



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MIGRATION

Friday 25 March 2022, 9:00 – 11:30 and 14:00 – 16:00

1. Opening by the Chair

Successive Chairs: Alessandro Alfieri, Member of the Italian Senate, Italy; Dimitris Kairidis, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Greece

The Chair, Mr Alfieri, opened the meeting. He explained that draft proposals had been drafted in each of the three clusters ((i) legal migration, (ii) irregular migration, (iii) asylum, integration), and that each draft proposal was structured with a general objective and a series of measures, each measure directly referring to the citizens' recommendations. He explained that the draft proposals were prepared with the two successive Chairs, the spokesperson and deputy spokesperson, with the support of the Common Secretariat.

The Chair highlighted that the draft proposals sought to respect the sense and spirit of the citizens' recommendations from the European and National Citizens' Panels and recalled that the aim was to reach the largest possible consensus on the draft proposals.

The Chair also informed the members of the Working Group about the Italian National citizens' panel, which recently concluded its work, and presented the three recommendations related to migration issues.

The Chair announced that the summary record of the previous meeting held on 11 March 2022 was considered approved and will be translated in all languages and uploaded on the platform.

2. Intervention by the Spokesperson

The Spokesperson welcomed the positive discussions held with the successive Chairs to work on the draft proposals, and hoped for a fruitful discussion in the Working Group.

3. Presentation by the Former Chair of contributions on the multilingual digital platform

The former Chair, Mr Kairidis, welcomed the progress achieved in the Working Group, and acknowledged the new impetus arising from the events in Ukraine and refugee crisis. He also reflected positively on the demonstration of solidarity in this regard.

Mr Kairidis summarised the input from the latest platform report, according to the Working Group's clusters:

- On legal migration, contributions mainly focus on the need for a successful migration policy coupled with better integration, for instance through university programmes, as well as more information and education. In addition, the need to change the narrative to emphasise the positive advantages of migration was also mentioned.



- On irregular migration, contributions call for a better protection of Europe's land and sea borders, with more support for EU border states. Contributions also reflect on how to counter attacks such as the Belarusian hybrid attacks. In addition, the need to address the root causes of migration and help countries of origin with more and better development aid leading to transparent and tangible actions is also mentioned. Contributions on the platform also refer to climate migration.
- On asylum, integration, contributions call for a common migration policy based on solidarity and human rights, the respect of human rights and the law, as well as for an efficient return policy for people who do not receive asylum status.

4. Presentation and discussion on the draft proposals, as per the annexed clustering, with a view to presenting draft proposals to the Plenary on 26 March 2022

The members of the Working Groups welcomed the draft proposals, and found that they were faithful to European citizens' recommendations. In general, they expressed support for the majority of them and shared their comments and remarks measure by measure:

Cluster I, legal migration - Draft proposal 1

Measure 1: no comments were raised.

Measure 2: it was asked for the drafting to be more concrete, by referring to the Talent Partnerships. The

Measure 3: suggestions were made to improve the drafting, for instance by referring to "relevant qualifications" and improving "the functioning" of the "blue card". The need to tackle brain drain from 3rd countries was also discussed.

Measure 4: the link with measure 2 was highlighted. There was a discussion on changing the word "screening" into a "matching of supply and demands for skills", to better reflect what is meant. The need to better underline the "online" nature was also mentioned.

Measure 5: there was a discussion on the role of trade unions, with the suggestion to add "at national level" to the existing wording of "at transnational level", to refer to workers' rights and finding a new reference to the term "harmonizing".

Measure 6: a comment was made on making the wording more positive.

Measure 7: to better reflect the meaning of citizens' recommendations, it was suggested to keep this proposal in the third cluster.

Cluster II, irregular migration – Draft proposal 1

Measure 1: moving this measure down was suggested, as well as merging it with measure 3. A few drafting suggestions were also made, e.g. adding "to ensure the protection of all external border" to



reflect the wording of the citizens' recommendation. Referring to the accountability of Frontex was also highlighted.

Measure 2: a suggestion to add the word "social" to the existing "economic development" was made. A few members also discussed whether adding a reference to "fair and balanced trade policies" was relevant. The Chair pointed out that this discussion is in the remit of another WG (EU in the World), and that the focus should remain on migration.

Cluster II, irregular migration – Draft proposal 2

Measure 1: several members suggested to add a reference to "vulnerable groups".

Measure 2: A suggestion to specify that "integration" should refer to regular migrants and refugees and "return/repatriation" to irregular migrants was made. The role of relevant local and regional authorities, as well as civil society, was also mentioned.

Cluster III, asylum, integration – Draft proposal 1

Several members commented on the wording used in the title of the general objective, referring to the negative connotation of the term "burden-sharing".

Measure 1: adding a reference to the respect of internal law was suggested, as well as for the need to speed up the process of reception of asylum seekers. Including a reference to improving transparency and accountability was called for; there was also a discussion about the role of Frontex and screening procedures at the external border.

Measure 2: Some doubts were raised on this measure, in light of the state of play of the implementation of Directive 2013/33. Commission Vice-President Schinas intervened to clarify the situation, he stated that the economic and social conditions are not harmonised in the different Member States, therefore a regulation would not be possible and hence suggested the following wording: enhance the minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers laid down in directive 2013/33 through stronger legislative measures to improve reception facilities and accommodation.

