ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΩΝ

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ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ ΣΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ, ΣΤΟ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ, ΣΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΚΑΙ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΩΝ

Η σχέση μετανάστευσης-ανάπτυξης: ορισμένες συγκεκριμένες κατευθύνσεις

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ ΣΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ, ΣΤΟ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ, ΣΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΚΑΙ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΩΝ

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1. Εισαγωγή

Τον Δεκέμβριο του 2002, η Επιτροπή εξέδωσε ανακοίνωση[1] η οποία, μεταξύ άλλων, επιχειρούσε για πρώτη φορά να διευκρινίσει τις σχέσεις μεταξύ μετανάστευσης και ανάπτυξης, να υποδείξει μερικές βασικές πρωτοβουλίες και να προωθήσει τη συνοχή μεταξύ των δύο αυτών τομέων δράσης.

Στο μεταξύ, το ζήτημα της μετανάστευσης και της ανάπτυξης παραμένει βασικής προτεραιότητας στην παγκόσμια πολιτική ημερήσια διάταξη. Οι χώρες και οι διεθνείς οργανώσεις αντιλαμβάνονται όλο και περισσότερο τη μετανάστευση ως ένα φαινόμενο που μπορεί να έχει σημαντικές θετικές επιπτώσεις στην ανάπτυξη, εφόσον θεσπιστούν οι κατάλληλες πολιτικές. Η σχέση μεταξύ μετανάστευσης και ανάπτυξης είναι ένα από τα βασικά θέματα που εξετάστηκαν από την Παγκόσμια Επιτροπή για τις Διεθνείς Μεταναστεύσεις (ΠΕΔΜ), η έκθεση της οποίας αναμένεται κατά τον Οκτώβριο του 2005. Ο διάλογος υψηλού επιπέδου σχετικά με τις μεταναστεύσεις και την ανάπτυξη (High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development) που προγραμματίστηκε για το 2006 στο πλαίσιο της Γενικής Συνέλευσης των Ηνωμένων Εθνών αποτελεί συμπληρωματική απόδειξη της σημασίας της συζήτησης αυτής, που παρουσιάζει μεγάλο ενδιαφέρον για τις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες. Το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο εξέτασε επίσης τα ζητήματα αυτά, μεταξύ άλλων, στα πλαίσια μιας ακρόασης που διεξάχθηκε τον Μάρτιο του 2005.

Λαμβανομένων υπόψη των περιστάσεων αυτών και σε ένα πλαίσιο όλο και πιο παγκοσμιοποιημένων μεταναστευτικών ροών, η Επιτροπή προσπαθεί να προσφέρει με το παρόν έγγραφο νέα στοιχεία για την τροφοδότηση της συζήτησης αυτής. Ήταν ενθαρρυντική η υποστήριξη του Συμβουλίου[2] και από το πρόγραμμα της Χάγης που εγκρίθηκε από το Ευρωπαϊκό Συμβούλιο[3]. Κατά τον τρόπο αυτό θα επιτραπεί επίσης η ακριβέστερη αξιολόγηση της έννοιας της κοινής ανάπτυξης που εντάχθηκε στα συμπεράσματα του Ευρωπαϊκού Συμβουλίου του Τάμπερε (1999).

Η Επιτροπή θεωρεί ότι οι σχέσεις μεταξύ μετανάστευσης και ανάπτυξης προσφέρουν σημαντικό δυναμικό για την εξυπηρέτηση των στόχων της ανάπτυξης, χωρίς αυτό να υποκαθιστά την ενίσχυση της Επίσημης Αναπτυξιακής Βοήθειας (ΕΑνΒ) και τη βελτίωση των πολιτικών, που εξακολουθούν να είναι απαραίτητες όσο ποτέ για την επίτευξη των αναπτυξιακών στόχων της χιλιετίας που συνδέονται με την ανάπτυξη, εντός του συμφωνηθέντος χρονοδιαγράμματος[4].

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1 «Για την ενσωμάτωση των θεμάτων της μετανάστευσης στις σχέσεις της Ευρωπαϊκής Κοινότητας για τις τρίτες χώρες» (COM(2002) 703 τελικό της 3.12.2002).

2 Στα συμπεράσματα σχετικά με τη μετανάστευση και την ανάπτυξη της 19.5.2003.

3 Το πρόγραμμα της Χάγης θεσπίστηκε ως παράρτημα στα συμπεράσματα του Ευρωπαϊκού Συμβουλίου των Βρυξελλών της 5.11.2004.

4 Ανακοινώσεις της Επιτροπής της 12.4.2005 «Επίσπευση της προόδου για την επίτευξη των αναπτυξιακών στόχων της χιλιετίας: η συμβολή της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης» COM(2005) 132), «Επιτάχυνση της προόδου που σημειώνεται όσον αφορά την επίτευξη των αναπτυξιακών στόχων της χιλιετίας: χρηματοδότηση της ανάπτυξης και αποτελεσματικότητα της βοήθειας» (COM(2005) 133) και

Το παρόν έγγραφο βασίζεται στην ανακοίνωση του Δεκεμβρίου 2002 που συνεχίζει να καθορίζει το πλαίσιο που προορίζεται για την ένταξη των θεμάτων μετανάστευσης στις πολιτικές της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης στον τομέα των εξωτερικών σχέσεων και της ανάπτυξης. Όπως υπογράμμιζε η εν λόγω ανακοίνωση και όπως επιβεβαίωσαν τα συμπεράσματα του Συμβουλίου του Μαΐου 2003, η ένταξη των θεμάτων μετανάστευσης πρέπει να τηρεί τη σφαιρική συνοχή των πολιτικών και των εξωτερικών δράσεων της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης και να είναι συμβατή προς τους στόχους και τις προτεραιότητες της κοινής δήλωσης Συμβουλίου/Επιτροπής σχετικά με την αναπτυξιακή πολιτική της ΕΚ[5].

Επίσης η παρούσα ανακοίνωση δεν καλύπτει το σύνολο των θεμάτων που εξετάστηκαν στην ανακοίνωση του 2002. Επικεντρώνεται σε συγκεκριμένα θέματα, τα οποία ουσιαστικά συνδέονται με τις μεταναστεύσεις Νότου/Βορρά και ιδίως τις πιθανές δράσεις που θα μπορούσαν να αναληφθούν σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, σε συνεργασία με τις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες προέλευσης[6].

