



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee of Migration issues

Accommodation of Migrants: A Major Issue for the Respect of Human Rights.

NEWSLETTER N°5

Editorial

Dear members of the Committee on Migration Issues,

At the outset of this new year, the Board of the Committee on Migration Issues would like to extend to you its most sincere wishes.

The past year has been particularly intense and demanding. We have worked hard, often under urgent circumstances, with a strong sense of collective commitment. Yet, in the face of the surge in violations of the rights of people in situations of migration, it is sometimes difficult not to feel a sense of frustration, as our efforts seem to struggle to stem the scale of the setbacks currently underway. This observation, however uncomfortable, deserves to be shared with clarity and honesty.

By way of information, we were able to take part in the [Informal Ministerial Conference](#) held on 10 December, organised in response to a letter from several member States of the Council of Europe calling for a revision of the European Convention on Human Rights in order to “adjust” it to migration-related challenges. This sequence of events confirms how directly the fundamental principles we defend are now being called into question.

Following this meeting, the Committee prepared a statement, which I am attaching to this message. It fully reflects our role: to recall that migration management cannot be pursued at the expense of human rights, human dignity and the rule of law.

In this tense context, our engagement within the Conference of INGOs and the Council of Europe is more necessary than ever. I sincerely hope that the year ahead will allow us to continue this work with determination, critical thinking and solidarity, while continuing to voice a demanding, credible position that remains faithful to the values underpinning our action.

I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas, surrounded by your loved ones. In this spirit of celebration and solidarity, let us continue together to uphold our values, defend human dignity and work with determination for the rights of people in situations of migration.

I look forward to continuing this important shared endeavour alongside you in the year to come.

Christine Monty

Chair, Committee on Migration Issues
Conference of INGO's, Council of Europe

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.....	2
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.....	3
MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.....	3
EXCHANGES WITH ENTITIES OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.....	4
EXCHANGES WITH NGOs AND NETWORKS OUTSIDE OUR COMMITTEE.....	4
COOPERATION WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES.....	5
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.....	5
DIVISION DES MIGRATIONS ET DES RÉFUGIÉS.....	5
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.....	6
EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.....	7
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME.....	7
UNHCR.....	7
WORKS OF THE COMMITTEE.....	7
STATEMENTS.....	7
WEBINAIRES.....	7
Webinaire à venir.....	8
SOME FEEDBACK FROM INGOs, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTORS.....	8
RESOLUTION.....	8
PRESSE RELEASE:.....	8
NEWSLETTERS :.....	9
GUIDE.....	9
REPORT.....	9

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Since September 2025, the members of the Board of the Committee on Migration Issues have met on several occasions in order to ensure effective follow-up of the Committee's work and continuous strategic coordination.

The most recent meetings were held on:

- **3 October 2025**
- **18 December 2025**

These meetings made it possible to:

- Develop strategic orientations aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and visibility of the Committee;
- Agree on meeting agendas and the timetable for forthcoming meetings;
- Anticipate and prepare upcoming General Assemblies of the Conference of INGOs;
- Establish a provisional calendar of forthcoming milestones;
- Foster open exchanges on key issues relating to the organisation and activities of the Committee.

In addition to these formal meetings, the Board consults on a regular and informal basis, notably by telephone and email. These close exchanges are essential to ensure the Committee's responsiveness, particularly in the drafting of statements and in monitoring developments related to migration issues.

All minutes and working documents are centrally stored in a shared Drive space, ensuring continuity and coherence in the Committee's work.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The most recent meeting of the Committee on Migration Issues was held on **13 October 2025**, on the occasion of the **General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs**.

This meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress of the Committee's work, to exchange views on forthcoming priorities, and to foster collective reflection on the main challenges related to migration policies and the respect of human rights.

These regular meetings constitute an essential space for dialogue among Committee members. They enable close monitoring of ongoing projects, the sharing of proposals for new initiatives, and the alignment of our actions with our strategic orientations. In recent months, they have in particular facilitated constructive exchanges on the state of progress of the working groups, the identification of new avenues for reflection, and the adjustment of our priorities.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on **12 January 2026, at the beginning of the new working year**. It will provide an opportunity to continue these exchanges, to define the Committee's areas of work for the year ahead, and to further strengthen its collective momentum.

