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**MEETING OF THE
CPMR TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION MANAGEMENT
- BRUSSELS, 26 JUNE 2015 -**

- SUMMARY/MAIN CONCLUSIONS -

Participants:

Annika ANNERBY JANSSON, Vice-President Region Skåne
Maria LINDBOM, Region Skåne
Bruno CORTESE, Sicily Region
Esteban MAS, EU Balearic Islands Government Delegation
Karin OLIVER DESHAIES, EU Balearic Islands Government Delegation
Romina CALVET, Catalonia Delegation
Xavier ALONSO, Generalitat de Catalunya (by teleconference)
Bénédicte FABRE, Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur Brussels Delegation
Marie PROVOST, Nord-Pas de Calais, Brussels Delegation
Ana RIVAS MÁRQUEZ, Andalucía Delegation in Brussels
Francesco MOLICA, Calabria Regional Office in Brussels
Massimo TOSCHI, Tuscany Region (by teleconference)
Cinzia CHIGHINE, Tuscany Region (by teleconference)
Paulo TEVES, Azores Government (by teleconference)

CPMR: Alexis CHATZIMPIROS
Davide STRANGIS (by teleconference), Claire STREET (by teleconference)

Excused:
Gozo

Note: Sicily is the Leading Region of the Task force, Skåne is the political rapporteur at CPMR Political Bureau Level.

1 - Adoption of minutes

The minutes of the minutes of the kick-off meeting held on 23 April 2015 were adopted

- Link to [Minutes](#)

2 - Update on the EU agenda on migration

For reference

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/migratory-pressures/>

http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/migration/index_en.htm

EC: Communication issued on 13 May outlining an immediate response to the crisis situation in the Mediterranean and sets out longer term steps to manage migration in all its aspects

Council: On 25 June, the Council had come to a voluntary agreement on the relocation of migrants. It had not been possible to impose compulsory quotas. The Member States would therefore take in on a voluntary basis 60 000 migrants (40 000 from Greece and Italy and another 20 000 from external 3rd countries).

Committee of the Regions: the CoR had addressed the issue in a resolution on a “Sustainable EU Approach to Migration”, though it was felt it was not very ambitious. The IMC had presented some [amendments](#). The resolution had been presented at the CoR Plenary on 4 June but adoption was postponed to the July plenary (8 July) where it was adopted following voting on 55 amendments.

The 2 following amendments were approved:

- N. 31 on the key role of LRAs and the claim to help the regions that are receiving more migrants, in order to ensure them a better reception.
- N. 55 mentioning clearly the IMC CPMR together with Arlem and Corleap

1 amendment was rejected for a couple of votes:

- N. 48 quoting Dublin agreement and other claims on the future of migration policy.
(*The adopted text will be communicated as soon as possible*).

EP: Own initiative report on the migration agenda of the EC “*Situation in the Mediterranean and need for a holistic EU approach to migration*”. Main rapporteur Roberta METSOLA (Mata EPP) with Kashetu KYENGE (Italy S&D). First draft expected in October.

European Neighbourhood Policy. The CPMR is preparing a response to the ENP review which makes links with migration policy, notably with regard to mobility partnerships with Southern Med countries. There is a need to shift the model about promoting legal migration. In particular there is the issue of visas. The lack of channels for legal migration make it impossible to stop illegal flows. The response to the consultation will be shared among members.

Actions

Prepare lobbying by identifying contacts in EU institutions (MEPs etc.) in order to get them to understand that the local dimension needs to be clearly mentioned

Share CPMR response to ENP consultation among members (deadline for response to consultation 30 June)

3 - Update on the solidarity campaign “[We are all Mediterranean](#)” (WAAM) and the related actions and events

The CPMR-IMC solidarity campaign was launched at a seminar in Palermo on 18-19 May where Regions, including Sicily, Gozo, Western Greece, Balearic Islands and Andalusia, exchanged their

vision on the emergency humanitarian situation and best practices on integration and cooperation in a long-term policy perspective. The participants also had the opportunity to visit a migrant welcome centre in Palermo.

A CPMR delegation including IMC Presidents Michel Vauzelle, Rosario Crocetta and the Mayor of Lampedusa was received on 20 May by Martin Schulz, who gave his support to the solidarity campaign. He indicated that he was willing participate in CPMR events in the framework of the We are all Mediterranean campaign and give the high patronage of EP President.

