

Committee on Migration Issues

Accommodation for Migrant People: A Major Challenge for the Protection of Human Rights.

NEWSLETTER N°5

Editorial

Dear Members of the Committee on Migration Issues,

Following directly on from **World Refugee Day** on 20 June, this new edition of our newsletter provides an opportunity to reflect on several particularly productive months of work undertaken by our committee.

Since the beginning of 2026, migration issues have remained at the heart of European debates. The gradual implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum, discussions on the future Common European Return System, and growing concerns about the place of fundamental rights within migration policies all remind us that the vigilance of civil society remains indispensable.

In this context, our committee continues its commitment to contributing to public and institutional debates, amplifying the voice of organisations working on the ground, and consistently reaffirming that human dignity, respect for fundamental rights, and the principle of non-refoulement must remain at the core of all migration policies.

Over the past few months, we have strengthened our exchanges with several bodies of the Council of Europe, participated in the work of the Frontex Consultative Forum, continued our dialogue with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and developed new partnerships with civil society organisations. Our working groups have also continued their reflections on integration, the impact of new technologies on migration pathways, and the monitoring of developments in European migration legislation.

This newsletter looks back at these various activities and presents the key milestones that will engage our committee in the months ahead.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Committee members for their availability, expertise, and commitment. At a time when narratives of exclusion and withdrawal are gaining ground across many European countries, our collective mobilisation is more essential than ever.

I wish you an enjoyable read and look forward to continuing our shared work in the service of human rights, solidarity, and the rule of law.

Warm regards,

Christine Monty

*Chair of the Committee on Migration Issues
Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe*

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BOARD'S MEETING

The members of the Board of the Committee on Migration Issues meet regularly to ensure effective monitoring of the Committee's work and ongoing strategic coordination.

The members of the Bureau met on **11 June 2026**. This meeting notably provided an opportunity to:

- Develop strategic guidelines aimed at strengthening the Committee's effectiveness and visibility;
- Finalise the agenda for the next Committee meeting and the schedule of upcoming meetings;
- Anticipate and prepare for the next General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs, to be held in October;
- Establish a provisional timetable for upcoming deadlines and key milestones;
- Encourage open discussions on the major challenges affecting the organisation and activities of the Committee.

It was also during this meeting that the board agreed on the need to publish a statement for **World Refugee Day**, choosing to focus on the imminent risk of a decline in human rights protections in the field of migration.

In addition to these formal meetings, the board maintains regular informal consultations, particularly by telephone and email. These close exchanges are essential to ensuring the Committee's responsiveness, especially when preparing and drafting statements, as well as monitoring developments related to migration issues.

All meeting minutes and working documents remain centralised in a shared Drive space, ensuring the continuity and consistency of our work.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In 2026, the Committee on Migration Issues met on two occasions, including one in-person meeting held following the General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs on **14 April 2026**.

The Committee's most recent meeting took place on **30 June 2026**, marking the end of the 2025–2026 academic year and providing an opportunity to confirm the Committee's strategic orientations before the summer break.

This meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the Committee's work, discuss upcoming priorities, and encourage collective reflection on the main challenges related to migration policies and the protection of human rights.

The Committee members, meeting remotely, reviewed the key developments since their previous meeting in April 2026.

- Christine Monty, Chair of the Committee, highlighted **significant political developments**, notably the Chisinau Declaration, and expressed her satisfaction with the positions defended in the statement issued by the President of the Conference of INGOs (G. Ermischer).
- The Committee's monitoring work regarding the future EU Return Regulation was also recalled, as well as the preparation of a document identifying several key points requiring particular attention when reviewing this text and anticipating its future implementation. This document was shared with several Members of the European Parliament working on this issue.
- The Chair also provided an update on the Committee's participation in the work of the Frontex Consultative Forum.

Furthermore, the meeting provided an opportunity to review the work of the Integration working group, with an update on its progress presented by Daniel Guéry.

Members also discussed several recent developments in the field of migration across Council of Europe member states, particularly regarding relations between the European Union and the British authorities, the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, as well as the increasingly hostile political climate and the concerns it raises.

The next Committee meeting will take place at the beginning of the new term, in **September 2026**. It will provide an opportunity to continue these discussions, prepare the upcoming General Assembly, define the Committee's working priorities for the months ahead, and further strengthen its collective momentum.

