

CINGO Committee Report for the General Assembly (short format)

Version 3: Spring 2026 – to be returned by Friday 10 April

Committee name: COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION ISSUES

Date of report: 04/10/ 2026

Report author name and contact details: CHRISTINE MONTY

Date committee was approved by CINGO General Assembly: 10 APRIL 2024

N.B. If this committee was approved in Spring 2024 it will come to the end of its mandate at the 2026 Spring Session of the General Assembly. Please be sure to complete section 5 to request a mandate for another year. Please keep answers short and focused on priorities and actions

1. Committee Chair/Vice Chair name/s and contact emails

MONTY Christine christine.monty@europeanobsndfr.org

GUERY Daniel : guery.daniel52@gmail.com

2. Which INGOs are represented on the committee?

OENDDF, MIAMSI, The Smile of the Child, Ass Volontariat Europe, ACISJF, AFGC, AEDE, AIRE CENTRE, ASSEDEL, B'nai B'rith International, BOOT Refugees Fondation, Caritas Europa, CCEG -CEPS, CITI , CMAtlv, COMENIUS, Danish Refugees Council, DPI Europe, ESAN, EUROCEF, EUROGEO, European Doctors, ECRE / Independent Cons., EYBA, FIACAT, FIAPA, FIUC, FRAC, HANDS OFF CAIN , I Have Rights, JAW, JRS, LICRA Bas Rhin, Médecins du Monde, Médecins sans frontières, Mental Heath Europa, NEW HUMANITY, OIEC, PAX CHRISTI INTERN., PAX ROMANA, PICUM, QCEA, RENATE, Réseau EU Egl/Libertés, Réseau Eur Apatrides ; SOS Humanity, SOS Méditerranée, UNAEC, WSCF-E (étudiants), WUCWO

3. Which Council of Europe committees and other activities is this committee mainly involved in? Please provide a list, a brief description of how your committee is involved.

The Committee positions itself as a guarantor of the protection and full implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights regarding migrants and refugees. This mission takes place in a political context marked by the rise of security-driven narratives,

frequently invoked by States to justify the adoption of restrictive legislation and field practices that undermine fundamental rights. In this context, the Committee consistently recalls that such infringements constitute unacceptable and non-negotiable violations of States' obligations under the Convention.

The Committee on Migration Issues carries out an extensive monitoring role on migration-related matters, particularly where these may affect the fundamental rights of migrants. In this capacity, the Committee regularly issues statements in response to recent developments. These statements are transmitted to key bodies of the Council of Europe, including:

- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, to inform its work (notably through the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons);
- The Migration and Refugees Division.
- The Commissioner for Human Rights.
- The European Court of Human Rights, in support of its activities.
- Various international organisations such as UNHCR.
- The Standing Committee, for onward transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

Furthermore, the Committee works in close cooperation with several institutional actors within the Council of Europe:

- The Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, in a spirit of complementarity between field-based expertise and political action.
- The Migration and Refugees Division, through coordination, mutual support and complementarity.
- Expert committees.
- The European Court of Human Rights.
- The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

Through these interactions, the Committee contributes to strengthening the coherence of the Council of Europe's actions in the field of fundamental rights protection for migrants, while ensuring effective dissemination of its analyses and positions.

The Committee has also contributed to the preparatory work on the political declaration by submitting targeted observations and policy recommendations to the CDDH, drawing on its field expertise. It has identified key points of vigilance to ensure consistency between political commitments and legal obligations.

4. How has this committee linked with other CINGO committees in the last year?

Over the past year, the Committee has worked closely with several Conference committees by mobilising their specific areas of expertise. It engaged the Committee on Civil Society for Children's Rights in European Society to develop a contribution on the support of minors in return procedures, in connection with Frontex activities.

The Committee also cooperated with the Committee on the European Social Charter and its monitoring mechanisms as part of its participation in the development of the new “Council of Europe Action Plan on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe,” led by the Migration and Refugees Division (DMR), thereby contributing to a coordinated and cross-cutting approach to fundamental rights issues.

5. If your committee is at the end of its two-year mandate at the 2026 Spring Session of the General Assembly, please answer the following questions:

- a. Does the committee wish to continue its mandate for another year? Yes
- b. If ‘yes’, please describe your objectives over the next 12 months up to Spring 2027 (no more than 250 words). If you have a workplan for the year please add it to the bottom of this form.