Η Επιτροπή έλαβε ήδη ορισμένα συγκεκριμένα μέτρα, ιδίως στο πλαίσιο της κοινοτικής ενίσχυσης προς τρίτες χώρες, ώστε να βελτιώσει τις επιπτώσεις των μεταναστεύσεων στην ανάπτυξη. Ορισμένα από αυτά περιγράφονται λεπτομερώς στο Παράρτημα 1.

2. Νέα μέτρα για τη βελτίωση των επιπτώσεων των μεταναστεύσεων στην ανάπτυξη

Με 25 κράτη μέλη, η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση είναι σημαντικός παράγοντας στο διεθνές προσκήνιο. Για να συνεχίσει την ανάπτυξη των πολιτικών της και να διασφαλίσει μία συγκεκριμένη συμβολή της μεταναστευτικής πολιτικής στο στόχο της πολιτικής συνοχής στον τομέα της ανάπτυξης, οφείλει να βασιστεί στις βέλτιστες πρακτικές που αναπτύχθηκαν ή αναπτύσσονται από κάθε κράτος μέλος ή από μη κρατικούς παράγοντες και οφείλει επίσης να διδαχτεί από τις πρακτικές που προέρχονται από άλλα μέρη του κόσμου, περιλαμβανομένων των αναπτυσσόμενων χωρών.

Προβάλλοντας τις βασικές πλευρές της παγκόσμιας συζήτησης για τις μεταναστεύσεις και την ανάπτυξη και σύμφωνα με τα συμπεράσματα του Συμβουλίου του Μαΐου 2003, η Επιτροπή καθόρισε συγκεκριμένες κατευθύνσεις με στόχο τη βελτίωση των επιπτώσεων των μεταναστεύσεων στην ανάπτυξη, με επίκεντρο τις μεταναστεύσεις Νότου/Βορρά. Για κάθε έναν από τους τομείς αυτούς, παρουσιάζονται εν συντομία σε παράρτημα τα θέματα που διακυβεύονται, καθώς και διευκρινίσεις σχετικά με τις πρωτοβουλίες τις οποίες προβλέπει η Επιτροπή ή εξετάζει και/ή συστάσεις που προορίζονται για τα κράτη μέλη σχετικά με τους τομείς αρμοδιότητάς τους.

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[5] «Συνοχή της αναπτυξιακής πολιτικής: επιτάχυνση της προόδου που σημειώνεται όσον αφορά την επίτευξη των αναπτυξιακών στόχων της χιλιετίας» (COM(2005) 134).
Σύμφωνα με τα συμπεράσματα του Συμβουλίου, τα θέματα ενσωμάτωσης και μετανάστευσης στις εξωτερικές σχέσεις και στις αναπτυξιακές πολιτικές θα πρέπει να βασίζονται επίσης στον πολιτικό διάλογο και να υλοποιούνται στο πλαίσιο στρατηγικής για τα έγγραφα στρατηγικής χώρας και τα έγγραφα περιφερειακής στρατηγικής.

[6] Οι στόχοι αυτοί εξηγούν την κάλυψη της παρούσας ανακοίνωσης: κατ'αρχήν αφορά τη μετανάστευση από αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες προς την ΕΕ. Δεν καλύπτει τη μετανάστευση εντός της ΕΕ ή τη μετανάστευση μεταξύ της ΕΕ και άλλων ανεπτυγμένων χωρών. Επίσης δεν καλύπτει τη μετανάστευση μεταξύ αναπτυσσόμενων χωρών, αν και ορισμένες από τις κατευθύνσεις της μπορεί να εντάσσονται στο πλαίσιο τέτοιου είδους ροών.

2.1. Εμβάσματα προς τις χώρες προέλευσης[7]

Η αύξηση του όγκου των εμβασμάτων που έγιναν από μετανάστες κατά τη διάρκεια των τελευταίων ετών και μία καλύτερη γνώση των εν λόγω χρηματοδοτικών ροών προκάλεσαν την προσοχή των υπεύθυνων χάραξης πολιτικής, διότι οι ροές αυτές μπορούν ενδεχομένως να συμβάλουν στην επίτευξη των στόχων της ανάπτυξης των χωρών προέλευσης των μεταναστών. Ασφαλώς, παρά τον όγκο τους, δεν θα προσφέρουν θαυματουργές λύσεις στον τομέα της ανάπτυξης. Πρόκειται για ιδιωτικά εμβάσματα που δεν θα μπορούσαν να αντικαταστήσουν την ΕΑΒ. Πάντως, το κόστος των εν λόγω εμβασμάτων και γενικότερα οι όροι βάσει των οποίων στέλνονται τα εμβάσματα συχνά παραμένουν μη ικανοποιητικοί.

Κατά συνέπεια, υπάρχουν δύο βασικοί τομείς πολιτικής δράσης σχετικά με τα εμβάσματα προς τη χώρα προέλευσης, που συνίστανται στο να καταστήσουν τα εμβάσματα λιγότερο δαπανηρά, ταχύτερα και πιο ασφαλή και να ενισχύσουν τις επιπτώσεις τους όσον αφορά την ανάπτυξη στις παραλήπτριες χώρες. Πάντως, οι απαραίτητες προθεσμίες για την επίτευξη των δύο αποτελεσμάτων δεν είναι ίδιες: στον τελευταίο αυτό τομέα υπάρχουν συνέργιες και σημαντικές αλληλεπικαλύψεις με τις γενικές αναπτυξιακές πολιτικές, ιδίως στην ανάπτυξη των χρηματαγορών και τη βελτίωση του κανονιστικού πλαισίου, που δεν μπορούν να βελτιωθούν παρά μεσοπρόθεσμα ή μακροπρόθεσμα. Από την άλλη πλευρά, μπορεί να επιτευχθεί σε βραχύτερο χρονικό διάστημα η βελτίωση των όρων αποστολής των εμβασμάτων.