Among the Committee's priorities and planned activities leading up to September 2026 are:

- Continuing to monitor developments in migration policies across Council of Europe member states, with particular attention to the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum;
- Continuing the work of the Integration working group;
- Preparing a webinar on the topic: "Immigration: A Response to Demographic Ageing."

These regular meetings provide an essential space for dialogue among Committee members. They enable the monitoring of ongoing projects, the sharing of proposals for new initiatives, and the maintenance of consistency between our actions and strategic orientations. In recent months, they have particularly encouraged constructive discussions on the progress of working groups, the identification of new areas for reflection, and the adjustment of our priorities.

COMMITTEE'S WORK

COMMUNIQUÉS

During the first six months of 2026, the Committee on Migration Issues published two statements:

- 👉 [Communiqué on serious and systemic risks of violations of fundamental rights in relation to the draft European regulation establishing a common system for return](#) – 25 February 2026
- 👉 [Statement on the occasion of World Refugee Day](#) – 20 June 2026

INTEGRATION WORKING GROUP

The Committee on Migration Issues also organises its work around specific thematic areas, according to the expertise of its members. Several Committee members regularly meet to work on the following theme: “The complementary role of civil society and public institutions in supporting migrants towards integration based on access to employment, cultural dialogue, and adherence to fundamental European values.”

The group is exploring several concrete areas of work, including:

- Establishing contact with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;
- Collecting field-based examples and good practices;
- Developing a common questionnaire;
- Reflecting on the possibility of drafting a recommendation;
- Considering the preparation of a possible side event in cooperation with the Migration and Refugee Division and the Parliamentary Assembly.

Since April, the group has met on six occasions. Its work focuses on the complementarity between public institutions and civil society in supporting migrants towards integration based on access to employment, intercultural dialogue, and adherence to fundamental European values.

The working group has also developed a **concept note**, which has become the group's reference working document.

In addition, the group has finalised a questionnaire aimed at local authorities, public institutions, and civil society organisations, with the objective of identifying existing good practices across several European countries.

Several initiatives are already underway, including a study on France presented by Frédéric Poulain and a German contribution prepared by Michèle Moritz and André Schnell.

Depending on the results obtained, the final outputs may include a Policy Paper, a mission report, a recommendation, or guidelines intended for the various bodies of the Council of Europe.

The group is also preparing a study visit to Spain (Barcelona) and Portugal (Lisbon). This mission will provide an opportunity to meet with public authorities, local and regional authorities, and civil society organisations. The outcomes will contribute to the Committee's future work.

As a reminder, this group remains open to anyone wishing to contribute.

WEBINAR

Drawing on the extensive field expertise provided by the diversity of its member organisations, and strengthened by a wide network of partners, the Committee on Migration Issues organised a webinar on the topic "Teacher Training for Supporting Migrant Children and Students: Challenges and Good Practices" on 28 April 2026. The programme, speakers' contributions, and the video recording of the event are available on the Committee's website.

On 28 April 2026, the Committee on Migration Issues organised a webinar dedicated to the theme "Teacher Training for Supporting Migrant Children and Students: Challenges and Good Practices."

 [Link to the webinar programme and speakers' contributions](#)

 [Link to the webinar video recording](#)

Webinar to come:

The Committee on Migration Issues is pleased to announce the organisation of a **new webinar**, which will take place at the beginning of the next term (date to be confirmed). This webinar will focus on the theme of "**Immigration as a Response to Demographic Decline in Europe**" and will provide an opportunity to present and disseminate the report by Ms Kate O. of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENTITIES EXTERNAL TO 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 in 2026.

A meeting of the Consultative Forum was held on **17–18 February 2026 in Warsaw**, with the main objective of reviewing and issuing an opinion on the revision of Frontex's Rules of Procedure. On this occasion, the Committee was able to submit comments, regarding the issue of **voluntary returns of unaccompanied minors (UAMs)**.

The Committee was also represented at the **Frontex Consultative Forum meeting held on 12–13 May 2026 in Brussels**. This meeting addressed, among other topics: Frontex's safeguarding mechanisms, data protection between EU agencies, the Return Regulation, the EU Pact on

Migration and Asylum, relations with third countries (particularly Afghanistan), the identification of vulnerable persons at borders, specific situations (including the situation in Evros), the implementation of the Screening Regulation, issues relating to minors and families, independent monitoring mechanisms, and systemic risks identified by Frontex.

