



**CPMR
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CPMR TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION MANAGEMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved by the CPMR Political Bureau, 17/06/2016, Kotka (Kymenlaakso, Finland)

I. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Task Force, the term migrant refers to a non-EU national and/or asylum seeker who leaves one country or region to settle in another, in search of a better life or for fear of being persecuted.

The term is in accordance with the respective definitions used by DG Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission.

II. CONTEXT

The EU is trying to set up a balanced, comprehensive and common migration policy¹, built upon solidarity and responsibility, in order to seize the opportunities whilst tackling the challenges concerning migration flows. One of the extents of this effort is to make a valuable contribution to the EU's economic development in the long term. This EU policy aims to better organise legal migration within an effective and multilaterally coherent migration governance enhancing the integration of non-EU nationals in EU societies, curbing irregular migration and managing migration through partnerships with non-EU countries, ensuring respect for, and protection of, migrants' human rights and ensuring their effective integration in the European society. These aspects are addressed in the [European Agenda on Migration](#), which includes -among others- [Legal Migration](#), [Common European Asylum System](#) and a [Global Approach to Migration and Mobility](#) (GAMM). The latter constitutes the overarching framework for EU external Migration Policy, complementary to EU Foreign Policy and development cooperation. Migration and mobility are thus important aspects of the EU's relations with its neighbours under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), revised in 2011 and 2015.

Recent developments clearly demonstrate that Europe is facing serious humanitarian emergencies at its borders (e.g. thousands of migrant deaths in the Euro-Med area, millions of arrivals in Europe since 2014), as well as a real and unprecedented challenge for the integration of asylum seekers in the EU societies. On the one hand, the larger percentage of migrants have headed to Northern Europe, where the numbers of applications for international protection have put pressure on the respective asylum systems and have sometimes triggered negative reactions within the population. On the other hand, the Euro-Med Region is an area especially concerned by migratory movements, which are complex phenomena with demographic, socio-economic, political and cultural implications. The southern and eastern countries of the Mediterranean are at the same time territories at the origin of regular and irregular migration, transit and destination for migration flows from the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. Although the recent EU-Turkey agreement has decreased the influx of people to Greece through Turkey, conflicts and political instability in these areas are continuing to generate migration flows affecting the entire Mediterranean Region and the EU. The Euro-Med area is also one of the main gateways for the internal spread of migration flows among all EU countries. After the recent changes in the Southern Med countries, a structured dialogue on migration mobility and security was set up by the EU. Mobility partnerships were signed

¹ Tampere EU Council 1999, EU Pact on Immigration and Asylum 2008, Stockholm programme 2009, EU Council of June 2014 etc.

with several countries but their correct implementation is possibly linked to the release of a higher number of visas allowing work mobility by EU Member States, with the controversy that this option may entail. At global level there are also on-going different processes of dialogue (United Nations), as well as at regional level (Africa-EU partnership) and at the sub-regional level (Rabat Process, Euromed ministerial meetings, 5+5 Western Med dialogue, Union for the Mediterranean, Euro-Med Assembly of Regional and Local Authorities) to mention just a few.

Migration appears within the 10 priorities of the new European Commission but it has been the unprecedented influx of people in the European Union in 2015 that put the issue at the very top of the EU agenda and prompted the mobilisation of European funds for addressing the emergencies and challenges faced.

At territorial level, among the sub-national governments, European Regions operate using relevant experience on the ground. It goes without saying that Regions have key competences, sensibility and a fundamental role to play in migration issues and in particular in the framework of responses to emergencies within the territory, integration of migrants and socio-economic development. Their capacity for action should be improved, supported and their role shall be taken into account more consistently especially by Member States, the EU and Euro-Med Institutions, as an added value for strengthening the effective implementation of EU Migration Policy at territorial level. It's clear that a global approach to migration also requires effective multilevel governance.