2.1.1. Η προώθηση της φθηνής, γρήγορης και ασφαλούς αποστολής εμβασμάτων

Οι σχεδιασθείσες ή προβλεπόμενες πρωτοβουλίες της Επιτροπής και οι συστάσεις της για την εγγύηση φθηνών, γρήγορων και ασφαλών ροών, για τις αποστολές εμβασμάτων μπορούν να συνοψιστούν ως εξής:

Πληρέστερα στοιχεία

Τα επίσημα στοιχεία σχετικά με τις ροές εμβασμάτων είναι ασαφή, συχνά ανεπαρκή και δεν περιλαμβάνουν τα εναλλακτικά κυκλώματα αποστολής εμβασμάτων. Η Επιτροπή θα ξεκινήσει πρωτοβουλίες με στόχο τη βελτίωση συλλογής στοιχείων για μια καλύτερη κατανόηση της έκτασης των ροών των εμβασμάτων εκ μέρους των μεταναστών. Ειδικότερα θα εξετάσει με τα κράτη μέλη τη δυνατότητα διαβίβασης πληροφοριών σχετικά με την αποστολή εμβασμάτων ανά χώρα προορισμού.

Σε συνεργασία με ιδρύματα όπως η Παγκόσμια Τράπεζα, θα ενθαρρύνει επίσης μελέτες σχετικά με τα νοικοκυριά που θα επιτρέπουν να αποκαλυφθούν τα άτυπα κυκλώματα αποστολής εμβασμάτων, εστιάζοντας σε επιλεγείσες διμερείς "θυγατρικές αποστολής εμβασμάτων".

Εξάλλου, θα εκπονήσει μελέτες για τη συλλογή περισσότερων πληροφοριών σχετικά με τον τομέα της αποστολής εμβασμάτων, της διάρθρωσης του κόστους, τους ενδεχόμενους δείκτες μιας έλλειψης ανταγωνισμού και τις τεχνικές ανεπάρκειες.

Διαφάνεια

Η Επιτροπή προβλέπει την έκδοση μιας πρότασης οδηγίας σχετικά με τις υπηρεσίες πληρωμών με στόχο την ενίσχυση του ανταγωνισμού και της διαφάνειας, υποχρεώνοντας

[7] Για τους στόχους της παρούσας ανακοίνωσης ο όρος «εμβάσματα» νοείται με την ευρεία έννοια, καθώς περιλαμβάνει όλες τις οικονομικές μεταβιβάσεις χρημάτων από μετανάστες σε αποδέκτες στις χώρες προέλευσής τους. Η έννοια αυτή χρησιμοποιείται ευρύτερα απ'ότι στα πλαίσια του ισοζυγίου πληρωμών.

τους παρέχοντες τις εν λόγω υπηρεσίες να καθιστούν τις δαπάνες (περιλαμβανομένων των πράξεων μετατροπής του συναλλάγματος) και τους άλλους όρους (όπως οι προθεσμίες εκτέλεσης) πλήρως διαφανείς για τους πελάτες. Θα υποχρεώσει επίσης τα κράτη μέλη να δημιουργήσουν ένα μητρώο όλων των εγκεκριμένων ιδρυμάτων πληρωμών (περιλαμβανομένων των οργανισμών μεταφοράς κεφαλαίων) που θα πρέπει να ενημερώνεται τακτικά και να διατίθεται για την ενημέρωση του κοινού, ιδίως μέσω διαδικτύου.

Η Επιτροπή καλεί επίσης τα κράτη μέλη να ενθαρρύνουν πρωτοβουλίες για την παροχή συμπληρωματικών και κατάλληλων πληροφοριών στους μετανάστες και θα ενισχύσει το διάλογο μεταξύ κρατών μελών για τον προσδιορισμό των βέλτιστων πρακτικών στον τομέα αυτό.

Επίσης προτίθεται να υποστηρίξει τη δημιουργία ενός δικτυακού τόπου σε ευρωπαϊκή κλίμακα που θα παρουσιάζει πληροφορίες σχετικά με το κόστος και τους όρους που εφαρμόζονται στα διάφορα κυκλώματα αποστολής εμβασμάτων, περιλαμβανομένων των συμβατικών κυκλωμάτων.

Νομικό πλαίσιο

Ακόμη και στο εσωτερικό της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, όπου οι χρηματαγορές είναι σε μεγάλο βαθμό ενοποιημένες, η κανονιστική ρύθμιση που εφαρμόζεται στις υπηρεσίες αποστολής εμβασμάτων ποικίλλει αισθητά από τη μια χώρα στην άλλη. Η Επιτροπή σχεδιάζει να ενθαρρύνει τη δημιουργία ισότιμων συνθηκών βάσει εναρμονισμένων διατάξεων για τη χορήγηση αδειών στο σύνολο της Ένωσης. Η μελλοντική πρόταση οδηγίας σχετικά με τις υπηρεσίες πληρωμών θα διασφαλίσει την υπαγωγή των οργανισμών μεταφοράς κεφαλαίων στις κατάλληλες κανονιστικές απαιτήσεις, που θα είναι εναρμονισμένες για το σύνολο της Ένωσης και προσαρμοσμένες στο δικό τους ιδιαίτερο προφίλ κινδύνου.

Εξάλλου, η Επιτροπή θα υποστηρίξει μια ανταλλαγή πληροφοριών σχετικά με τις πρωτοβουλίες της αγοράς που στοχεύουν στη μείωση του κόστους των ροών αποστολής εμβασμάτων.

Η Επιτροπή είναι διατεθειμένη να συζητήσει με τις ενδιαφερόμενες αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες για τις δυνατότητες άρσης των φραγμών στις ροές αποστολής εμβασμάτων και να καθορίσει, ενδεχομένως, εάν θα μπορούσε να παρασχεθεί από την Επιτροπή μία ειδική τεχνική βοήθεια για τη βελτίωση των χρηματοοικονομικών τους υποδομών στο πλαίσιο των προγραμμάτων της, καθώς επίσης και εκ μέρους της Ευρωπαϊκής Τράπεζας Επενδύσεων.