These activities reflect 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 advisory role of civil society organisations.

COLLABORATION WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S BODIES

CONFERENCE OF INGOS

In April 2026, the General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe took place.

On this occasion, the Committee was able to present its [activity report](#) covering the previous two years.

During this Assembly, the Committee's mandate was also renewed for a third year.

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

On 15 May 2026, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the [Chişinău Declaration](#), which includes several important developments relating to migration issues and return policies.

Our committee closely followed the preparatory work carried out within the framework of the CDDH and contributed to civil society discussions throughout this process, notably through the comments and analyses submitted over the past months.

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), regularly taking part in its meetings.

During the spring of 2026, the Committee participated in several meetings of the Committee:

- The meeting held in Paris on **13 May 2026**;
- The meeting organised in Strasbourg on **26, 27 and 29 January 2026**.

These exchanges represent essential opportunities for dialogue and cooperation. They help strengthen close working relationships with Committee members and the relevant services, while enhancing the visibility and impact of the Committee's work within the Parliamentary Assembly.

 [PACE session programme – 13 May 2026 \(EN\)](#)

 [PACE session programme – 13 May 2026 \(FR\)](#)

 [PACE session programme – 26, 27 and 29 January 2026 \(EN\)](#)

 [PACE session programme – 26, 27 and 29 January 2026 \(FR\)](#)

The Committee on Migration Issues has taken a particular interest in the [recommendations](#) presented by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe regarding immigration as a response to Europe's demographic ageing. The Committee considers the approach presented to be particularly relevant, in line with the current work of its Integration working group.

DIVISION ON MIGRATIONS AND REFUGEES

As part of the close cooperation between the Migration Committee and the Migration and Refugee Division, the Committee on Migration Issues was invited to an exchange with the Division in February, to discuss the conclusions of a study visit to Poland. The discussions focused on unaccompanied minors, stateless persons, the education of young people in situations of migration, as well as the challenges faced by Roma refugees from Ukraine.

As a reminder, the Committee on Migration Issues had also carried out a visit to Poland in February 2025.

Still within the framework of its exchanges with the Council of Europe's Migration and Refugee Division (MRD), the Committee on Migration Issues participated in the 23rd meeting of the Coordination Group on Migration (CGM), organised on 31 March 2025 in Strasbourg.

👉 [Report of the 23rd CGM meeting](#)

👉 [Summary report of the Roundtable on factual communication on migration \(MRD\)](#)

The Committee on Migration Issues also took part in the 23rd meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Migration (CGM), organised on 31 March 2026 at the Palace of Europe in Strasbourg, with both in-person and online participation.

COMMISSIONER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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

👉 All updates on the work of the Commissioner for Human Rights are available on the Council of Europe [website](#).

In return, we ensure that the Commissioner is kept informed of our activities and that we share the work of our committee that we consider particularly relevant, in order to foster constructive dialogue and strengthen the complementarity of our respective approaches.

👉 Article by the Commissioner for Human Rights published in Le Monde following the Chişinău Declaration: [“After Chisinau: Europe, wake up!”](#)

EUROPEAN COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has a specialised division responsible for dealing with cases involving migrants, under the leadership of Ms Sophie Piquet.

We maintain regular contact with her, sharing our work and analyses, which enables us to ensure ongoing links between our reflections and the most significant developments in the Court's case law.

SELECTED UPDATES FROM INGOs, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE STAKEHOLDERS

TEXTS

- [“L’immigration, l’une des réponses au vieillissement démographique de l’Europe”](#) - Recommandations de l’Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l’Europe.

STATEMENTS

- UNHCR - [With 7 in 10 refugees living in long-term displacement, UNHCR chief calls for renewed push for solutions](#)
- COMECE - [EU Return Regulation](#)
- RENATE - [Return Regulation](#)

NEWSLETTERS

- Council of Europe, DIVISION OF MIGRATION AND REFUGEES - [NEWSLETTER](#)
- ECRE - [NEWSLETTER](#)
- I have Rights - [NEWSLETTER](#)
- COMECE - [NEWSLETTER](#)
- PICUM- [NEWSLETTER](#)

POLICY PAPERS

- Caritas - [Family reunification : a right, not a privilege](#)

REPORTS

- UNHCR : [Rapport tendances 2025](#)