The petition had so far received 700 signatures on the website. Participants were also invited to disseminate the campaign widely. The aim was to get at least 1000 signatures so as to start launching other actions linked to the petition.

Regarding other actions connected to petition, President Vauzelle was also spreading the message among national MPs in France. Some Regions were carrying out awareness raising activities. The campaign had also been quoted in the COPPEM Seminar (Palermo, 8 June 2015) in which CPMR members participated (and in particular Catalonia), as well as the CPMR Political Bureau (Crete, 12 June) and the CPMR Islands Commission General Assembly (Brussels, 25 June)

All CPMR Regions are invited to organise meetings, exchange best practices and disseminate the solidarity spirit under the We Are All Mediterranean campaign.

The Islands Commission General Assembly had held a session on migration on 25 June. Although everyone is aware that migration in the Mediterranean is a crucial issue at present, it was observed that in general there was little knowledge about the reality of the situation (e.g. deliberate sinking of boats). It was also underlined that in Italy the smugglers used to spy the borders, so it is not a new situation. It was happening before and has been dealt with over the last twenty years. However it is really hard to strengthen relations with countries that have been failed like Libya.

Current and future actions/events:

The WAAM events planned in Marseille (June) and Barcelona (July) were postponed due to logistic and political reasons. More information is expected after the summer break.

Forthcoming events included:

IMC General Assembly in Napflio (Peloponnese, Greece) on 2-3 July with a session on migration

Med Frontiers Event organised by Sicily on 4 July in the framework of Milan EXPO 2015. Unfortunately it was not possible to have the Commissioner at this event as was hoped and the IMC President was unable to attend also because of other engagements. Sicily was trying to secure high level speakers and personalities dealing with the issue.

We could take advantage of the participation of NGOs in the Med Frontiers event as good opportunity for networking and raising awareness of WAAM campaign. It was pointed out that the National Prefect Morcone (speaker) could inform the audience of the actual situation in Italy regarding the distribution of migrants in the regions. Relocation within Italy is currently a big issue and a conference of Regions had been held with the national government about the distribution of migrants. Sicily and Calabria are overloaded and other regions have to receive many migrants in addition to those they already welcome. While solidarity was being asked on a European scale, it was not working well either on a smaller scale in the regions.

Mosaic Conference on Migration, Marseille 26 June. Sicily was to promote the website of the WAAM campaign with the Institut catholique de la Mediterranée during a conference on migration in Marseille.

Actions

Sicily proposed to kindly share a document presenting how the system of migrant welcome centres works in Sicily and their best practices.

Sicily to provide more information on Med Frontiers event and programme (<http://www.regioni.it/news/2015/07/01/expo-regioni-regione-siciliana-frontiera-mediterranea-in-programma-il-4-luglio-2015-a-milano-411178/>) for circulation to members.

Regions asked to contribute to the dissemination of the We are all Mediterranean campaign (awareness raising events, signing petition, etc.)

4 - Tour de table from member regions on examples of projects/best practices on migrant receipt, socio-economic integration, cooperation etc.

Balearic Islands

Estaban Mas from the Balearic Islands EU Delegation presented the Region's initiatives on Migration in a follow-up to his presentation during the Islands Commission Assembly the previous day.

The Balearic Islands have the highest relative number of migrants in Spain, with over 1 million migrants representing 19% of its population and 150 nationalities. Around 80% are from third countries and the rest are Europeans.

In 2011 there were 242 000 foreign residents, and in 2015 there were 191 000 residents. The majority of these people are legal long-term residents in Spain with jobs and homes. They are long-term residents after 10 years of residency, but the number of years taken to obtain Spanish nationality also depends on the country they come from. Family reunification is also a reason for migrant arrivals.

They have nearly no illegal immigration, receiving only 15 illegal immigrants (3 dinghy boats) in the last seven years.

Migrants can benefit from legal support with a list of pro bono lawyers who work for free, and interpreters at schools, hospitals and care centres. The Balearic Islands help them to register and explain rights and rules. Problems for the schools (no language knowledge of Spanish or Catalan). The Balearic Islands also facilitates and helps returns for those who decide to return to their homeland.