If its mandate is extended for an additional year, the Committee on Migration Issues will pursue and strengthen its activities around four priority areas:

1. Continuation and consolidation of monitoring activities (the Committee’s core activity)

The Committee intends to continue its monitoring work, which represents approximately 75% of its activity. This monitoring focuses on legislative, policy and practical developments in the field of migration and asylum at both European and national levels. Its purpose is to identify systemic risks to fundamental rights, assess their compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights, and produce contributions (analyses, statements, observations) for the relevant institutions.

2. Development of a workstream on the integration of migrants

The Committee aims to further develop its work on integration policies and practices, with a focus on concrete, field-based approaches. In this context, it is envisaged to organise a dedicated event (side event or webinar), potentially co-organised with the Council of Europe’s Migration and Refugees Division (DMR), to highlight European good practices (local authorities, civil society, Council of Europe tools).

3. Establishment of a dedicated working group on the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

The Committee plans to set up a monitoring group specifically dedicated to tracking the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. This group will aim to assess in practical terms the impact of the Pact on fundamental rights, identify gaps between legal standards and practices, and, where appropriate, formulate recommendations for decision-makers.

4. Continued contributions to the work of international organisations

The Committee will continue its active participation in the work of the Frontex Consultative Forum, as well as in any other international bodies seeking its expertise. These contributions aim to bring forward a civil society voice grounded in fundamental rights, strengthen dialogue with institutions, and support better implementation of international and European obligations.

c. Who is proposed as Chair for the extension of the committee's mandate?

Ms Christine Monty is proposed to continue serving as Chair of the Committee on Migration Issues for the duration of the extended mandate.

Mr Daniel Guéry is proposed to continue serving as Vice-Chair.

It is also proposed to maintain the composition of the Bureau with Mr Marc Van den Reeck and Ms Salomé Brun, to ensure continuity of the Committee's work and its proper functioning.

Considering the sustained commitment of these members, their active involvement in monitoring, representation, and contributions to international organisations, this continuity is considered essential to ensure the coherence, stability and effectiveness of the Committee's work in the period ahead.

6. Activity and Outcomes Report – please choose up to 6 main activities and outcomes.

Please add links to any online resources created and published in the last 12 months.

Topic	Summary of activities/impact in last year.	Current key issues/concerns	Plans for next 6 – 12 months
1. Monitoring and responses to European migration policies	The Committee devoted approximately 75% of its activities to active monitoring of developments in migration policies across Europe. This resulted in the publication of several statements and press releases, notably: on the suspension of asylum in	* Risk of erosion of fundamental safeguards (notably the principle of non-refoulement) * Increasing securitisation of migration policies * Prolongation and normalisation of administrative detention * Difficulties in	* Continuation and structuring of monitoring activities * Preparation of targeted contributions on ongoing European legislative texts * Strengthening outreach to decision-makers (European Parliament, Council of Europe)

	Greece (2025), • on the risks linked to evolving internal security and border management policies, • on European legislative proposals, in particular the draft Return Regulation (February 2026). These contributions have helped maintain the visibility of civil society within European processes, particularly in relation to EU institutions and the Council of Europe.	ensuring effective access to asylum	
2. Development of recommendations on fundamental rights	The Committee adopted, and had adopted by the Conference, several key recommendations aimed at clarifying States' obligations regarding fundamental rights: * Recommendation on States' responsibility for the accommodation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (15 October 2025) * Recommendation on the guidelines "Toys for children and families during	* Risk of erosion of fundamental safeguards (notably the principle of non-refoulement) * Increasing securitisation of migration policies * Prolongation and normalisation of administrative detention * Difficulties in ensuring effective access to asylum * Insufficient reception capacities	* Dissemination and promotion of recommendations * Monitoring their uptake by States and institutions * Development of new thematic recommendations

	return,” considering the Convention on the Rights of the Child (9 September 2025) This work helped highlight concrete and often underestimated issues, in particular: * Reception conditions and respect for dignity, * The consideration of the best interests of the child in return policies.	and deteriorating material conditions * Lack of consideration for the specific needs of children * Risk of treatment contrary to fundamental rights within return procedures	
3. Monitoring the European Pact on Asylum and Migration	The Committee has undertaken an in-depth analysis of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum and its implications for fundamental rights. Preparatory work has been carried out to establish a dedicated framework for monitoring its implementation.	* Practical implementation of the Pact in Member States * Risk of divergent application and circumvention of standards * Insufficient safeguards for vulnerable persons	* Establishment of a dedicated working group to monitor the implementation of the Pact * Preparation of analytical notes and recommendations * Strengthened dialogue with European and national institutions
4. Contribution to the work of the Frontex Consultative Forum	The Committee has actively contributed to the work of the Frontex Consultative Forum, notably through: • participation in meetings, • interventions on access to asylum,	* Compatibility of Frontex operations with fundamental rights * Risks associated with the development of return policies	* Continued active participation in the Forum * Strengthening contributions on return procedures and procedural safeguards * Advocacy for better consideration