Τεχνικό πλαίσιο

Η Επιτροπή θα εξετάσει επίσης τη δυνατότητα να παράσχει, στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος Aeneas, μία οικονομική στήριξη στα πιλοτικά προγράμματα που ευνοούν τη χρήση νέων τεχνολογιών για την παροχή υπηρεσιών αποστολής εμβασμάτων με χαμηλό κόστος, εύκολη πρόσβαση και ανταγωνιστικούς όρους, ανοίγοντας οικονομικές προοπτικές στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες.

Πρόσβαση στις χρηματοοικονομικές υπηρεσίες

Η Επιτροπή θα εξετάσει το ζήτημα της πρόσβασης των μεταναστών στις χρηματοοικονομικές υπηρεσίες στο πλαίσιο των επαφών της με τα ενδιαφερόμενα μέρη. Είναι επίσης διατεθειμένη να εξετάσει, σε συνεργασία με τις εν λόγω χώρες, πρωτοβουλίες που προορίζονται για τη βελτίωση της πρόσβασης στις τραπεζικές και χρηματοοικονομικές υπηρεσίες στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες, τονίζοντας τον ενδεχόμενο ρόλο των μικροχρηματοδοτικών ιδρυμάτων, καθώς και τα κατάλληλα συνοδευτικά μέτρα (δραστηριότητες ενημέρωσης, κλπ).

Διευκρινίσεις σχετικά με τις εν λόγω πρωτοβουλίες και συστάσεις περιλαμβάνονται στο παράρτημα 2.

2.1.2 Διευκόλυνση της συμβολής των αποστολών εμβασμάτων στην ανάπτυξη των χωρών προέλευσης των μεταναστών

Όπως προαναφέρθηκε, οι αποστολές εμβασμάτων προς τις χώρες προέλευσης αφορούν ιδιωτικά ποσά και δεν θα καταλήξουν σε παραγωγικές επενδύσεις παρά εάν οι δικαιούχοι είναι σε θέση να κάνουν σωστές επιλογές και εφόσον έχουν τα κατάλληλα κίνητρα. Η ανάπτυξη τέτοιου είδους κινήτρων και η βελτίωση των επιλογών στις παραλήπτριες χώρες εντάσσονται σε μια σφαιρικότερη και πιο μακροχρόνια προσέγγιση ανάπτυξης.

Οι σχεδιαζόμενες ή προβλεφθείσες πρωτοβουλίες της Επιτροπής και οι συστάσεις της για τη διευκόλυνση της συμβολής των αποστολών εμβασμάτων στην ανάπτυξη των χωρών προέλευσης των μεταναστών μπορούν να συνοψιστούν ως εξής:

Χρηματοπιστωτική διαμεσολάβηση στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες

Η Επιτροπή επιθυμεί να εξετάσει, σε συνεργασία με τις ενδιαφερόμενες χώρες και ενδεχομένως με την ΕΤΕπ, τις δυνατότητες ενίσχυσης της χρηματοπιστωτικής διαμεσολάβησης στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες, ιδίως διευκολύνοντας εταιρικές σχέσεις μεταξύ των μικροχρηματοδοτικών ιδρυμάτων και των βασικών χρηματοπιστωτικών ιδρυμάτων.

Αν και η ΕΚ δεν μπορεί να χρηματοδοτήσει κονδύλια/ανανεώσιμα κονδύλια και εγγυητικά κεφάλαια για μικροχρηματοδοτικές πράξεις, ιδίως εκείνες που αφορούν τους μετανάστες, η Επιτροπή είναι διατεθειμένη να εξετάσει την προοπτική εταιρικών σχέσεων στους τομείς αυτούς με τα ενδιαφερόμενα ΔΤΙ, περιλαμβανομένης της ΕΤΕπ, ώστε να επιτευχθεί μία αρχική συμφωνία με τα θεσμικά αυτά όργανα και τα τελευταία αυτά να αναλάβουν πλήρως την ευθύνη της λειτουργικής εφαρμογής του κονδυλίου/εγγυητικού κεφαλαίου.

Αποστολή συλλογικών κεφαλαίων και καθεστώτα συγχρηματοδότησης

Μετά την αξιολόγηση της βιωσιμότητας, της καταλληλότητας και της αποτελεσματικότητας των πιλοτικών σχεδίων που χρηματοδοτήθηκαν από την παλαιά θέση του προϋπολογισμού B7-667 (βλ. παράρτημα 1), η Επιτροπή θα εξετάσει τη δυνατότητα να παράσχει χρηματοδότηση, στο πλαίσιο των κατάλληλων κονδυλίων του προϋπολογισμού, σε κοινά σχέδια των κοινοτήτων της διασποράς, κατά προτίμηση που θα προέρχονται από τουλάχιστον δύο κράτη μέλη και των τοπικών οργανώσεων για την υποστήριξη της τοπικής ανάπτυξης.

Διευκρινίσεις σχετικά με τις εν λόγω πρωτοβουλίες και συστάσεις περιλαμβάνονται στο παράρτημα 3.

2.2. Οι κοινότητες της διασποράς ως παράγοντες ανάπτυξης των χωρών προέλευσης

Οι κοινότητες της διασποράς αναγνωρίζονται όλο και περισσότερο ως σημαντικοί δυνητικοί παράγοντες στην ανάπτυξη των χωρών προέλευσης, όπως αυτό υπογραμμίστηκε στο τελευταίο μέρος σχετικά με την αποστολή εμβασμάτων. Οι σχεδιαζόμενες ή προβλεφθείσες συγκεκριμένες πρωτοβουλίες της Επιτροπής, καθώς και οι συστάσεις της που στοχεύουν στην αύξηση της συμμετοχής των μελών των κοινοτήτων της διασποράς τα οποία το επιθυμούν στην ανάπτυξη των χωρών προέλευσής τους, μπορούν να συνοψιστούν ως εξής:

Συνδρομή στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες στο να εντοπίσουν τις κοινότητες διασποράς τους και να θεσπίσουν δεσμούς με αυτές

Η Επιτροπή θα εξετάσει τη δυνατότητα στήριξης των προσπαθειών που αναλήφθηκαν από τις χώρες προέλευσης, σε επίπεδο εθνικό ή περιφερειακό, για τη σύσταση βάσεων δεδομένων στις οποίες τα μέλη των κοινοτήτων της διασποράς που επιθυμούν να συμβάλουν στην

ανάπτυξη των χωρών προέλευσής τους θα μπορούν να καταχωριστούν εθελοντικά και γενικότερα, για τη συντήρηση των δεσμών μεταξύ των εν λόγω χωρών και των κοινοτήτων διασποράς τους, σε συντονισμό με άλλους χορηγούς βοήθειας.

