



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee on Migration Issues

Accommodation of migrants, a major issue for the respect of human rights.

STATEMENT

Mission to Poland by the Committee on Migration Issues of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Warsaw, February 14, 2025.

From February 10 to 14, 2025, a delegation from the Committee on Migration Issues of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe visited Poland to carry out an observation and analysis mission on the migration situation in the country.

Consisting of **Christine Monty** (President), **Daniel Guéry** (Vice President), **Marc Van den Reeck** (Political Advisor) and **Salomé Brun** (Communications Manager), the delegation made several visits and met with civil society organizations, as well as political and administrative representatives.

During this mission, the delegation went to:

- **Warsaw**, for institutional exchanges with key stakeholders in the migration field,
- the border regions of **Czeremsze** and **Białystok**, to report on the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border,
- **Przemyśl**, to analyze reception conditions for populations on the Polish-Ukrainian border.

In particular, the delegation had the opportunity to meet:

- Representatives of around twenty NGOs working on issues at the Polish-Belarusian and Polish-Ukrainian borders.
- Representatives of the Polish Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Politics
- Representatives of the border guards at the Czeremsze border post
- Representatives of embassies from Council of Europe Member States

Observations made during this mission highlighted several major issues:

- **A different approach to the reception of displaced persons**, depending on whether they come from Ukraine or other countries, with third-country nationals accommodated in closed or open camps.
- **The Polish government's management of migratory flows** is markedly security-oriented, with policies oriented more towards dissuasion.
- **Increasing restrictions on funding allocated to NGOs**, particularly from American funds, directly impacting their activities in the field.
- **Criminalization of humanitarian workers** on the border with Belarus.

- **A shift in support for Ukrainian refugees**, highlighting the difficult transition from humanitarian emergency management to long-term integration programs.
- **Growing discrimination against Ukrainian nationals**, contrasting with the spontaneous welcome of the first months of the war and revealing a certain fatigue among the Polish population.

At the end of this mission, preliminary conclusions were presented to the embassies of Council of Europe Member States, at a meeting held at the Belgian Embassy in Warsaw.

The information gathered during this mission will be decisive in guiding the future work of the Committee on Migration Issues and will help strengthen its relations with other Council of Europe bodies.

Upon its return and in the weeks to come, the delegation will propose several meetings to communicate the mission's conclusions to:

- the Head of the Migrants and Refugees Division of the Council of Europe's Human Rights Department;
- The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
- The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

The delegation is also actively working on the drafting of several documents that will be used as input for its future reflections, as well as a basis for collaboration with other Council of Europe bodies:

- A **report** detailing the information gathered during the mission and putting the elements analyzed into perspective. It will present the conclusions drawn from the trip, based on the exchanges held and, at the end of the document, will propose a series of recommendations.
- A general **recommendation** on migration issues, based on both this field study and future analyses.

The Committee on Migration Issues would like to thank all those who made this mission possible, and in particular Caritas Poland for its welcome and support in organizing the various visits made. It is also grateful to all the people it met during the five days in the field and the opportunities that arose.

The committee would also like to thank the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and its support association (INGO Service), which financed a large part of the trip.

For further information on the Committee on Migration Issues' visit to Poland, please contact:

- Christine Monty (Committee Chairman): christine.monty@europeanobsndfr.org
- Daniel Guéry (Committee Vice-Chairman): guery.daniel52@gmail.com
- Marc Van den Reeck (Political advisor): mvdreeck@gmail.com
- Salomé Brun (Communications Officer): salome_brun@orange.fr