Andalucia

Andalucia has a comprehensive immigration plan for legal and illegal migrants, in 3 steps, including reception, integration, and cultural diversity management. 700 000 inhabitants come from foreign nationalities. Half are from the EU, the rest are from 70 different nationalities: first Morocco followed by Romania and then the UK. Migrants can benefit from legal advice. In hospitals, 20 different languages are spoken to attend to people (especially in maternity wards).

Because of the crisis people came back to Latin America (as there is no jobs because of the crisis). Andalucia tries to work together with associations such as the Red Cross and civil society associations. Andalucia will share some documents about illegal immigration.

Calabria

During the first months of 2015, Calabria has seen landing on its shores the highest number of refugees/migrants after Sicily, i.e. some 7,000 people according to May/June figures which by now has certainly increased. Some projects are in cooperation with Sicily or with other regions.

Skåne

Annika Annerby Jansson presented the situation in Skåne.

Skåne region has 1.3 million inhabitants and 250 000 migrants. The population is made up of 170 different nationalities. The Region makes no distinction between asylum seekers and illegal

immigrants (those who have not been granted asylum but still manage to stay). People “disappear” during asylum process but they still have right to emergency healthcare and, more recently, schooling for children.

The biggest non workforce groups are made up of nationals from former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Iraq and Syria. There largest immigrant workforce is made up of Scandinavian nationals.

The region’s best practices focus on multi-level governance. The State is responsible for asylum, but the process is long. Municipalities have the primary responsibility for providing assistance. Region Skåne’s role is to try to coordinate and disseminate best practices between municipalities and agencies. There is a need also to include the business sector which has an interest in recruiting immigrants. E.g. there is a project to identify Syrian refugees with medical education and begin their integration process notably with Swedish language training even before asylum is granted so they can be rapidly integrated once their legal situation is solved.

There are an estimated 150 000 immigrants in Sweden, 10% of whom are asylum seekers.

Tuscany

Massimo Toschi indicated that Tuscany would provide a text on the Region’s position and commitments regarding migration and the issues of organising migrant relocation in Italy.

The situation of immigration is very delicate. The EU agreement is only a small agreement with many difficulties. There are solutions that can be provided if there is the political will. However migrants are used for political reasons to create fear and it is necessary to overcome that fear.

Currently the Region took in 4000 immigrants in agreement with the national ministry.

There were 277 migrant welcome centres spread throughout the region, not just in the big cities. It is important to create small centres in order to better manage integration and acceptance by civil society. This model had provided very satisfactory results and also involved directly the civil society.

Actions

Template/questionnaire on best practices to be prepared by CPMR Secretariat with the help of PACA, Catalonia, Skåne and other willing regions.

Regions to submit short summaries (in English if possible) of their best practices to be shared with the Task Force

5 -Discussion on ideas for cooperation between Regions.

Follow-up to MIPEX-R Project

Xavier Alonso from Catalonia briefly outlined the Project.

MIPEX is a tool to measure integration policy at state level. It ranks how integration policies are measuring issues such as labour market mobility, family reunion, long term residence, political participation, education, discrimination... It has been produced so far 4 times.

However, some policies are not state-led but have regional or municipal dimensions. It is therefore felt that it could be useful to have a MIPEX for regions by

- giving integration policies a higher profile
- clarifying respective competences between national and regional authorities
- highlighting work done at regional level

The first step is to check the viability of the project. Catalonia must make some exploratory research with the University in Barcelona. A meeting will then be organised in January 2016 with interested regions to check whether or not it is possible to have a set of regional indicators. Invitations would be sent in the autumn.

A first attempt to launch the project had raised the interest of the Basque Country and Flanders, but Catalonia needed support from minimum 5-6 regions. With CPMR's help in disseminating the invitation, it could be possible to take the project forward.

Skåne indicated that it was an interesting concept and would like to take part in the start-up discussions. The Region had already participated in a similar exercise at national level with the University of Malmö. The different levels of competences could be interesting but also complicated, so it was necessary to discuss the feasibility of such an initiative.