III. AREAS OF ACTION

The Migration crisis in Europe is far from over and more challenges lay ahead; on the one hand with regard to the effective integration of large numbers of migrants in the European societies and on the other hand with regard to the continuing instability in neighbouring areas, which may result in an unceasing influx of migrants towards Europe. There is a need to establish a long-term effective, plural and integrated multilevel governance model for managing migration based on a concrete strategy for legal migration, the fight against irregularities, criminality and human traffic, the respect of the right of asylum, economic cooperation, the positive relationship between migration and development, and a more effective cooperation with countries of transit and origin in all areas of migration. Regions should be more and systematically involved in the identification and implementation of possible solutions. In this sense, it is necessary that they do not simply be the executors of directives from national governments, but be ready and able to influence them to become stakeholders that are increasingly involved in actions towards political peace, dialogue and cooperation.

The Inter-Commission Task Force established by the CPMR in February 2015 (based on the first formal request of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission) has so far enhanced the exchange among CPMR member regions on Migration Management and has led to a series of advocacy initiatives, including the adoption of a Policy Position by the CPMR General Assembly in November 2015. In the Appendix of these Terms of Reference a list of the initiatives that were undertaken by the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions since the creation of the Task Force can be found.

In this framework, and on the basis of the proposals put forward by CPMR Regions with the support of the CPMR Secretariat this Inter-Commission Task Force shall continue addressing the main **thematic areas** defined:

- ❖ RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES DEALING WITH IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN THE CPMR REGIONS
 - **Promotion of reflections and recommendations on possible measures for improving the practical, immediate response, with respect for migrants' human rights, to the challenges of humanitarian emergencies in CPMR Regions, caused by irregular migration flows** (specific suggestions to be sent to EU Institutions, States etc.);
 - **Broader joint reflection on the deepest roots of migratory flows and more effective action for improving its management** (exchange of reflections and formulation of specific recommendations).

❖ INTEGRATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Effective and participatory socio-economic integration of migrants in the destination countries of migratory flows and promotion of circular migration as an asset for economic integration in EU Neighbourhoods** (mutual communication/exchange on best practices and integration models/pilot initiatives among CPMR Regions);
- **Support for dialogue among cultures and religions and the conditions for sustainable development** (in its broader definition and creating interlinkage with climate change and environmental degradation) **in the countries of origin and transit of migration flows through development of cooperation action** (link with Neighbourhood Policy and Development Cooperation and the CPMR Working Group on External Cooperation; conception of possible pilot actions).

In addition, in view of the debate for the post-2020 period, the Task Force shall also reflect on the best way to deliver a territorial dimension of Migration policies and address effectively challenges related to Migration in the long-run.

The specific **objectives** of this Task Force are:

1. **Policy and Advocacy** – On the basis of the CPMR Policy Position adopted, to profile, advocate for and secure the added value of regional action in the management of migration, by means of a specific voice for regional authorities for the coordination of actions and/or the effective management of funds on the ground. The main output of the Task Force should be proposals to EU institutions and in particular to the EC Commissioners on Migration and Home Affairs, Mr Avramopoulos and on Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Mr Stylianides.
2. **Innovative processes and exchange of visions and best practices** - To encourage and strengthen new cooperation processes and partnerships of particular added value, innovation and effectiveness for more effective migration management and governance. This shall include facilitating communication and exchange of concrete best practice between regional authorities and their partners.
3. **Complementarity, synergy and pilot actions** - To promote and complement the impact of the CPMR Task Force on migration management and the individual work of its members, as well as synergies with other CPMR Working Groups, first of all the CPMR Working Group on External Cooperation and all the Geographical Commissions, as necessary. If needed the Task Force should conceive pilot actions for the future to be developed by its members, possibly with the support of EU funds.
4. **Accountability and effectiveness:** Monitor and assess the effectiveness and impact of actions to improve migration management and its coherent multilateral and multilevel governance vis-à-vis the EU and international organisations or transnational associations of sub-national authorities, as well as of the actions and deliverables of the Task Force.