Η Επιτροπή καλεί τα κράτη μέλη που δεν το πράττουν ακόμη να εντοπίσουν τις κοινότητες διασποράς τους και να αναπτύξουν επαφές μαζί τους κατά τρόπο ώστε να τις καταστήσουν κατάλληλους και αντιπροσωπευτικούς συνομιλητές στην αναπτυξιακή πολιτική και/ή ενδεχόμενους εμπνευστές αναπτυξιακών σχεδίων στις χώρες προέλευσης.

Θα ήταν επίσης ευπρόσδεκτη η λήψη μέτρων εκ μέρους των οργανώσεων που αντιπροσωπεύουν τις κοινότητες της διασποράς οι οποίες συμμετέχουν στην ανάπτυξη των χωρών προέλευσης ώστε να θεσπιστεί ένας μηχανισμός που θα μπορεί να εγγυηθεί μία κατάλληλη εκπροσώπηση των συμφερόντων τους σε επίπεδο Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, ιδίως όσον αφορά τις πολιτικές που παρουσιάζουν ενδιαφέρον για τις χώρες αυτές.

Νεολαία

Συμπληρωματικά στις ήδη υπάρχουσες πρωτοβουλίες, που λαμβάνονται ιδίως από τις τοπικές αρχές στο πλαίσιο σχεδίων αδελφοποίησης και που πρέπει να ενθαρρύνονται, η Επιτροπή θα αξιολογήσει τη σκοπιμότητα προγραμμάτων ανταλλαγών για τη νεολαία, εστιασμένων ιδίως στις κοινότητες μεταναστών, βάσει της κτηθείσας εμπειρίας από τα υπάρχοντα ενδοευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα.

Διευκρινίσεις σχετικά με τις εν λόγω πρωτοβουλίες και συστάσεις περιλαμβάνονται στο παράρτημα 4.

2.3. Κυκλική μετανάστευση και κυκλοφορία εγκεφάλων

Η επιστροφή[8] των μεταναστών, ακόμη και προσωρινή ή εικονική, μπορεί να διαδραματίσει σημαντικό ρόλο για την ενθάρρυνση της μεταφοράς δεξιοτήτων προς τον αναπτυσσόμενο κόσμο, από κοινού με άλλες μορφές κυκλοφορίας εγκεφάλων. Η διευκόλυνση μιας κυκλικής μετανάστευσης θα μπορούσε επίσης να διαδραματίσει σημαντικό ρόλο ως προς αυτό. Εξάλλου, οι κατευθύνσεις τις οποίες θα προσδιορίσει η Επιτροπή ως αποτέλεσμα της συζήτησης η οποία θα ακολουθήσει τη δημοσίευση της Πράσινης Βίβλου της σχετικά με την οικονομική μετανάστευση θα επιτρέψουν μία περαιτέρω ανάπτυξη της πλευράς αυτής καθώς και μια μεγαλύτερη ενσωμάτωση των ζητημάτων ανάπτυξης στην κοινοτική πολιτική μετανάστευσης. Οι προβλεφθείσες ή σχεδιαζόμενες λεπτομερείς πρωτοβουλίες της Επιτροπής, καθώς και οι συστάσεις της στους τομείς αυτούς, μπορούν να συνοψιστούν ως εξής:

Το δυναμικό της προσωρινής μετανάστευσης

Οι πολιτικές που στοχεύουν στη μεγιστοποίηση των επιπτώσεων, στον τομέα της ανάπτυξης, των προσωρινών μεταναστεύσεων, συμπληρώνοντας τις γενικές συστάσεις σχετικά με την αποστολή εμβασμάτων, πρέπει ουσιαστικά να επιδιώξουν την ενθάρρυνση της κυκλικής μετανάστευσης, δίνοντας προτεραιότητα σε νέες έκτακτες θέσεις απασχόλησης για τους εργαζομένους που έχουν ήδη εργαστεί υπό το καθεστώς αυτό και επέστρεψαν στις χώρες τους στο τέλος της σύμβασης, καθώς επίσης να προσφέρει την κατάλληλη ανταμοιβή στους μετανάστες που συμμετέχουν στο σύστημα αυτό. Για παράδειγμα, θα ήταν δυνατό να στηριχθεί στην εμπειρία ορισμένων κρατών μελών στον τομέα της επιστροφής συνταξιοδοτικών εισφορών στο τέλος της σύμβασης του εργαζομένου ή στην πρόβλεψη της καταβολής ενός συμπληρωματικού "εφάπαξ" ποσού που θα συμπλήρωνε τις οικονομίες του εργαζομένου. Βάσει των αποτελεσμάτων της συζήτησης για την Πράσινη Βίβλο σχετικά με την οικονομική μετανάστευση, η Επιτροπή θα μελετήσει επίσης τη δυνατότητα καθορισμού ενός γενικού πλαισίου για την άφιξη και βραχυπρόθεσμη διαμονή εποχιακών μεταναστών στον κοινό χώρο.

Διευκόλυνση της επιστροφής μεταναστών

Η Επιτροπή θα καλέσει τα κράτη μέλη και τους λοιπούς ενδιαφερομένους να μοιραστούν την εμπειρία τους σχετικά με την εκπόνηση και τη διαχείριση προγραμμάτων ενισχυόμενης επιστροφής και σχετικά με την υποστήριξη των χωρών προέλευσης ενόψει της επιτυχούς επανένταξης των μεταναστών που επιστρέφουν στη χώρα τους. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, θα ξεκινήσει συζήτηση με τα κράτη μέλη σχετικά με το ζήτημα που συνδέεται με μία πολιτική βραχυχρόνιων θεωρήσεων.