Horizon 2020 opportunities on migration in 2016

Under the forthcoming calls for proposals under Horizon 2020, the CPMR together with some of its GCs and members, could evaluate the opportunities to participate in a couple of projects in 2016 with a focus on mass migration, the stabilisation of the situation in countries of origin and a link with the EU Neighbourhood Policy. Regional authorities could participate theoretically together with Centres of Research and Study, which are amongst the most important targets of the calls. The participation of civil society and reception of migrants could also be considered. The Region PACA and the IMC are evaluating opportunities that could be shared with the TF in the future.

Skåne mentioned that Research & Innovation were part of the discussion and social innovation and system innovation regarding migration could be an interesting area to study since the system needs improvement in many countries. Experiences such as the one in Tuscany could be promoted.

The regions are invited to share with the TF any idea for projects under H2020 concerning migration.

Development Cooperation in countries of origin

The CPMR has a working group on external cooperation which works in particular on development cooperation. It would therefore be useful to coordinate with the Basque Country as Chair of the group and Maruxa Cardama, CPMR consultant in charge of the group on behalf of the Secretariat to share the development cooperation agenda and investigate any pilot initiatives to be promoted, also with regard to ENP programmes and migration.

Actions

Catalonia to forward invitation to first MIPEX-R meeting to CPMR Secretariat for circulation among all member Regions.

PACA/ Skåne to draft a summary of an H2020 project idea together.

Associate Basque Country and Maruxa Cardama, respectively Chair and Adviser of the CPMR External Cooperation Group, to share also their initiatives regarding Decentralised Development Cooperation

Identify pilot actions that could be promoted in the framework of neighbourhood policy

TASK FORCE ACTION PLAN AND CALENDAR

By end September	Collect data on Regional best practices on reception and integration of migrants through a template/questionnaire.
1 st – 2 nd week (1-9) of October	Physical meeting of Task Force in Brussels (date tbc)
4-6 November (CPMR General Assembly)	Assessment of 1st big initiative of Med Campaign WAAM. Communication of results of other meetings
	Policy paper for CPMR General Assembly. Draft position mixing report on the work pursued and a policy position. End of the year is final part of ENP review so this would be a good moment to shape the CPMR on neighbourhood and migration policy. A meeting to be considered on 4 November, prior to the CPMR GA.
Between now and early 2016	Assess possibilities of projects (MIPEX R, Horizon 2020 Neighbourhood Policy)

Action List

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>When</i>
Task Force	Circulate conclusions of TF meeting	CPMR Secretariat	Beg. July
	Set up Dropbox with useful documents including members list and send link to members	CPMR Secretariat	Beg. July
	Mobilise other CPMR regions to join TF (especially N. European) for better balance	CPMR Secretariat	July-Sept
	Fix date for next Meeting of Task Force in Brussels (between 1 st and 9 th October)	CPMR Secretariat	Beg. Oct
Best Practices	Sicily to share a document presenting how the system of migrant welcome centres works in Sicily and their best practices.	Sicily	ASAP
	Sicily to provide more information on Med Frontiers event and programme for circulation to members	Sicily	ASAP
	Prepare template on Regional Best Practices	CPMR Secretariat with the aid of PACA, Catalonia, Skåne and other TF regions	End July
	Provide responses to questionnaire/template. Submit short summaries (in English if possible) of best practices to be shared with the Task Force	TF Members	End Sept
Cooperation/ Projects	Invitation to MIPEX-R Event to be held January 2016 CPMR will circulate to members	Catalonia & CPMR Secretariat	Nov tbc
	draft a summary of an H2020 project on mass migration and making situations more stable in countries of origin/ innovation to improve system of managing migration	PACA/Skåne	Beg. Oct
	Make links with CPMR External Cooperation Group on Decentralised Cooperation aspect of migration issue	CPMR Secretariat	ASAP
	Identify pilot actions under ENP	CPMR/IMC	Beg. Oct
Events & WAAM campaign	Sicily to provide more information on Med Frontiers event for circulation to members.	Sicily	ASAP
	Dissemination of WAAM campaign (organisation of awareness raising events, signing of petition)	All TF members	ongoing
Advocacy & Policy Positions	Share CPMR response to ENP consultation	CPMR Secretariat	Beg. July
	Prepare policy paper to submit to CPMR GA 4-6 Nov Tuscany	CPMR Secretariat & Task Force	1 st draft for Oct meeting
	Identify contacts with EC, EP for lobbying actions	CPMR Secretariat	End July