This Task Force shall also monitor and engage in other relevant partnerships, particularly those around other organisations, networks or events, as appropriate. This Task Force could support the participation of the CPMR, some of its Geographical Commissions and/or some of its members within the relevant Fora dealing with migration issues at local and regional level (e.g. the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly of Regional and Local Authorities, the Union of the Mediterranean and others at different levels). The Task Force shall also support the implementation of specific projects developed by its regions (e.g. the “MIPEX-R” project on Migrant Integration Policy Index at regional level, led by Catalonia and the CIDOB institute – www.mipex.eu; projects for AMIF calls, etc.).

IV. COMPOSITION AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

The Task Force consists of:

- CPMR Member Regions with an interest in the objectives and thematic areas mentioned above and that have indicated their desire to take part in the Task Force (Regions shall appoint officers of their internal departments or agencies directly concerned by migration issues);

- The Executive Secretaries of the CPMR's Geographical Commissions (*ex-officio*);
- One dedicated CPMR Vice-President and the CPMR General Secretariat (*ex-officio*);
- External experts and special advisers, invited to participate as observers, if needed and on an *ad-hoc* basis.

Leadership and activities of the Task Force

The general tasks of the Task Force, in cooperation with the CPMR Secretariat shall be to:

- Steer the dialogue, experience exchange and cooperation among its members on Migration policies
- Reflect on ways to enhance the territorial dimension of the EU's medium- and long-term policies related to Migration and the effective implementation of the relevant priorities, such as the integration of migrants in the EU societies and the emergency situations in Member-States of reception and transit of migrants;
- Provide the necessary resources to prepare possible policy positions (resolutions, reports, etc.) and pilot actions (e.g. project ideas) for the CPMR's executive bodies and Call for Proposals;
- Support the liaison of the Task Force with relevant EU and international institutions, networks and actors (European Commission, European Parliament and Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM, CoR, ARLEM, UfM Secretariat, etc.).

The leadership of the Task Force shall be assumed by the Region of Sicily (Italy). Region Skåne (Sweden), as Vice-Presidency of the CPMR, shall be responsible for reporting to the CPMR Political Bureau.

The Geographical Commissions should be actively involved, in particular those, such as the Intermediterranean Commission, whose members are especially concerned by migratory flows and emergency situations and are active in the field of integration policies. Each Commission should appoint at least two or three Regions to be involved in the work of the Task Force, including a coordinating region. The CPMR Secretariat shall provide secretarial services.

Operational Arrangements

The working languages of the Task Force shall be English and French. When needed for official public events of the Task Force, the cost of simultaneous translation for other languages or for specific interpretation services shall be covered by the Region hosting the meeting/event. The Region hosting the event shall cover the catering expenses. Where possible and appropriate, logistical support shall be sought from the EU Institutions (e.g. Committee of the Regions) and/or partner networks and actors.

The CPMR shall provide secretarial tasks and assist in the preparation of meetings. It shall cover translation expenses (English/French) for papers submitted to the Political Bureau and General Assembly as well as preparatory documents and minutes. The CPMR will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of any outside experts, limited to 2 per year. Should it be felt necessary to commission additional sources of expertise requiring remuneration, the issue will be examined by the Task Force Member Regions and the CPMR Secretariat. Each member of the Task Force shall cover his or her own travel and subsistence expenses relating to participation in the meetings and events of the Task Force.

Meetings

The Task Force shall hold a reduced number of formal meetings as necessary, depending on the relevant EU and CPMR agendas in relation to the above-mentioned objectives and thematic areas. In principle, the meetings will be held in Brussels or in a host Region. The activities of the Task Force will continue with regular meetings held mainly by Skype or Video Conference. Possibility for specific synergies with the Working Group on External Cooperation should be studied. A meeting with Commissioner Avramopoulos and/or Commissioner Stylianides should also be foreseen.