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*Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs*

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**2012/2131(INI)**

22.1.2013

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the integration of migrants, its effects on the labour market and the external dimension of social security coordination  
(2012/2131(INI))

Rapporteur (\*): Juan Fernando López Aguilar(\*)      Associated committee –  
Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes that in 2011, 48.9 million people resident in the 27 Member States had been born abroad (9.7% of the total EU population), 16.5 million coming from another EU Member State (3.3%) and 32.4 million from outside the EU (6.4%);
2. Believes that mutual commitment to integration can only obtain the widest possible support within society if it can be successfully mainstreamed and if Member States discuss the issue actively and openly with the public and offer credible ways of meeting the challenges currently presented by it;
3. Stresses that workforce mobility is an important and valuable ingredient in an increasingly globalised society, which owes its prosperity to trade in goods and services and the substantial contribution made by migrants; is of the opinion that fair participation in the labour market is a basic precondition for integration;
4. Points out that the impact of demographic changes in Europe will increase over the coming decades, as society is faced with an ageing population, longer life expectancies and a declining work age population; notes that the need for increasing migration makes inclusive and effective integration policies essential;
5. Stresses the commitments made with regard to the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; underlines, in this context, the potential benefits of improved integration of migrants into the labour markets in a number of areas;
6. Welcomes existing EU instruments for the formulation of integration policies, for example the network of National Contact Points on Integration, the European integration website, the European Handbook on Integration, the European Integration Fund, the Asylum and Migration Fund, the EU immigration portal and the European integration modules;
7. Points out that integration is most effective in local communities and that EU support is therefore required for the creation of an integration network of local and regional authorities involving all civil society bodies operating at grassroots level in accordance with the 'bottom-up' principle and possibly following the examples set by the CLIP<sup>1</sup>, ERLAIM<sup>2</sup>, ROUTES, City2City und EUROCITIES projects; stresses that towns and cities have a major role to play in this respect and deserve particular support;
8. Considers that entry and residence must be governed by clear, fair and non-discriminatory rules which must conform to the standards of the rule of law at national and EU level; emphasises that entry criteria must be readily comprehensible and have long-term validity; notes that long-term residence entitlement in the foreseeable future is a key prospect as far

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<sup>1</sup> European network of cities for local integration policies for migrants.

<sup>2</sup> European Regional and Local Authorities for the integration of migrants.

as integration is concerned; stresses that language proficiency is important and should be encouraged and supported, but not used as a selection or penalty criterion;

9. Considers that the principle of free movement of persons should be applied, inter alia, to help the internal market function properly; notes that people who have come to live in the European Union should be able to claim throughout the Union the social and labour-law entitlements which they have accumulated during their working lives;
10. Emphasises that both legal and illegal immigration are current phenomena and that a common legal framework on migration policies is needed in order to protect migrants and potential victims, especially women and children, who are vulnerable to various forms of organised crime in the context of migration and human trafficking; emphasises, too, that illegal migration can be reduced through a common legal framework;
11. Considers that successful integration also involves participation in political decision-making processes and that in particular, migrants' participation in society should be promoted; advocates, therefore, expanding the scope for participation in society and for political codetermination for people with a migrant background, and encouraging them to take advantage of such opportunities;
12. Observes, with reference to Directives 2008/115/EC and 2009/52/EC, that illegal labour migration can be reduced not only by means of effective monitoring but also by making opportunities for legal immigration available more effectively;
13. Emphasises that, in order to ensure successful integration of migrants, anti-discrimination laws must be enforced and any breaches must be sanctioned; stresses, in this context, that it is of particular importance that no discrimination on the basis of origin or religion is tolerated;
14. Points out that integration is a continuous two-way process requiring the involvement of both non-EU nationals and the host society; welcomes the many good practice examples across the EU of the integration of migrants, asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, often through projects carried out by local authorities, who play a key role in delivering on integration objectives;
15. Regards integration measures at local, regional and national level as an important point of departure; considers that there is therefore a need for non-discriminatory access to social insurance and health systems and for support measures aimed at specific target groups in education; stresses that the complaints and advisory systems which exist to combat discrimination, with specific powers to impose penalties, should be fully developed and well equipped in all Member States;
16. Observes that in many Member States insufficient effort is made to integrate migrants, and that targeted efforts are therefore still required from the authorities; believes that this is also attributable to an erroneous approach whereby migrants are primarily portrayed as a security risk; the positive opportunities are perceived far too little; considers that in many cases, therefore, qualifications obtained in the home country are not recognised nearly as much as they should be;
17. Recalls the EU's Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration (CBPs); regrets that

Member States are not currently using the European Integration Fund to its full potential, and recalls that the aim of the fund is to support Member States' actions to implement the CBPs;

18. Notes the obstacles and discrimination that legal migrants face as regards access to employment;
19. Stresses that it is not appropriate to exploit the subject of labour migration to frighten the public; notes that preconceived notions based on prejudice and resentment undermine the solidarity which forms the basis of society, and that populist exploitation of the subject should therefore be strongly rejected;
20. Recalls the importance of voting rights, particularly at the local level, for migrants as an important tool for promoting integration and active citizenship; is concerned by the political under-representation of minorities at all levels of government, including at Member State level and in the European Parliament;
21. Deplores the desperate situation of undocumented migrants and failed asylum-seekers in the EU, many of whom are destitute, and calls for solutions to be found, with full respect for the fundamental rights of those concerned; notes that undocumented migrants have very few prospects for integration and that opening up channels for regularisation would improve integration prospects;
22. Recalls that around half of the EU's migrants are women; emphasises that an independent migration status for women and the right to work for spouses are crucial elements to ensure effective integration;
23. Regrets recent changes to the 'right to nationality at birth' legislation in some Member States, which is increasing the incidence of statelessness in the EU;
24. Recalls the important role of the mass media in shaping public opinion on immigration and integration, and calls for responsible journalism to foster mutual respect and understanding of each other's similarities and differences;
25. Welcomes the establishment of the European Integration Forum, which provides a platform for civil society to discuss challenges and priorities with regard to migrant integration issues; would welcome stronger links between the forum and the ongoing political and legislative process at EU level.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	10.1.2013
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+:                27 -:                17 0:                 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jan Philipp Albrecht, Edit Bauer, Rita Borsellino, Emine Bozkurt, Philip Claeys, Carlos Coelho, Ioan Enciu, Frank Engel, Cornelia Ernst, Kinga Gál, Nathalie Griesbeck, Sylvie Guillaume, Anna Hedh, Timothy Kirkhope, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Baroness Sarah Ludford, Monica Luisa Macovei, Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, Véronique Mathieu, Anthea McIntyre, Louis Michel, Claude Moraes, Georgios Papanikolaou, Carmen Romero López, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Renate Sommer, Rui Tavares, Nils Torvalds, Wim van de Camp, Axel Voss, Renate Weber, Josef Weidenholzer, Cecilia Wikström, Tatjana Ždanoka, Auke Zijlstra
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Alexander Alvaro, Dimitrios Droutsas, Mariya Gabriel, Ana Gomes, Stanimir Ilchev, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Jean Lambert, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Joanna Senyszyn
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Iuliu Winkler