Η Επιτροπή θα εξετάσει τη δυνατότητα πρότασης μέτρων σε τομείς όπως το μεταβιβάσιμο των συνταξιοδοτικών δικαιωμάτων, η αναγνώριση των προσόντων ή των μηχανισμών που αποσκοπούν στο να εγγυηθούν στους ερευνητές ή άλλους επαγγελματίες εργαζομένους που έχουν εργαστεί στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση να μπορούν να παραμείνουν σε επαφή με τους παλαιούς συναδέλφους τους, κατά τρόπο ώστε να διευκολύνεται η εθελούσια επιστροφή και να ενισχύεται μία επιτυχής επανένταξή τους.

Προσωρινές ή εικονικές επιστροφές

[8] Στο παρόν τμήμα, η έννοια του όρου «επιστροφή» νοείται ευρέως, που συνεπάγεται πως δεν περιορίζεται στους επαναπατρισμούς στο πλαίσιο παράνομης μετανάστευσης. Σε πολλές περιπτώσεις, αναφέρεται στη διαδικασίας εκούσιας επιστροφής στη χώρα προέλευσης.

Η Επιτροπή προτείνει να στηριχθούμε στην υπάρχουσα εμπειρία στον τομέα των προγραμμάτων προσωρινής ή εικονικής επιστροφής και να την επεκτείνουμε, ενδεχομένως, σε άλλα μέρη του αναπτυσσόμενου κόσμου. Θα εξετάσει επίσης την πιθανότητα ενίσχυσης σε συστήματα εκμάθησης μέσω του Διαδικτύου στο πλαίσιο των κοινοτικών προγραμμάτων σχετικά με τις τεχνολογίες πληροφορίας και επικοινωνιών.

Επιπλέον, θα αναληφθούν πρωτοβουλίες δυνάμει του 7ου προγράμματος πλαισίου έρευνας και ανάπτυξης για τη διευκόλυνση της δικτύωσης μεταξύ αλλοδαπών ερευνητών που εργάζονται στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, και ιδίως εκείνων που εργάζονται σε τομείς οι οποίοι παρουσιάζουν άμεσο ενδιαφέρον για τις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες και τους οργανισμούς έρευνας στις χώρες προέλευσής τους.

Η Επιτροπή θα καταβάλει επίσης προσπάθειες ώστε τα δικαιώματα διαμονής στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση των μελών των κοινοτήτων της διασποράς που αποφασίζουν να δεσμευτούν σε αυτό το είδος των δραστηριοτήτων να μην αλλοιωθούν από τις προσωρινές επιστροφές τους στις χώρες προέλευσής τους.

Στο μέλλον, η Επιτροπή θα συνεχίσει να υποστηρίζει, στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος Aeneas, σχέδια χάρη στα οποία οι μετανάστες ή τα μέλη των κοινοτήτων της διασποράς θα δημιουργήσουν βιώσιμες οικονομικές δραστηριότητες στις χώρες προέλευσής τους, με προτίμηση για τα σχέδια που θα υλοποιηθούν σε τρίτες χώρες και θα περιλαμβάνουν κοινότητες διασποράς τουλάχιστον από δύο κράτη μέλη. Τα σχέδια αυτά πρέπει να είναι συμβατά προς τη στρατηγική ανάπτυξης των τρίτων ενδιαφερομένων χωρών.

Εξάλλου, η Επιτροπή θα μελετήσει περισσότερο τον τρόπο με τον οποίο οι ενδιαφερόμενοι επιχειρηματίες, που προέρχονται από κοινότητες μεταναστών, μπορούν να συμβάλουν στην ανάπτυξη των χωρών προέλευσής τους, τα προβλήματα που αντιμετωπίζουν ως προς αυτό και τις πολιτικές που θα έπρεπε να θεσπιστούν για την υπέρβαση των προβλημάτων αυτών.

Η Επιτροπή θα ενθαρρύνει τον εντοπισμό των βέλτιστων πρακτικών σε τομείς όπως οι αποσπάσεις ή οι άδειες άνευ αποδοχών και οι συναφείς πλευρές στον τομέα της κοινωνικής ασφάλισης, που δύνανται να διευκολύνουν την προσωρινή επιστροφή, στο πλαίσιο του διαλόγου που θα ξεκινήσει με τα κράτη μέλη ως συνέχεια της παρούσας ανακοίνωσης.

Διευκρινίσεις σχετικά με τις εν λόγω πρωτοβουλίες και συστάσεις περιλαμβάνονται στο παράρτημα 5.

2.4. Μείωση των αρνητικών επιπτώσεων της διαρροής εγκεφάλων

Η διάσταση Βορράς/Νότος δεν αποτελεί παρά ένα παράδειγμα του ζητήματος της διαρροής εγκεφάλων, που περιέχει επίσης μια διάσταση Βορρά/Βορρά (επηρεάζει επίσης την ΕΕ) και μία διάσταση Νότου/Νότου. Αντικατοπτρίζει το ευρύτερο φαινόμενο της παγκοσμιοποίησης και καμία ενιαία και απλή πολιτική απάντηση δεν επιτρέπει την αντιμετώπιση της τεράστιας αυτής πρόκλησης. Επίσης, το ζήτημα αυτό δεν αφορά το σύνολο των αναπτυσσόμενων χωρών και τομέων. Κατά συνέπεια, οι πολιτικές απαντήσεις θα πρέπει να σχεδιάζονται σε συνάρτηση με τις ειδικές ανάγκες και προκλήσεις που τίθενται σε κάθε ενδιαφερόμενη χώρα. Εξάλλου, πρόκειται για έναν τομέα στον οποίο τα κράτη μέλη διατηρούν σημαντικές ευθύνες και στον οποίο τα μέσα δράσης είναι σχετικά περιορισμένα σε κοινοτικό επίπεδο. Το 2002, η Επιτροπή είχε προτείνει την ιδέα ενός ευρωπαϊκού κώδικα δεοντολογίας με στόχο μια πειθαρχία στις προσλήψεις στις περιπτώσεις όπου η διαδικασία τους θα είχε πολύ αρνητικές επιπτώσεις για τις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες. Μέχρι στιγμής, η ιδέα αυτή δεν βρήκε καμία συνέχεια εκ μέρους των κρατών μελών. Πάντως, η Επιτροπή έχει πειστεί ότι μπορούν να εφαρμοστούν άλλες πρωτοβουλίες για την αντιμετώπιση του θέματος της διαρροής των εγκεφάλων, σύμφωνα με τις ακόλουθες κατευθύνσεις:

