Labour Migration Regimes in the EU

Date Jun 12, 2025

Main Arguments

- There has been a minimal impact on free movement for migrant workers. Intra-EU labour mobility remains low, and generous rights (like family reunification) have not been exploited.
- Non-EU migrants are increasingly subject to fragmented regimes, with varying degrees of access depending on skill levels.
- The EU is transitioning from territorial border controls to biometric and data-driven surveillance mechanisms, targeting both EU and non-EU citizens.

Why is this important?

- Guild uses concrete examples (e.g., Czech Roma in the UK, FRONTEX operations, Schengen visa disparities) to expose how Member States circumvent or resist EU norms even as they participate in supranational control structures.
- Guild highlights the shift from territorial control to biometric and data-driven governance, drawing on concepts like governmentality (Foucault).

Questions

- Guild argues that lifting labour migration controls within the EU did not lead to mass movement or welfare abuse. Why do you think these fears persist in political and media discourse?
- Guild describes a shift from state-centered sovereignty to supranational, biometric, and data-driven control mechanisms. What are the implications of this shift for the legal subject in the EU?
- Guild critiques the idea of 'managed migration' as illusory. Do you agree? Can migration ever be 'managed' fairly, and if so, by whom?