



European Economic and Social Committee | Comité économique et social européen

PERIOD **ACTIVITY REPORT**
2023 PG Immigration and
2025 Integration (IMI)

**DIRECTORATE C – LEGISLATIVE
WORK**

PRESIDENT : CRISTIAN PÎRVULESCU

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Introduction

The permanent group on Immigration and Integration (IMI) plays an active role in the relationship between civil society and the EU institutions. The overarching objective of IMI is to promote the development of a common European immigration and integration policy based on the principles of fundamental rights, solidarity and responsibility, with strong involvement of civil society.

During the past two and a half years, IMI has continued to provide a space for meaningful dialogue between civil society and EU institutions on immigration and integration. In a period marked by deep transformations — from the humanitarian impact of the war in Ukraine to the adoption of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum — our group has worked to bring clarity, balance, and realism to a highly polarised field of policy.

IMI has remained committed to fostering trust and engagement across diverse institutional and societal actors. Whether through consultations in preparation for the European Migration Forum (EMF), thematic discussions on climate-induced displacement, or reflections on legal migration pathways, we have aimed to ensure that the voices of civil society are not only heard but are also integrated into policy thinking.

This mandate has also confirmed the importance of cross-cutting cooperation within the EESC, as shown by our joint actions with other groups and observatories. Our fact-finding visit to the Netherlands, the collaboration with the FRRL Group, the open dialogue with the SOC and REX sections as well as with the EESC President has enriched our understanding and sharpened our contributions.

I would like to thank all IMI members for their active participation and unwavering commitment. Your engagement has strengthened the role of the EESC as a credible and responsible actor in EU migration and integration debates, and has reaffirmed the central role of civil society in upholding the Union's fundamental values.

Cristian Pîrulescu

President of the Permanent Group on Immigration and Integration

Activities & main findings

In the second half term 2023-2025, IMI focussed on: the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum (the pact); climate migration; the integration and access to jobs for newcomers and vulnerable migrants; and on the European Commission's and the EESC's seminal annual event, the EMF.

The main activities of IMI have been conferences, events and roundtables with the EU institutions, Member States, social partners and civil society. Regarding the EMF, as is established practice, the IMI president of the previous mandate, Paul Soete, represents the EESC in the EMF bureau. Normally, one IMI meeting per year is dedicated to a consultation with CSOs on the topic of the next EMF.

There have been two meetings of the EMF, the 8th and 9th, taking place in November 2023 and 2024. The 8th EMF focussed on the needs of migrants and what is essential for their inclusion, whilst the 9th EMF was on the role of civil society in the implementation of the pact. There was a notable change in the format of the EMF by having less plenary sessions and more participatory roundtables. Both EU policy makers and civil society participants appreciated this participative approach and so this format will continue in future.

In addition to the EMF, the group debated the migration issues of the day. With the Russian aggression in Ukraine still ongoing, some of the main political developments were the extension of the temporary protection directive for refugees from Ukraine, and of course the entry into force of the pact in June 2024.

This mandate also saw some novelties. There was a joint FRRL-IMI mission to the Netherlands, which enabled a more comprehensive review of fundamental rights and non-discrimination. IMI also held a conference on climate migration, which was in collaboration with the EESC ad hoc group on the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP). Members of the IMI group and external participants highly appreciated these activities.

The Presidencies of the Council were invited to speak to the group, starting with the Spanish presidency, then the Belgian and finally the Polish one. Due to the importance

of the pact, the Presidencies tended to make it their main focus. Other priorities were legal pathways, integration measures and supporting third countries to prevent 'brain drain'.

IMI members regularly represented the group and the EESC at external conferences and meetings organised by EU institutions and other stakeholders, for example the annual EUAA Consultative Forum Plenary, the Expert Group on Economic Migration, as well as for the European Citizens' Initiative 'Ensuring a dignified reception of migrants in Europe'.

Thanks to IMI, the EESC has built a good reputation as a committed partner in these policy areas, both among other EU institutions, international organisations, diplomatic missions and with civil society.

Appendix I – List of meetings and events

	As of 26 April 2023	2024	Until 21 October 2025	Total
PSG/Observatory meetings	7	6	2	15
Fact-finding missions	0	1	0	1
Conferences and hearings organized by the PSG/Observatory	2	2	1	5