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SUMMARY OF CPMR INITIATIVES ON THE MIGRATION CRISIS

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The purpose of this note is to summarise the policy initiatives undertaken by the CPMR since the outbreak of the unprecedented migration crisis.

- On 27 February 2015 the CPMR created a dedicated Task Force on Migration Management, consisted of representatives of its member-regions from all over Europe, following-up on previous policy work by its Intermediterranean Commission. Its aim is to facilitate experience exchange and sharing of good practices on the management of emergency situations at EU borders by regions in receiving countries, for instance related to rescuing operations of migrants at sea, reception, registration and short-term hosting of migrants, as well as on medium-long term integration policies, e.g. socio-economic policies for refugees.
- On 24 April 2015 the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission addressed an [Open Letter](#) to the European Council and Parliament to reiterate their strong commitment and solidarity towards the citizens of the Mediterranean.
- On 18 May 2015 a delegation of Presidents of CPMR regions in a symbolic meeting in Lampedusa, Italy launched the [solidarity campaign](#) of the CPMR “We Are All Mediterranean”, which has received more than 1 400 signatures so far.
- On 20 May 2015 a delegation of Presidents of CPMR regions and Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR, met with Martin Schulz to seek the European Parliament’s support for establishing an effective Mediterranean Policy that takes into account the management of migration flows and addresses the challenges of the common destiny of Mediterranean people. Martin Schulz offered his “full support” to the public petition campaign “We Are All Mediterranean”.
- On 26 May 2015 in a working meeting of their Task Force on Migration Management, hosted by the Region of Sicily, CPMR regions decided to exchange good practices and further enhance their cooperation on the topic.
- On 12 June 2015 the CPMR Political Bureau conveyed the message that a European approach to migration requires a long-term effective, plural and integrated multilevel governance model for managing migration flows.
- On 25 June 2015 the CPMR Islands Commission’s General Assembly approved a [Final Declaration](#) calling for a European solution to the Migration crisis and urging the European Commission to provide Regional Authorities with the means to deal faster and more accurately with the problems immigrants are facing through access to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).
- On 3 July 2015 the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission’s General Assembly gathered in Nafplio, recalled its previous positions on [Migration](#) and approved a [Final declaration](#) enlightening messages of peace and solidarity as the need of a global approach to migration and intercultural and interreligious dialogues.
- On 3 July 2015 the CPMR [responded](#) to the public consultation on Neighbourhood Policy stating that the reviewed policy should among others contribute to a comprehensive approach to

migration and should rely on a genuine, partnership-based and long-term role for Regional Authorities that would allow taking on board the territories in their diversity and as contributors to development.

- The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission sent on 10 September 2015 a letter to President Juncker ([link](#)) proposing the use by Regions of unspent Cohesion and Neighbouring Policy Funds of the 2007-2013 programming period to address the current crisis.
- On 10 September 2015 the CPMR [commented](#) on the points on Migration that President Juncker made during his speech on the “State of the Union” and called for better use of EU funds to face migration by public authorities on the ground.
- On 14 September 2015 in an [article](#) published on the news portal “New Europe”, eleven regional leaders present a common position on the migration and argue for a more efficient and reoriented EU Migration policy, with a global approach that includes the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as well as Neighbouring Policy.
- On 14 October 2015 the European Parliament hosted an Open Days debate on the role of regions in migration management, which was moderated by Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR.
- On 14 October 2015 the CPMR organised a working meeting between its Task Force on Migration and the European Commission (DG REGIO) to enable the [debate](#) on the flexibility that the European Commission would allow on the use of European Structural Investment Funds for migration priorities.
- On 6 November 2015 the CPMR regions adopted at their Annual General Meeting a [political position](#) on Migration Management. Among others they committed to provide sufficient care and assistance to people in need and to contribute to the effective integration of refugees in their territories. They also called on the European institutions for, among others, a fair distribution of refugees among Member-States, for more solidarity to countries at EU borders, for more flexibility in the use of European Structural Investment Funds 2014-2020 for priorities linked with the migration crisis, and to strengthen the resources and means of regional authorities to deliver solutions on the ground.
- In November 2015, in view of the Valletta International Summit on Migration called by the European Council, letters from President of CPMR Regions were addressed to the Ambassador of France and special representative of the EU Council Presidency for the Conference in Malta asking to open up the National delegations to regional authorities.
- On 25 November 2015 the CPMR together with CEMR and EUROCITIES addressed a [letter](#) to President Juncker, calling on a European solution and an inclusive approach to the migration crisis, with more cooperation with cities and regions on the ground.
- On 26th November 2015 the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission’s Political Bureau further developed these messages in a new political [declaration](#) recalling in particular the links between migration and the EU neighbourhood policy in the South of the Mediterranean as the need of improving and exploiting the added value of cooperation at territorial level.
- On 8 December 2015 the CPMR was invited to present the regional perspective in a [panel](#) on “Territorial aspects of refugee migration to Europe” within the ESPON seminar “A world without borders: Refugees, cooperation and territories”
- On 21 January 2016 in a working meeting of the CPMR Task Force on Migration hosted by the Delegation of Catalonia in Brussels regions sought [further cooperation](#) on Migration Management. They also exchanged views on good practices and discussed with the European Commission (DG HOME) possibilities for funding opportunities for regions, e.g. through AMIF. Among others regions explored the possibilities to set up a [MIPEX project](#) at regional level that would allow monitoring of the integration of migrants within their territories.

- The CPMR was part of a consortium that submitted a project proposal on 29 February 2016 on integration of migrants at work through the development of skill centres. The proposal was submitted by OPZZ to an AMIF call launched by the European Commission.
- The CPMR was part of a consortium that submitted a project proposal on 3 March 2016 on the integration migrants in social and health systems. The proposal was submitted by Emergency ONG to an AMIF call launched by the Italian Ministry of Interior.
- On 17 March 2016 the CPMR [claimed](#) the right of regions to funds under the new emergency support mechanism and for extended eligibility of regions within other existing funds and instruments, such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), especially when it comes to housing, health care, social support, education and integration of people into societies.
- On 4 April 2016 the CPMR addressed a letter to Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, presenting solutions that regions can offer for the resettlement of refugees, within the EU relocation mechanism.
- On 6 April 2016 CPMR presented the regional perspective to migration policies and examples of solutions at regional level in a meeting on [“Migration and Health: a contribution of Regional Experiences to international and European Policies”](#), organised in Brussels by Tuscany region.
- On 6 and 7 April 2016 the CPMR, invited as key stakeholder in the 2nd EU Migration Forum, co-organised by the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Commission, took part in the participatory workshop on the [“Role of the local level in the effective integration of third-country nationals, including asylum seekers and refugees”](#) and among others proposed the monitoring of migrants’ integration through indicators at regional level.
- On 14 April 2016 Rena Dourou, Regional Governor of Attica, and Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR met with Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission.
- On 20 May 2016 the CPMR Islands Commission’s General Assembly approved a [Final Declaration](#) urging the EU Institutions to strengthen the European dimension of their response to the global migratory pressures and to involve all relevant actors in effectively addressing the crisis, making the most out of the positive experiences and proposals that regions put forward.