



**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND POPULATION**

Synopsis AS/MIG/CB(2011)02

18 March 2011

**The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population**, meeting in Brussels, on 15 and 16 March 2011, with Mr Chope (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair,

• **ON TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2011**, as regards:

– ***Undocumented migrant children in an irregular situation: a real cause for concern*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*): held a hearing, with the participation, *inter alia*, of:

- Ms Tine DEBOSSCHER, Expert on education issues, *Organisation Kruispunt migratie-integratie*, Brussels
- Ms Michele LE VOY, Director, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
- Ms Saphia MOKRANE, General practitioner, Brussels
- Ms Carla VAN OS, Defence for Children, ECPAT – The Netherlands;

– ***Statement by the Chair***: held a discussion on the humanitarian situation in the Southern Mediterranean and decided to ask the Bureau to propose to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate or alternatively a debate under urgent procedure at the April part-session on large scale arrival of irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees on Europe's Southern shores;

– ***Protecting migrant women in the labour market*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Frahm, Denmark, UEL*): in the absence of the rapporteur, considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;

– ***The situation of Roma in Europe: movement and migration*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Groth, Germany, UEL*): considered an outline for the report and heard a statement by the rapporteur;

– ***The interception and rescue at sea of asylum seekers, refugees and irregular migrants*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and decided to ask the Bureau to extend the mandate until 30 June 2011;

– ***The portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Dumery, Belgium, NR*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;

– ***Reform of the Assembly***: held a discussion on the basis of proposals by its chair, decided to invite Mr Mignon, Chairperson of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Assembly (France, EPP/CD), to an exchange of views at its next meeting during the April part-session and invited its Chair to prepare further proposals for consideration by the Committee in April, with a view to ultimately submitting this to the *Ad Hoc* Committee;

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly  
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Observers to the Assembly  
Secretary General of the Congress  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Directors General  
Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisation Developments and Reform  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights  
Director of Communication  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **Work programme:**
  - *Appointment of a rapporteur:* **appointed Mr Zernovski** ("The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", ALDE) rapporteur on "Trafficking of migrant workers for forced labour: time for a closer look" and heard a statement of lack of conflict of interest from him;
  - *Representation of the Committee at various events:*
    - Conference on "The invisible borders: forced migrant destitution in Europe", organised by the Jesuit Refugee Service Europe (JRS) (Brussels, 29 March 2011): **appointed Ms Dumery** (Belgium, NR), at no cost to the Assembly;
    - Consultation meeting with certain Networks of European National Human Rights Structures (NHRSS) on the Council of Europe's activities in the field of migration", hosted by the Ombudsman of Greece (English only) (Athens, 5-6 May 2011): **appointed Mr Dendias** (Greece, EPP/CD), at no cost to the Assembly;
    - Joint Colloquy (Council of Europe / HCR) on the Role of Regional Human Rights Courts in Interpreting and Enforcing Legal Standards for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (Strasbourg, 15-16 June 2011): **appointed Mr Cilevičs** (Latvia, SOC), subject to the availability of funds and noted the interest of Mr Rzayev (Azerbaijan, EPP/CD) to attend if a replacement was needed.
- **Replies from the Committee of ministers to texts adopted by the Assembly presented by the Committee:** considered the replies to the following recommendations:
  - Recommendation 1900 (2010) on *The detention of asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Europe*
  - Recommendation 1910 (2010) on *The impact of the global economic crisis on migration in Europe*
  - Recommendation 1917 (2010) on *Migrants and refugees: a continuing challenge for the Council of Europe*
  - Recommendation 1926 (2010) on *Voluntary return programmes: an effective, humane and cost-effective mechanism for returning irregular migrants;*
- **Meeting of the plenary committee in Corfu (Greece):** heard a statement by the Chair on the preliminary draft programme of the meeting;
- **Demographic trends in Europe: turning challenges into opportunities:** heard a statement by Ms Memecan (Turkey, ALDE), Rapporteur on "Demographic winter and the future of Europe", decided to change the title of her report to "Demographic trends in Europe: turning challenges into opportunities" and held a hearing, with the participation, *inter alia*, of:
  - Ms Vitalija GAUCAITE WITTICH, UN Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva
  - Prof. François HERAN, President of the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) and Research Professor at the National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED);
  - Prof. Ahmet ICDUYGU, Koç University, Turkey; Visiting Fellow at the European University Institute of Florenz, Italy
  - Ms Sietske STENEKER, Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Brussels office
- **ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2011, as regards:**
  - **Beyond Stockholm: implications for migrants and asylum seekers in Council of Europe Member States:** held a hearing, with the participation, *inter alia*, of:
    - Ms Muriel GUIN, Head of Asylum Unit , DG Home Affairs, European Commission
    - Mr Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR, Chairperson of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament
    - Mr Claude MORAES Rapporteur of the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament on Seasonal employment: conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals
    - Ms Diane SCHMITT, Head of the Immigration and Integration Unit, DG Home Affairs, European Commission
    - Ms Vivian VADASI, Justice and Home Affairs Counselor, Hungarian Mission to the EU
    - Mr Rob VISSER, Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)
    - Ms Cecilia WIKSTRÖM, Rapporteur of the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament on the Dublin Regulations

- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session 2011 (11-15 April 2011)
  - **Corfu** (Greece), 1-2 June 2011
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2011 (20-24 June 2011)
  - **Paris**, 13 September 2011 (to be confirmed)
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 4<sup>th</sup> part-session 2011 (3-7 October 2011)
  - **Paris**, 7 December 2011 (to be confirmed).
- **Visit of the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism:** took part in the visit of the centre.

Mark Neville, Ivi-Triin Odrats, Isild Heurtin