Measure 3: a suggestion was made to substitute "replacing" with "revisiting", and to change the phrase "burden-sharing" by "solidarity and fair share of responsibility". One member mentioned that solidarity should be voluntary, as the 2015 experience showed only voluntary solidarity can work and that solidarity can take different forms too, not only redistribution of migrants; others stressed the need for solidarity meaning and redistribution of asylum seekers among Member States.

Measure 4: In addition to the existing phrase "unaccompanied minors", it was suggested to add a reference to "all minors".

Measure 5: it was suggested to add a reference to increasing financial and human resources, as well as management capacities.

Cluster III, asylum, integration – Draft proposal 2

Due to time constraints, measures 1 and 2 were discussed together.



Measure 1: the need to also add a reference to “activities”, in addition to the current drafting “integration courses”, was mentioned.

Measure 2: the addition of the geographical scope “all over the EU” was deemed necessary.

Besides the abovementioned intervention on the specific issue of reception conditions, Vice President Schinas also highlighted the importance of the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive by a historic unanimous decision of Member States in the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 3 March giving “automatic, immediate and unconditional access to education, health, job market and a residence permits”. In the current second stage, the work is focusing on creating, with Member States, and mobilizing funding (€ 3.5 billion), the tangible conditions, for the Directive to be implemented. Furthermore, the Vice President underscored the important contribution of migrants for revitalizing the European social system, boosting European labour markets and the economy and finding skills in sectors matching the needs of Member States. Legal pathways for migration may be an opportunity for Europe. The Vice President confirmed the readiness of the Commission to follow-up positively on the recommendations of the Conference in this area. The Vice President stressed that the legislative proposals under the Pact are the means to achieve our goal, where “we are no more the fire fighters of migration crises, but rather the architects of the future of a common European asylum and migration system”

5. Closing by the Chair

The Chair thanked the Working Group Members for their contributions, and announced that the proposals would be revised in order to take into account the most consensual comments, in view of a discussion at the next meeting of the Working Groups.



Annex: list of members registered for the meeting

Mr	Fabian	PSAILA	Council
Mr	Arnoldas	ABRAMAVIČIUS	Council
Mr	Alessandro	ALFIERI	National Parliaments
Ms	Abir	AL-SAHLANI	European Parliament
Mr	Konstantinos	ANDREADAKIS	European citizens panels
Mr	Marc	ANGEL	European Parliament
Mr	Malik	AZMANI	European Parliament
Mr	Pernando	BARRENA ARZA	European Parliament
Mr	Gunnar	BECK	European Parliament
Mr	Magnus	BERNTSSON	Local/Regional representative
Ms	Marjolijn	BULK	European Economic and Social Committee
Mr	Jaroslav	BŽOCH	National Parliaments
Mr	Luís	CAPOULAS SANTOS	National Parliaments
Ms	Liina	CARR	Social Partners
Ms	Iness	CHAKIR	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Laura Maria	CINQUINI	European citizens panels
Mr	Angel	DZHAMBAZKI	European Parliament
Ms	Karoline	EDTSTADLER	Council
Ms	Julia	EICHBERGER	European citizens panels
Mr	Joseph	ELLIS	National Parliaments
Mr	Harris	GEORGIADIS	National Parliaments
Mr	Vasil	GEORGIEV	Council
Mr	Sigge	Eriksson	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Sunčana	GLAVAK	European Parliament
Mr	Ľudovít	GOGA	National Parliaments
Ms	Hafida	GUELLATI	European citizens panels
Ms	Gabriela	HEGENBERG	European citizens panels
Ms	Ylva	JOHANSSON	European Commission
Mr	Dimitris	KAIRIDIS	National Parliaments
Mr	Jeroen	LENAERS	European Parliament
Mr	Cees	LOGGEN	Local/Regional representative
Ms	Oudekki	LOONE	National Parliaments
Mr	Arminas	LYDEKA	National Parliaments
Ms	Aurora	MEJÍA ERRASQUÍN	Council
Ms	Augusta	MONTARULI	National Parliaments
Ms	Nathalie	OBERWEIS	National Parliaments
Mr	Oszkár	ÖKRÖS	Council
Mr	Philippe	OLIVIER	European Parliament
Mr	Laurentiu	PLOSCEANU	European Economic and Social Committee
Ms	Yoomi	RENSTROM	Committee of the Regions
Mr	Milosh	RISTOVSKI	Civil Society



Conference
on the **Future**
of **Europe**

Ms	Desislava	SIMEONOVA	European citizens panels
Mr	Andrzej	SKIBA	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Sara	SKYTTEDAL	European Parliament
Mr	Jordi	SOLÉ FERRANDO	European Parliament
Ms	Petra	STEGER	National Parliaments
Mr	Tuomas Heikki	SUIHKONEN	European citizens panels
Ms	Kata	TUTTO	Committee of the Regions
Mr	Nils	USAKOVS	European Parliament
Mr	Hubregt	VERHOEVEN	European citizens panels
Mr	Dragan	VOLAREVIC	European citizens panels
Mr	Krasimir	ZLATINOV	European citizens panels