



BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION FORUM

Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2025

Present

Bureau members:

- **Tina Zournatzi**, European Commission (EC), DG Migration and Home Affairs
- **Paul Soete**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Member
- **Anna Coulibaly**, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) Europe
- **Fatemeh Jailani** – SINGA Global
- **Yonous Muhammadi** - Greek Forum of Refugees
- **Abdourahamane Diaby** - Maria Rosa Foundation - Comparte

Staff:

- **Tautvyde Daujotyte**, European Commission (EC), DG Migration and Home Affairs
- **Triin Aasmaa Gomes**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Sara Armendariz**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Maria Månsson**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

The purpose of this bureau meeting was to introduce the new members of the bureau, review the feedback survey of the 9th EMF, discuss topics for the 10th EMF and discuss the role and tasks of the EMF Bureau members.

Tina Zournatzi explained that the Forum aims to discuss policies on migration, inclusion, and integration with civil society organizations, providing a platform for dialogue that helps identify the needs of policy and funding decisions at the European level. She emphasized that the Forum serves as a significant opportunity for the European Commission to engage in dialogue with civil society. This dialogue contributes to the voices of civil society being heard and considered in the decision-making process.

The Forum is designed to provide a platform where civil society organizations can discuss and provide input on policies related to migration and integration. This input is intended to feed into the broader policy framework, impacting how the European Commission functions in terms of policy, funding and project implementation.

Triin Aasmaa Gomes presented the feedback from the 9th Forum.

Generally:

- The 9th Forum received 52 feedback responses, with all sessions achieving high or very high satisfaction rates.

- There were high satisfaction rates for all sessions, and the comments and suggestions for improvement included a recommendation to integrate more migrant voices and increasing exchange with institutions.
- Specific comments on sessions included satisfaction with the high-level overview of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the need for more time for testimonials from the field, and the positive reception of roundtable discussions. There were also suggestions for more structured and longer "The Floor is Yours" sessions and better room arrangements for roundtables.
- Suggestions for improvement included sharing presentation materials in advance, including more youth participation and providing more information on outcomes and follow-up actions.

The floor was opened for discussion on the selection of the 10th Forum topic. **Tina Zournatzi** proposed focusing the next Forum on employment of migrants and refugees, including issues such as combating illegal employment, protecting migrant workers' rights, and combating human trafficking.

The Commission proposed that the next Forum focus on the employment of migrants and refugees. This would include addressing issues such as illegal employment, protecting migrant workers' rights, and combating human trafficking. The proposed focus aligns with ongoing policy work on the Seasonal Workers Directive and the Employer Sanctions Directive. These directives aim to address labour exploitation and ensure the protection of migrant workers' rights.

The Forum would provide an opportunity for civil society to offer input on the implementation of these directives, ensuring that the voices of those working directly with migrants are heard in the policy-making process.

Paul Soete raised concerns that focusing on undeclared work and illegal employment might not be fitting for the Forum. He argued that these issues are not specific to migrants and are more related to broader labour market regulations. He suggested that the Forum should instead focus on the broader aspects of migration policy, including the implementation and monitoring of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, to ensure that the discussions remain relevant to migration-specific issues.

Fatemeh Jailani and Anna Coulibaly suggested broadening the topic to include economic inclusion and assessing the effectiveness of the Pact and integration policies, emphasizing the importance of showcasing civil society's role and contributions.

They proposed broadening The Forum's focus to include economic inclusion, assessing the effectiveness of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, and integration policies. They emphasized the need to showcase the role and contributions of civil society in these areas. They highlighted the importance of evaluating the impact of current policies and investments in integration and inclusion, suggesting that this assessment could lead to more constructive discussions and better policy outcomes.

Anna Coulibaly stressed the need to highlight the expertise and contributions of civil society organizations in the Forum, ensuring that their work and impact are recognized and valued in the policy-making process. She proposed organizing national consultations before the Forum to gather input from local organizations and ensure broader representation and participation in the discussions.

Abdourahamane Diaby and Yonous Muhammadi suggested organizing national consultations prior to the Forum. These consultations would gather input from local organizations, ensuring that the discussions at the Forum are representative of a broader range of perspectives and experiences. They proposed that these national consultations take place about a month before the Forum, allowing

enough time to gather and integrate the input into the Forum's agenda. They also emphasized the need for active participation from the European Commission in these consultations.

Yonous Muhammadi suggested focusing on the positive contributions of migrants to European society, including their economic, cultural, and political impact, as a way to counter negative narratives and highlight their value. This approach could help counter the weaponization of migration and promote a more inclusive and appreciative view of migrants in Europe.

Triin Aasmaa Gomes explained the role and tasks of the Bureau members:

- Disseminate information about the Forum, including the call for expressions of interest, to their networks and member organizations.
- Contribute to the development of the Forum's agenda, propose ideas for sessions, and help identify and contact potential speakers.
- During the Forum, Bureau members may take on roles as moderators for various sessions.
- After the Forum, they are expected to help disseminate the results and reports through their networks and social media channels.

Follow-up tasks:

- Organize national consultations to discuss the Forum's agenda and gather input from local migrant-led organizations. (Bureau Members)
 - Ensure participants complete the feedback survey at the end of the Forum to increase response rates. (Organizers)
 - Identify and propose good practices and case studies from local and regional authorities to be showcased at the Forum. (Bureau Members)
 - Find and propose artistic contributions that showcase migrant inclusion for the Forum. (Bureau Members)
 - Disseminate information about the Forum and the call for expression of interest among networks and member organizations. (Bureau Members)
 - Propose speakers and share their contact details with the organizers. (Bureau Members)
 - Act as moderators during the Forum sessions. (Bureau Members)
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