



BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION FORUM

Minutes of the meeting of 5 July 2017

Participants:

Bureau members:

- **Irini Pari**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Antoine Savary**, European Commission (EC), DG Home Affairs, replacing Laura Corrado
- **Saïd Elouizi** (Maison des Migrants), Bureau member representing civil society organisations at national level
- **Pablo Rojas Coppari** (Migrant Rights Centre Ireland), Bureau member representing civil society organisations at national level
- **Annica Ryngebeck** (Social Platform), Bureau member representing civil society organisations at European level
- **Kadri Soova** (PICUM), Bureau member representing civil society organisations at European level

Staff:

- **Valeria Setti**, European Commission (EC), DG Home Affairs
- **Luca Lixi**, European Commission (EC), DG Home Affairs
- **Barbara Walentynowicz**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Annemarie Wiersma**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Anna Krasny**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

This is the second Bureau meeting in this composition, following and deepening the discussions that took place on the first meeting of 26 April. The minutes can be accessed [here](#).

1. **4th meeting of the European Migration Forum: possible theme, format, date and planned outcome. Preparation of the consultation meeting with civil society (October 2017)**

DATE

It was agreed that the 4th EMF would take place in the first week of March 2018.

FORMAT

It was agreed to use the participatory format again, while leaving space in the programme for a few speakers. The programme would need to be kept rather light (not too packed), with enough time for exchange and networking. In the last meeting some workshop groups were rather large. It was agreed to organise five different workshops in parallel next time, which would all be repeated or continued (with different participants) on the second day.

It was discussed whether the topics of 'the Floor is Yours' sessions would need to be more predetermined next time, to allow participants to prepare for them and whether the themes should always be a continuation of the other workshop themes or could be unrelated to what had been discussed in the first round of workshops. It was agreed that both should be possible, that participants could submit themes for the Floor is Yours at registration and that the working method of the Floor is Yours would be introduced early in the meeting (and not just before the dedicated session), for participants to have the time to think of possible topics to be put forward. There should also be an option for people to network in a separate area with info stands (for example on funding) instead of participating in the Floor is Yours (or during the breaks and lunch).

The Terms of Reference will include the interactive tool 'Sli.do' to be used at the plenary and workshops, to be able to make online polls, ask questions etc.

Annica Ryngbeck will share with the Bureau Secretariat a successful methodology guide from an event she participated in as a speaker, organised by a different DG of the European Commission.

THEMES

On the basis of the first meeting of the Bureau on 26 April, the European Commission discussed internally and came up with proposals for themes for next year's Forum.

1. **Role of civil society in labour market integration**, and particularly in facilitating the matching of migrants' skills with the needs of employers. This would fit very well with the follow up actions of the European Dialogue on Skills and Migration and the objective of developing a truly multi-stakeholders approach on the matter;
2. **Accessibility of EU funds for integration** to civil society and local and regional authorities. This would be very topical in the context of the ongoing discussion on the next Multiannual Financial Framework;
3. **Building cohesive societies**, which could include a discussion on preventing **radicalisation**, as well as fighting discrimination, ghettoisation and social exclusion.

Everyone agreed that the first theme of integration is important and that labour market integration would therefore make an interesting topic. However, it is important that issues such as exploitation and decent work are being addressed, to avoid addressing only matching of highly skilled workers and include also other sectors - commented civil society members of the Bureau. Irini Pari and Antoine Savary noted that it would be smart to capture the recent tendency for employers to be more open to discuss labour market integration.

Annica Ryngbeck agreed that the second theme is relevant considering that it could feed into the preparation of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The proposal was thought to organise a workshop or a dedicated training session on (obtaining) funding, but not to dedicate a whole Forum to funding alone, with which Pablo Rojas agreed.

None of the civil society members of the Bureau were in favour of the third topic linking migration and radicalisation. Valeria Setti said that the EC has always avoided making that link, but that there seemed to be an increasing demand from stakeholders to actually work on it. To avoid confirming certain political discourse, it was suggested to rather focus on building inclusive societies to prevent marginalisation.

Some other topics were suggested by Pablo Rojas (irregular migration) and Saïd Elouizi (regularisation). On regularisation Antoine Savary noted that the latter is not an EU competence and it would therefore be difficult to link the Forum discussions to EU policy-making. Pablo Rojas said it might still make a good topic for a workshop (as there are good practices in Member States that could be exchanged). As regards irregular migration, Kadri Soova said that this had already been discussed at the first EMF.

Kadri Soova recalled that, following the civil society statement at the third European Migration Forum, and follow-up dialogues with the cabinet, ideas were explored about the possibility to also have a Forum on return and detention, as a way of fostering a dialogue that aims to improve the sustainability of the return process. It has not yet been discussed at the Forum and could attract participation of some new organisations. The aim of the discussions would need to be to find common ground and ways in which policy-makers and NGOs can cooperate. Pablo Rojas found return an interesting subject, but perhaps not as an overarching theme for the 4th Forum.

FOLLOW UP

It was agreed to put forward two possible themes, with five sub-themes for each, via the consultation that would be organised in September/October. EESC & EC staff would prepare a questionnaire, which the Bureau would give input to and approve. It could be launched early September. Organisations would be invited to reply until a week before the consultation meeting, which would take place on 3 October.

The planned outcome of the Forum was also discussed and that it is important to communicate this clearly already in the consultation stage and invitation so participants know what to expect.

2. Activities of the European Migration Forum between the annual meetings

As some participants of the previous Forum had asked for activities between the annual Forum meetings, Bureau members discussed what these could be. The CSO members of the Bureau also explained that they were about to send an email to Forum participants explaining their role and encouraging input. It was mentioned that an informal Facebook group exists and that the EESC secretariat manages a Twitter account that has almost 1500 followers. Valeria Setti said that an online platform used to exist, but that this was rarely used. It was agreed that the Bureau could communicate better on what happens with the Forum results once the Forum is over and that participants would be informed about follow up meetings, presentations of the report, etc. As it was not clear what other kind of activities participants would expect.

Irini Pari suggested asking participants (in the consultation) what type of interaction they would find useful; the suggestion was taken on board..

3. Planning of next Bureau meetings

The next Bureau meeting will take place in the afternoon of 3 October, after the consultation meeting with civil society on the topic of the 4th Forum.

4. AOB

Barbara Walentynowicz explained that the Forum report had been sent to Commissioner Avramopoulos, EP President Tajani and LIBE chair Moraes, as well as to EASO, Frontex, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the Estonian Council Presidency.