



# 8<sup>th</sup> COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MIGRATION AFFAIRS

Kiev, 4-5 September 2008

**Economic migration, social cohesion  
and development: towards an integrated approach**



**ISSUE PAPER**



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PRINCIPAL ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MINISTERS

On the theme of the conference:

Economic migration, social cohesion  
and development: towards an integrated approach



## **INTRODUCTION**

The relationship between migration and development is a key focus for the current international debate. The impact on social cohesion is also of major concern, having long been the objective of integration policies.

Important initiatives have been taken recently at bilateral, regional and international level to promote co-operation between receiving and origin countries, and increase and share more equitably between them the benefits of migration. See, in particular, the list in the Appendix.

With a view to strengthening the core values of the Council of Europe (human rights, democracy, rule of law) within the framework of the co-operation between member states in respect of the themes of the conference – economic migration, social cohesion and development – the senior officials responsible for preparing the conference (CDMG) have identified the key issues set out in this paper for the dialogue between ministers during the 4 sessions of the conference.

Participants wishing to take the floor are requested to reply to one or more of these questions.

## SESSION I

### ECONOMIC MIGRATION AND ITS MANAGEMENT

1. What is the role of the state in relation to labour migration, taking into account the need to reconcile labour migration driven by demand and social cohesion ?
2. How can increased co-operation between member states of the Council of Europe improve their management of economic migration and respect for human rights particularly in the external dimension of their migration policies ? How can the benefits of economic migration be shared more equitably between receiving and origin countries ?
3. What are the key elements of a flexible, transparent and efficient system for managing labour migration ? How can the human rights of migrants be protected within such a system and what measures can be agreed for this purpose ?
4. In the context of labour migration driven by demand, what role should employers play in the recruitment of migrants ? What are the roles of other actors (for example, trade unions, public employment services, training and educational bodies) and how can their interests and those of migrants be balanced with the interest of the state to better regulate its labour market ?
5. How can the concept of circular migration be better defined and how can it contribute to maximising the benefits of migration for receiving and origin countries ?
6. How can member states co-operate within the Council of Europe in order to strengthen the protection of human rights in the management of economic migration ? How can its activities support initiatives taken within the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States ?

## SESSION II

### ECONOMIC MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT

1. How can the positive impact of migration on development in receiving and origin countries be enhanced ? How can the negative consequences of migration for origin countries be overcome ?
2. How can the role of diaspora and the contribution of migrants to development in their countries of origin be better supported by receiving and origin countries ? How can international co-operation support them ? What measures can be put in place to increase the number of co-development initiatives and make them more effective ?
3. What is the impact of voluntary return on development in origin countries ? How can receiving and origin countries enhance its impact by, for example, bilateral agreements ?
4. How can member states co-operate within the Council of Europe in order to contribute to development in origin countries through human rights-based migration policies ? How can its activities support initiatives taken within the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States ?

## **SESSION III**

### **ECONOMIC MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIAL COHESION**

1. What is the impact of migration on social cohesion in both receiving and origin countries ? How can it be assessed ? What migration policy-related measures should be put in place to strengthen social cohesion ?
2. How should receiving societies adapt in order to better integrate migrants in accordance with the “two-way” principle of integration ? What measures should be put in place to improve intercultural and inter-religious dialogue ?
3. How should society adapt to integrate new arrivals of migrants in order to promote sustainable development whilst at the same time tackling effectively the problems of integration faced by existing immigrant communities ?
4. What mechanisms of observation and evaluation at local and national level should be put in place in order to ensure that integration policies fully achieve their objectives ?
5. How can the political participation and active citizenship of migrants be improved in receiving countries ?
6. What policies should be put in place in order to meet the specific needs of short-term migrants ?
7. How can member states co-operate within the Council of Europe in order to contribute to social cohesion in receiving and origin countries through human rights-based migration policies ? How can its activities support initiatives taken within the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States ?

## SESSION IV

### TOWARDS AND INTEGRATED APPROACH

*This session should build on the discussions of day one and explore the issues of (i) the links between economic migration, development and social cohesion, and (ii) the areas of contention and consensus between countries of origin, transit and destination with a view to identifying future co-operation (bilateral and multilateral) and the contours of an integrated approach.*

1. How can coherence between migration policies, social cohesion and development be enhanced at international level between receiving, transit and origin countries ?
2. How, at national level, can dialogue, co-ordination and policy coherence be improved between different ministries and departments in order to implement integrated policies more effectively in the fields of migration and development ?
3. What further measures can be put in place to involve migrants in the dialogue and co-operation between member states ?
4. How can the role of the migrant as an agent for development and social cohesion be supported by public policy ?
5. How can the Council of Europe develop an integrated approach based on human rights to migration, social cohesion and development both through international co-operation and technical assistance ? How can its activities support initiatives taken within the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States and those of other international bodies ?

## APPENDIX

### RECENT INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN RECEIVING AND ORIGIN COUNTRIES

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- Principles for action and recommendations of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration (2005);
- Policy agenda of the report of the Secretary General of the United Nations to the High-Level dialogue on international migration and development (2006);
- ILO Plan of Action on labour migration (2004) and multi-lateral framework on labour migration: non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration (2005);
- EU global approach to migration and the migration components of the Council of Ministers strategy for the external dimension of justice and home affairs (2005);
- Proposals for achieving a more concerted dialogue between receiving and origin countries in the report of the Council of Europe European Committee on Migration, *Towards a migration management strategy: challenges for countries of origin* (2006);
- Establishing effective labour migration policies in countries of origin and destination – OSCE/IOM/ILO Handbook– Commonwealth of Independent States Edition (2006), Mediterranean Edition (2007).