EXCHANGES WITH ENTITIES OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

As part of its participation in the work of the **Frontex Consultative Forum**, the Committee on Migration Issues continued its engagement throughout the autumn of 2025.

A meeting of the Consultative Forum was held on **22 September 2025 in Brussels**, with the primary objective of examining and issuing an opinion on the revision of Frontex's Rules of Procedure. On this occasion, the Committee on Migration Issues contributed to the discussions and to the development of a collective position.

[Our written contribution](#) submitted in this context is available on the Committee's shared drive (English version only).

The Committee was also represented at **the meeting of the Frontex Consultative Forum held on 13 and 14 October 2025 in Venice**, which provided an opportunity to continue discussions, in particular on the deployment of Frontex in the context of the implementation of the European Union's Pact on Asylum and Migration and on fundamental rights monitoring mechanisms.

These activities form part of the Committee's commitment to contributing in a constructive and demanding manner to European debates on border management, while ensuring **full respect for fundamental rights**, the protection of people in situations of migration, and the strengthening of the consultative role of civil society organisations.

EXCHANGES WITH NGOS AND NETWORKS OUTSIDE OUR COMMITTEE

The Committee on Migration Issues attaches particular importance to exchanges and cooperation with civil society organisations whose expertise usefully complements that of its members. This openness contributes to enriching the Committee's work and strengthening the impact of its actions, particularly on issues related to migration, accommodation and the respect of fundamental rights.

In this context, the **Border Violence Monitoring Network** provided significant expertise during the webinar dedicated to artificial intelligence and migration, shedding light on the concrete risks associated with surveillance practices, border controls and human rights violations. These exchanges constituted a valuable contribution to the Committee's reflections on the use of technologies in migration policies.

This cooperation will continue in **2026**, in particular to **frame and inform the Committee's monitoring work on the implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum**, in connection with observed impacts on the ground and the safeguards afforded to the persons concerned.

COOPERATION WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Committee on Migration Issues actively participates in the work of the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)**, by taking part on a regular basis in its meetings.

During the autumn of 2025, the Committee was able to participate in several meetings of the PACE Committee, including:

- the meeting held in **Strasbourg on 29 September 2025**, and
- the meeting organised in **Paris on 8 December 2025**.

These exchanges constitute essential moments of dialogue and cooperation. They make it possible to strengthen close working contacts with members of the Committee and the relevant services, and to enhance both the visibility and the impact of the Committee's work within the Parliamentary Assembly.

👉 [Programme of the PACE Committee on Migration session of 29 September 2025](#)

👉 [Programme of the PACE Committee on Migration session of 8 December 2025](#)

Following the parliamentary conference held in Strasbourg on **23 and 24 April 2025** on the prevention and management of cases of missing migrants, and in continuation of **PACE Resolution 2569**, [a parliamentary toolkit](#) was developed. Its aim is to provide public decision-makers with concrete guidance and practical tools to prevent disappearances, improve the handling of cases, and contribute to clarifying the fate of missing migrants, through a human rights-based approach.

We would also like to acknowledge the departure of **Tatiana Termacic**, who is leaving her position as Head of the Secretariat of the PACE Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Cooperation. We warmly thank her for her **constant support and the**

high-quality cooperation she maintained with the Committee on Migration Issues, and we extend our best wishes for success in the next stage of her professional career.

DIVISION DES MIGRATIONS ET DES RÉFUGIÉS

As part of its exchanges with the **Division on Migration and Refugees of the Council of Europe (DMR)**, the Committee on Migration Issues participated in the **first Roundtable on fact-based communication on migration**, held on **7 November 2025 in Strasbourg**.

Following this roundtable, the DMR published a **summary report**, which sets out a roadmap for future work and highlights the need to promote accurate, responsible and human rights-based communication on migration issues. The document draws attention to the harmful effects of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, as well as to the challenges posed by the current media and digital environment. It underlines the importance of coordinated and complementary approaches involving public institutions, the media, civil society and local actors, and combining short-term responses with long-term strategies, particularly in the fields of education, ethical journalism and social resilience.