Η τεκμηριωμένη βάση

Η Επιτροπή, σε συνεργασία με άλλους ενδιαφερόμενους χορηγούς βοήθειας οργανισμούς, επιθυμεί να στηρίξει τις προσπάθειες των αναπτυσσόμενων χωρών που επιδιώκουν τη βελτίωση των γνώσεών τους στον τομέα της αγοράς εργασίας, ιδίως την έλλειψη ή το πλεόνασμα προσόντων σε τομεακό επίπεδο. Αυτό θα χρησίμευε ως βάση για τις εν λόγω χώρες ώστε να βρουν λύσεις στα εντοπισθέντα προβλήματα, στο πλαίσιο των στρατηγικών τους μείωσης της φτώχειας.

Ως παράδειγμα πιθανών απαντήσεων, η Επιτροπή αυτή τη στιγμή προετοιμάζει μία χωριστή ανακοίνωση, σχετικά με τη διαχείριση της κρίσης των ανθρώπινων πόρων στον τομέα της υγείας, που θα στοχεύει στην εκπόνηση μιας σειράς καινοτόμων απαντήσεων στην κρίση ανθρώπινων πόρων που υπάρχει στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες, στο πλαίσιο του ευρύτερου τομέα της υγείας των χωρών αυτών, και με βάση το πλαίσιο που καθορίστηκε από την παρούσα ανακοίνωση.

Πειθαρχία στις προσλήψεις

Η Επιτροπή ενθαρρύνει τα κράτη μέλη να αναπτύξουν μηχανισμούς όπως κώδικες δεοντολογίας για τον περιορισμό των ενεργών προσλήψεων που θα είχαν σημαντικές αρνητικές επιπτώσεις σε ορισμένες αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες, ιδίως στον τομέα της υγειονομικής περίθαλψης καθώς και για τον συντονισμό των αντίστοιχων προσπαθειών τους στον τομέα αυτό.

Η Επιτροπή θα προσπαθήσει επίσης να πείσει άλλες σημαντικές χώρες προορισμού να ασχοληθούν με αντίστοιχες διευθετήσεις. Οι δυνατότητες μιας παγκόσμιας προσέγγισης της πολιτικής προσλήψεων θα έπρεπε να μελετηθούν και το ζήτημα αυτό θα έπρεπε να τεθεί στους κατάλληλους διεθνείς κύκλους, όπως ο ΠΟΕ.

Ενθάρρυνση των θεσμικών εταίρων

Η ενθάρρυνση εταιρικών σχέσεων μεταξύ των θεσμικών οργάνων της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης και των ενδιαφερομένων αναπτυσσομένων χωρών ή περιοχών θα μπορούσε να άρει τις αιτίες της διαρροής εγκεφάλων. Σε κάθε περίπτωση, ο συγκεκριμένος συνδυασμός μέτρων θα εξαρτιόταν από προηγούμενη αξιολόγηση των προβλημάτων και των ειδικών αναγκών της χώρας ή της περιοχής. Τα μέτρα αυτά θα έπρεπε να περιλαμβάνουν ενίσχυση για τη δημιουργία εταιρικών σχέσεων μεταξύ των επιστημονικών ή πανεπιστημιακών ιδρυμάτων των αναπτυσσόμενων χωρών και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, ενόψει της οργάνωσης κοινών ερευνητικών δραστηριοτήτων.

Θα μπορούσαν να υπάρξουν και άλλες μορφές εταιρικών σχέσεων μεταξύ των ερευνητικών ιδρυμάτων, των πανεπιστημίων, των νοσοκομείων ή άλλων οργανισμών των αναπτυσσόμενων χωρών και των κρατών μελών της ΕΕ, με στόχο τη μείωση της διαρροής εγκεφάλων, προβλέποντας ιδίως "συστήματα οργάνωσης κοινής εργασίας", στα οποία οι επιστήμονες, οι ερευνητές, οι ιατροί, οι τεχνικοί ή άλλοι επαγγελματίες των αναπτυσσόμενων χωρών θα μοίραζαν την εργασία τους μεταξύ ενός ιδρύματος της χώρας προέλευσής τους (πανεπιστήμιο, νοσοκομείο, ερευνητικό κέντρο κλπ.) και ενός ιδρύματος-εταίρου σε ένα κράτος μέλος της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης. Η δυνατότητα παροχής κοινοτικής στήριξης σε τέτοιου είδους συστήματα θα μπορούσε να αξιολογηθεί ιδίως βάσει του 7ου προγράμματος πλαισίου έρευνας και ανάπτυξης.

Συνεργασία στην ανάπτυξη ως πηγή απασχόλησης για τους εξειδικευμένους εργαζομένους στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες

Η Επιτροπή θεωρεί ότι οι χορηγοί βοήθειας, στο πλαίσιο του ΟΟΣΑ/ΕΑΒ θα μπορούσαν να επανεξετάσουν επωφελώς τους επιχειρησιακούς μηχανισμούς των προγραμμάτων τεχνικής

συνδρομής τους με τον ειδικό στόχο να καθοριστεί αν θα ήταν δυνατό να δοθούν περισσότερα κίνητρα για την απασχόληση εξειδικευμένων εργαζομένων που προέρχονται από αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες, μέσω των εκτελεστικών οργάνων.

Διευκρινίσεις σχετικά με τις εν λόγω πρωτοβουλίες και συστάσεις περιλαμβάνονται στο παράρτημα 6.

