 group
JDE 4253 ➤ 1 group
JDE 51 ➤ 2 groups
JDE 52 ➤ 2 groups
JDE 53 ➤ 1 group
Atrium ➤ 1 group

Break-out sessions - 4 topics, 8 groups (2 groups have the same topic)

- The audience will split up in 8 groups and discuss one of the themes that appear prominently in the film. Outcome of the group conversations will feed into the final plenary discussion.
- Main focus of discussion: What can we learn from juxtaposing the events in the film and daily reality? How do the events in the film relate to your practitioner field experience? Could things have gone differently? What alternative responses could be envisaged? And is there more that policymakers and practitioners can do? Each group will provide possible responses and recommendations, to be discussed afterwards.

▪ Topics:

✓ Family/community

"Only a month ago, you were playing with your PlayStation, and now all the posters are gone from your walls".

✓ Ideology

Ahmed meets with an imam who celebrates martyrs who sacrificed their own lives for holy jihad and preaches hatred against "infidels". He encourages

✓ Education

Ahmed refuses to shake hands with his teacher Inès who once helped Ahmed with his dyslexia years back because women are impure and because her teacher's boyfriend is "a Jew".

✓ Disengagement/deradicalisation

Social workers, psychologists and judges all discuss the best way to support Ahmed.

17.00 - 17.45

Plenary discussion based on findings from the break-out sessions

Moderator: Naeeda Aurangzeb *tbc*

17.45 - 18.00

Closing remarks

- Olivier Onidi (Deputy Director General, DG HOME)