DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on Development and Migration
(2005/2244(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Considers that the ongoing demographic changes and their impact on society are crucially important for the future of the Member States and the EU as a whole; considers that clear and well-defined economic migration policy can provide a short-term solution to shortages in the labour market;

2. Recognises that the phenomenon of 'brain drain', where the intellectual, academic and professional resources of third countries are reduced as a result of migration to the EU, has a negative impact on those countries' development as a whole by taking away their professional resources; welcomes the Commission's proposal to encourage circular migration, with migrants going back and forth between their country of origin and the destination country;

3. Considers that limiting active recruitment in cases where it would have negative repercussions for developing countries is not the best way to mitigate the damaging effects of brain drain; urges the Commission to design country-specific programmes which can bring back human, financial, economic and social capital to developing countries in order to strengthen democratic development and the respect and observance of fundamental values;

4. Notes that migrants can contribute significantly to the development of their home countries by experience gained from working or studying in the EU, but it must be recognised that it is each migrant's own personal choice whether to contribute to their home country's development financially, through remittances, or socially/professionally, through the transfer of skills, research, professional exchange networks, etc;

5. Considers that remittances constitute very important financial flows to developing countries and welcomes the Commission's proposal to open up opportunities for migrants who wish to use part of their remittances for any form of investment that supports development in their home country;

6. Recognises that it is vital to encourage young people to maintain some form of relationship with their country of origin and to maintain a commitment to the development of that country; calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop various youth exchange schemes and to promote closer cultural and educational links with the third countries concerned;

7. Calls on the Commission and Member States to improve the non-financial, social-professional contribution side of development by helping countries map their diasporas and build links with them, assessing the role of young people, improving integration and citizenship.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

European Union is faced with great challenges, the democratic changes being among the most important ones. Due to the ageing of population, the EU in a very near future will not be able to satisfy EU labour market demands. Hence, it is necessary to develop clear and well defined strategies and policies that would help to prevent or at least, mitigate the damaging economic and social consequences.

One of the possible ways to respond to the EU labour market demands is the economic migration which covers migration from the developing countries to the EU. Although the migration policy has always been the competence of the MS, it is time to respond to the arisen challenges on the EU level.

However, it must be noted, that economic migration can be only a temporary solution and must provide benefits not only to the EU but to the emigrants' country of origin as well.

Therefore, in order to reduce the damaging effects of brain drain in the migrants' home country and to help those countries to effectively use considerable benefits received from the return migrants, the EU should encourage various measures, including circular migration, closer links with diaspora, promotion of youth cultural and educational exchange programmes.