👉 [Summary report of the Roundtable on fact-based communication on migration \(DMR\)](#)

The Committee on Migration Issues also took part in the **22nd meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Migration (CGM)**, held on **9 December 2025 at the Palais de l'Europe (Strasbourg)**, with both in-person and online participation. This meeting was devoted to an in-depth exchange on the action of Council of Europe monitoring bodies and entities in the field of migration, with a view to taking stock of progress made, identifying emerging challenges and strengthening inter-institutional coordination.

Discussions focused in particular on the work of the **CPT** concerning the administrative detention of migrants, on **GRETA's** activities in combating trafficking in human beings, on the implementation of the **Istanbul Convention** and **GREVIO's** findings in migration-related contexts, as well as on the work of the **Lanzarote Committee**, the **ECRI**, and the supervision of the execution of judgments of the **European Court of Human Rights** related to migration. The meeting highlighted the richness of the Council of Europe's standards and the importance of a

COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

We regularly monitor the statements and positions of the **Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe**, which inform and enrich our reflections and actions.

👉 [Migration - Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

In return, we ensure that the Commissioner is kept informed of our activities and that we share with him the work of our Committee which we consider particularly important, with a view to

fostering constructive dialogue and strengthening the complementarity of our respective approaches.

 [Link to the Commissioner's speech at the Informal Conference of Ministers on 10 December 2025](#)

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The **European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)** has a specialised division responsible for dealing with cases relating to persons in situations of migration, under the leadership of **Ms Sophie Piquet**. We maintain regular contact with her by sharing our work and analyses, which enables us to ensure continuous alignment between our reflections and the Court's most significant jurisprudential developments.

UNHCR

The Committee on Migration Issues would like to acknowledge the departure of **Mr Andreas Wissner**, Representative of the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** to the European Institutions in Strasbourg since 2020. Over the years, Andreas Wissner and the Committee have developed close relations based on trust, dialogue and mutual support, fostered through constructive cooperation and a shared commitment to the protection of refugees and migrants.

The Committee on Migration Issues warmly thanks him for his constant support of our work and extends its **best wishes for success in the next stage of his professional career**.

WORKS OF THE COMMITTEE

STATEMENTS

 [Informal Ministerial Conference of 10 December 2025](#)

 [Statement on Trends of Democratic Backsliding – 14 October 2025](#)

WEBINAR

On **13 November 2025**, the Committee on Migration Issues organised a webinar entitled **“Border Control & Migration: Safeguarding Fundamental Rights in the Age of AI”**, bringing together experts, civil society representatives and European institutions to examine the growing impact of artificial intelligence technologies on migration policies and the protection of human rights.

Nikos Sitaropoulos, Head of the Migration and Refugees Division of the Council of Europe, presented the Council of Europe’s framework and standards applicable to the use of digital and algorithmic technologies in the field of migration.

Petri Honkonen, Member of Parliament, highlighted the challenges related to artificial intelligence and migration, stressing the need to ensure respect for human rights in the use of AI in migration management, and underlining the importance of a strict framework based on fundamental rights and public accountability.

Finally, the **Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN)** provided essential testimony based on field observation, shedding light on the concrete consequences of the use of surveillance technologies and automated systems on the rights of migrants, particularly at borders.

👉 [Link to the webinar programme](#) (recording to be made available online shortly)

SOME FEEDBACK FROM INGOs, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTORS

RESOLUTION

- [PACE AI & Migration , a call for a legal framework](#)

PRESSE RELEASE:

- UNHCR PRESSE RELEASE ON [Global Refugee Forum Progress Review](#) - https://www.unhcr.org/news/press-releases/unhcr-global-refugee-gathering-ends-substantial-new-solidarity-pledges?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&_kx=CqT7OkYsc15BwpjJcVOMAQVTAdoeftr2nxn577yuay4.U4qgRF

NEWSLETTERS :

- Council of Europe, [DIVISION ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEES - NEWSLETTER](#)
- ECRE - [NEWSLETTER](#)

GUIDE

- Council of Europe, DIVISION ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEES, thematic paper, [Vulnerability of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees: Council of Europe and European Union standards.](#)
- [CCBE Guide for Bars and Lawyers on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#)

REPORT

- Border Monitor Violence, Monthly report, [October 2025](#)