

**Immigration and Immigration Control: Dutch Ambitions and European Realities.**

**Prof. dr. Han Entzinger (Erasmus University Rotterdam)**

*Abstract*

When the present Dutch government took office a year ago it chose limiting immigration as one of its top priorities. It was obvious to everyone that this was an attempt to win the support of Geert Wilders' xenophobe Freedom Party. Since then the government has remained remarkably silent on this ambition; not very much has happened. The latest statistics do not indicate any decline in immigration at all, and a vast majority of European partners do not appear to give in to Dutch pressure to make EU policy regulations stricter. This raises the question how realistic the Dutch government is in its assessment of recent and current developments in migration as well as in its ideas on the effectiveness of control policies. Han Entzinger, who is professor of migration and integration studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam (and also co-founder and former director of ERCOMER), will discuss the latest trends in migration and migration policies in the Netherlands, seen from a European perspective.