



## **BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION FORUM**

Minutes of the meeting of 7 October 2016

### **Participants:**

#### **Bureau members:**

- **Irini Pari**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Laura Corrado**, European Commission (EC), DG Home Affairs
- **Yonous Muhammadi** (Greek Forum of Refugees), Bureau member representing civil society organisations at national level
- **Annica Ryngbeck** (Social Platform), Bureau member representing civil society organisations at European level
- **Kadri Soova** (PICUM), Bureau member representing civil society organisations at European level

#### **Excused:**

- **Saïd Elouizi** (Maison des Migrants), Bureau member representing civil society organisations at national level

#### **Staff:**

- **Luca Lixi**, European Commission (EC), DG Home Affairs
- **Raluca Radescu**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Valeria Setti**, European Commission (EC), DG Home Affairs
- **Barbara Walentynowicz**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

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### **1. Reflection on the 3rd meeting of the Forum: theme and format**

The discussion following the public consultation with CSOs, that took place in the morning of the Bureau meeting, aimed at defining a topic for the next Forum, and also focussed on some organisational aspects.

Irini Pari (EESC) concluded that there was no clear option coming out of the public consultation which took place in the morning session; however, there was prevalence for topics B and C.

Laura Corrado (EC) pointed out to the EASO Consultative Forum, organised in November 2016 and to the need of avoiding overlaps. The topic C on changing the narrative should be kept as a transversal topic throughout the EMF.

Some new topics were raised at the consultation, and repeated in the Bureau (e.g. low and medium skilled migration, the governance of migration, detention, undocumented minors), which should be taken into account. The issues that were often mentioned were also: integration (Action Plan on Integration),

resettlement (and the need for more legal avenues), access to services and the protection of the most vulnerable people.

Laura Corrado explained that no new Commission legislative proposals were foreseen in the field of migration that could be debated during the EMF. Kadri Soova raised the issue of identifying gaps and weak points in current legislation, in the context of the REFIT exercise which is to be running in 2017. As for the suggested discussion on the implementation of the Action Plan on Integration published in June 2016, Annica Ryngebeck found that NGOs would need time to bring concrete contributions to its assessment. She also called for a reflection on questions that the Bureau would like to be answered during the 3rd Forum, as well as the expected results and value added for the participants.

It was agreed that, following the diversity of the views expressed in the consultation, a broad, overarching topic would have to be suggested, and the keyword would be “**access**” - in the sense of the access to the EU, to protection, to rights, to services and to the society as a whole. After receiving the written contributions, the organising team should prepare an outline of the Forum.

There was a general consensus on keeping the participatory methods used to facilitate the workshops at the 2nd EMF with an improvement: each group should be facilitated by an expert (EC/EESC/Bureau members/others) trained in conducting participatory meetings, who could better manage the discussions, the collection of contributions and the consolidation of the feedback. The 'Floor is yours' session (where participants can suggest subjects to be discussed) should be kept.

Some ideas were exchanged on the use of mobile applications for e.g. voting on the selected topics, or suggesting questions to be asked in plenaries (such as the tool used in the FRA Fundamental Rights Forum). The organising team will further look into these options.

## **2. Further steps:**

1. Written consultation on the proposals open until 17 October.
2. Results to be collected by the Forum Secretariat to feed into the preparation of an outline of the Forum by DG HOME, which would be sent to the Bureau for approval.
3. Preparation of the Open call for participation, on the basis of the outline.
4. Next Bureau meeting: January 2017 (tbc)