	returns, and fundamental rights, written and oral contributions drawing on civil society's field experience.	* Need for effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms	of civil society recommendations
5 Contribution to the work of the Council of Europe (CDDH and other bodies)	The Committee closely followed the Council of Europe's work on migration, in particular the discussions on the elements of a political declaration on migration and the European Convention on Human Rights. It contributed to these reflections by paying particular attention to "red lines" in the field of fundamental rights.	* Preservation of the absolute nature of Article 3 of the ECHR * Protection of children and vulnerable persons * Maintaining the central role of civil society	* Continued monitoring of intergovernmental work * Targeted interventions on draft texts * Strengthening coordination with institutional actors
6 Integration of people on the move	The Committee has initiated a specific line of work on integration, in connection with Council of Europe initiatives (education, recognition of qualifications, local policies). Exchanges have taken place with institutional stakeholders, notably following field missions.	* Effective access to education and employment * Recognition of refugees' qualifications * Key role of local authorities and civil society	* Organisation of a side event on integration * Development of work on European good practices * Contribution to Council of Europe initiatives (education, inclusion)

7 Technologies, AI and border control: vigilance regarding risks to fundamental rights	The Committee organised a dedicated webinar: “Border Control & Migration: Safeguarding Fundamental Rights in the Age of AI” (13 November 2025). This event provided an opportunity to open a space for reflection on the growing use of technologies (artificial intelligence, biometrics, automated surveillance) in migration policies. The Committee thus contributed to bringing forward concerns that remain insufficiently visible in institutional debates, drawing on a forward-looking approach.	*Rapid development of technologies whose impacts remain difficult to assess * Risks of algorithmic bias and indirect discrimination * Lack of transparency in systems used for border control * Difficulty in ensuring effective democratic and judicial oversight * Risk of erosion of fundamental safeguards in favour of a technological and security-driven logic	* Maintaining active vigilance over these developments * Continuing awareness-raising efforts with institutions * Integrating these issues into the Committee’s analyses (notably in monitoring the Pact) * Possibility of organising further exchanges or publications on these topics
8 Webinar series on education and migration	The Committee developed a webinar series dedicated to education and the integration of migrants, with a focus on concrete and operational approaches. In this context, the Committee notably contributed to: • Webinar: “Higher	* Effective access to education for migrants * Recognition of qualifications and academic pathways * Adaptation of education systems to	* Continuation and structuring of the webinar series * Organisation of new thematic events (education, language, professional integration) * Strengthening links with Council of Europe programmes

	Education, Vocational Training and Young Migrants” (3 April 2025) • Conference-debate: “Learning for All in the Face of Societal Challenges: Human Rights, Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion in a Diverse Society” (27 May 2025) (in partnership with Caritas Europa and CMAtlv) These initiatives made it possible to: * bring together perspectives from institutional, educational and civil society actors, * highlight European good practices, * emphasise the central role of education in integration pathways.	diverse populations	* Consolidation of identified good practices
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7. Is there anything else you would like to share with CINGO members and/or the CINGO Standing Committee? (max 200 words)

The Committee on Migration Issues wishes to share several observations aimed at strengthening the collective effectiveness of the Conference of INGOs.

In a context requiring rapid responsiveness to fast-evolving migration policies, it is essential to rely on a fully responsive Standing Committee, capable of facilitating coordination and decision-making (with short response times).

Regarding the INGO Service Association, we highlight the need for effective alignment between budget planning and the needs of the committees. For instance, the inability to secure a commitment on the provision of interpreters at the beginning of the year, due to the absence of a finalised budget, illustrates current limitations. At the same time, committees are expected to take a position next April on a budget for which their needs have not been previously collected, even though certain structuring initiatives, such as field missions, are being considered.

Furthermore, the appointment of active, communicative and responsive delegates within the governing bodies remains essential.

Finally, monitoring is a shared responsibility: each member of the Conference of INGOs must actively contribute to it.