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Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2005/2244(INI)

21.3.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Development

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

Draftswoman: Ona Juknevičienė

PA_NonLeg

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 clear and well-defined economic migration policy can provide a possible partial short-term solution to shortages in the labour markets arising from the demographic changes which the population of Europe is undergoing; notes that such a policy must not neglect the promotion and realisation of the labour potential of the national labour markets (nationals and already resident migrants);
2. Calls on the Member States to adopt a fair and transparent procedure to facilitate migrants' access to employment with decent working and health and safety conditions, and conditions of recruitment by firms;
3. Points out that migration and integration are closely linked and that if migration is to be successful and if all the parties concerned are to benefit, migration strategies must be accompanied by holistic multidimensional integration strategies;
4. Notes that most migrants (irrespective of their official status) live in towns and cities and that those towns and cities must respond to migration-related challenges and opportunities, using whatever powers and resources are available; this should be reflected in all migration and development programmes and policies, including programmes such as AENEAS and EuropeAid;
5. 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; considers however, that attention should be paid to unscrupulous agencies which recruit trained staff under false pretences; welcomes the Commission's proposal to encourage circular migration, with migrants going back and forth between their country of origin and the destination country, thereby making the knowledge and experience they have acquired available to their home country; points out that it is necessary to accompany circular migration with integration measures for outgoing and returning migrants; points to the role of civil society, NGOs and social partners in this process; considers that Member States benefiting from migration should also contribute to meeting training needs in third countries; ; considers it vital that provision should be made to prevent forced migration, particularly with regard to the prevention, monitoring and reduction of human trafficking;
6. Also welcomes the Commission's proposals to conduct a dialogue on matters relating to residence and work permits, and to administer migrant worker mobility programmes which will match the available skills of migrants with the needs of the developing country;
7. Notes the fact that certain vocational and/or academic qualifications of workers from

third countries are recognised either not at all or only with difficulty which makes it hard for such workers to enter the EU Member States' employment market on equal terms; considers that migrants should have access to training programmes while employed in the EU so that they may develop their professional competency;

8. Calls on the Commission to open a dialogue with the governments of countries of origin without delay, in order to achieve balanced legislation, as well as financial and technical assistance, that allows migration and enables professional experience to be developed; calls on it, within the context of this dialogue, to enhance the development of specific measures in the sectors particularly affected by the brain drain (e.g. health care, education and training), in cooperation with the countries concerned; urges the Commission, therefore, 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;
9. 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 should be each migrant's own personal choice whether and in which way to contribute to their home country's development;
10. Considers that remittances constitute very important financial flows to developing countries and welcomes the Commission's proposals to simplify transfers and make them cheaper, and 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;
11. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to consider measures concerning the transfer of pension rights, the recognition of qualifications and the operation of mechanisms to facilitate the mobility of researchers and other professionals to enable them, should they so wish, to return to their country of origin and successfully reintegrate;
12. Expects the Commission, when taking measures against organised trafficking in human beings from developing countries, not to criminalise the victims, but to focus on punishing the perpetrators; notes that many women who are victims of human trafficking have no access to legal or social protection; calls on the Member States to grant these women the possibility of long-term residence;
13. Notes the increased exploitation of migrant workers and calls on the Member States to ensure the enforcement of European and national employment legislation and to provide all migrant workers with legal and civil protection against abuse and exploitation;
14. Points out that research and training undertaken by immigrants from developing countries within the EU must be accompanied by the creation of suitable conditions for young business people so that the latter have greater motivation for investing in their countries of origin, with a view to ensuring that remittances of money can be used to greater effect;
15. Acknowledges the importance of the role played by SMEs in creating jobs and in contributing to development; urges the Commission - in cooperation with the European Investment Bank - to develop programmes which will prompt migrants to invest greater amounts in such businesses;

16. Recognises that it is vital to encourage young people to maintain some form of relationship with their country of origin and, enable them, should they choose to, to maintain a commitment to the development of that country; calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop various youth exchange schemes(to take initiatives under the 7th research framework programme and to promote closer cultural and educational links with the third countries concerned; strengthening cooperation between educational establishments in the EU and the developing countries and to support reintegration measures;
17. Also recognises the need to review, in the light of more recent developments, the restrictive measures preventing the free movement of migrant workers from the new Member States with a view to making better use of the EU's existing labour force;
18. Calls upon the Commission (in association with the Member States) to promote and develop exchange programmes for students and young graduates from developing countries which - as in the case of the Erasmus, Erasmus-Mundus, Comenius, Sócrates and Leonardo da Vinci programmes (which have achieved fairly good results) - will help to secure the objectives of temporary migration and enable lessons and sound practices to be transferred to the students' and graduates' countries of origin;
19. 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 as well as linking the relevant stakeholders in the field of economic migration such as non-governmental organisations and Social Partners in countries of origin and destination;

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

European Union is faced with great challenges, the demographic 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.

PROCEDURE

Title	on Development and Migration
Procedure number	2005/2244(INI)
Committee responsible	DEVE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	EMPL 15.12.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(woman) Date appointed	Ona Juknevičienė 14.09.05
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	22.2.2006 20.3.2006
Date adopted	21.3.2006
Result of final vote	+: : 23 –: : 01 0: : 18
Members present for the final vote	Jan Andersson, Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin, Iles Braghetto, Alejandro Cercas, Ole Christensen, Derek Roland Clark, Proinsias De Rossa, Richard Falbr, Ilda Figueiredo, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Roger Helmer, Stephen Hughes, Ona Juknevičienė, Jan Jerzy Kułakowski, Jean Lambert, Raymond Langendries, Bernard Lehideux, Elizabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Mario Mantovani, Ana Mato Adrover, Maria Matsouka, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Csaba Óry, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Jacek Protasiewicz, Kathy Sinnott, Jean Spautz, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Mihael Brejc, Françoise Castex, Lasse Lehtinen, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Elisabeth Schroedter, Georgios Toussas, Tadeusz Zwiefka
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	...