3. Παρακολούθηση της παρούσας ανακοίνωσης

Στην παρούσα ανακοίνωση και τα παραρτήματά της, η Επιτροπή παρουσιάζει πολυάριθμες συγκεκριμένες κατευθύνσεις ώστε η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση να συμβάλει σε πραγματικές προόδους σχετικά με ορισμένα θέματα τα οποία συνδέονται με τη σχέση μεταξύ μετανάστευσης και ανάπτυξης. Ενώ ορισμένες από τις υποδείξεις αυτές είναι συνολικά έτοιμες για να πραγματοποιηθούν ή μπορούν να αποτελέσουν αντικείμενο σχεδίων που δύνανται να τύχουν κοινοτικής χρηματοδότησης, για παράδειγμα στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος Aeneas[9], που θα εξακολουθεί να υπάρχει και μετά τη λήξη των ισχυουσών δημοσιονομικών προοπτικών ως ένα από τα θεματικά προγράμματα κοινοτικής συνδρομής σε τρίτες χώρες[10] – άλλες υποδείξεις θα απαιτήσουν νέες συζητήσεις και αναλύσεις. Σε ορισμένους τομείς, αρμοδιότητα για την εφαρμογή των υποδείξεων αυτών έχουν τα κράτη μέλη. Η υλοποίηση των ιδεών αυτών περιλαμβάνει εξάλλου έναν σε βάθος διάλογο με τις ενδιαφερόμενες χώρες ή περιοχές προέλευσης.

Κατά τη γνώμη της Επιτροπής, η παρακολούθηση της παρούσας ανακοίνωσης θα έπρεπε να περιλαμβάνει τα ακόλουθα στοιχεία:

- Το Συμβούλιο θα πρέπει να προβεί σε λεπτομερή εξέταση της παρούσας ανακοίνωσης ενόψει της συντονισμένης εφαρμογής των πρωτοβουλιών και των συστάσεων που περιέχει·
- Στη βάση αυτή, θα έπρεπε να πραγματοποιηθεί ένας πολυτομεακός διάλογος μεταξύ της Επιτροπής και των κρατών μελών σχετικά με τα θέματα που καλύπτονται από την ανακοίνωση. Θα έπρεπε να αφορά ιδίως την ενίσχυση του συντονισμού των πολιτικών των κρατών μελών μεταξύ τους και με τις κοινοτικές πολιτικές·
- Θα έπρεπε επίσης να ενισχυθεί ο διάλογος που βασίζεται στις εταιρικές σχέσεις μεταξύ των τρίτων ενδιαφερομένων αναπτυσσόμενων χωρών και των περιφερειακών τους οργανώσεων, στο πλαίσιο των υπαρχόντων θεσμικών υποδομών και μηχανισμών. Θα μπορούσε να επικεντρωθεί στην ενίσχυση προς τις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες που επιθυμούν να αξιολογήσουν την κατάστασή τους στον τομέα της μετανάστευσης σε εθνικό ή περιφερειακό επίπεδο και στις ανάγκες και τα προβλήματα που απορρέουν από αυτή και να συμβάλει στη διατύπωση ορισμένων ενδεχόμενων κατάλληλων απαντήσεων. Ενδεχομένως, τα ζητήματα αυτά θα πρέπει να περιληφθούν στα αντίστοιχα στρατηγικά έγγραφα. Τα χαρακτηριστικά της μετανάστευσης (βλ. παράρτημα 8) θα αποτελούσαν αξιόπιστο μέσο για την υποστήριξη του διαλόγου αυτού και της εν λόγω συνεργασίας·
- Ενίσχυση της συνεργασίας της Επιτροπής με τις ενδιαφερόμενες διεθνείς οργανώσεις·

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9 Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 491/2004 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 10.3.2004, για τη θέσπιση προγράμματος χρηματοδοτικής και τεχνικής βοήθειας προς τρίτες χώρες στους τομείς της μετανάστευσης και του ασύλου (AENEAS) (ΕΕ αριθ. L 80, της 18.3.2004, σ.1). Βλέπε επίσης παράρτημα 1.

10 Ανακοίνωση της Επιτροπής προς το Συμβούλιο και το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο «Εξωτερικές δράσεις μέσω θεματικών προγραμμάτων βάσει των μελλοντικών δημοσιονομικών προοπτικών 2007-2013» (COM(2005) 324 της 3.8.2005).

- Ανταλλαγές με τα λοιπά εμπλεκόμενα μέρη, ιδίως τις ΜΚΟ, τους κοινωνικούς εταίρους και την κοινωνία των πολιτών, με έμφαση στις οργανώσεις που αντιπροσωπεύουν τις κοινότητες της διασποράς.

Οι πλευρές αυτές περιγράφονται λεπτομερώς στο παράρτημα 7.

Η εφαρμογή των κατευθύνσεων που περιέχονται στην παρούσα ανακοίνωση θα χρησιμοποιήσει το πλαίσιο των ήδη υπαρχόντων οικονομικών πόρων και μέσων ή εκείνων που θα τους αντικαταστήσουν στο πλαίσιο των μελλοντικών δημοσιονομικών πολιτικών.

4. Συμπεράσματα

Η παρούσα ανακοίνωση εξέτασε ορισμένες πρακτικές πλευρές των μεταναστεύσεων και τον τρόπο με τον οποίο οι μεταναστεύσεις αυτές θα μπορούσαν να συμβάλλουν στη διαδικασία ανάπτυξης στις χώρες προέλευσης, προσδίδοντας ιδιαίτερη προσοχή στις μεταναστεύσεις Νότου/Βορρά. Ορισμένες από τις πρωτοβουλίες ή συστάσεις που περιέχονται στην παρούσα ανακοίνωση μπορούν επίσης να εφαρμοστούν στις μεταναστεύσεις Νότου/Νότου. Πάντως, αυτές οι τελευταίες, που αντιπροσωπεύουν ένα όλο και σημαντικότερο φαινόμενο στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες, έχουν ιδιαίτερες επιπτώσεις στην οικονομική, κοινωνική, πολιτική ακόμη και περιβαλλοντική κατάσταση των χωρών αυτών. Κατά συνέπεια, η Επιτροπή προβλέπει έναν προβληματισμό σε βάθος σχετικά με τα ζητήματα αυτά στο εγγύς μέλλον. Η παρούσα ανακοίνωση δεν εξέτασε τα θέματα που συνδέονται ειδικά με τους πρόσφυγες. Τέλος, δεν αξιολόγησε τις σφαιρικότερες επιπτώσεις της πολιτικής της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης στον τομέα της μετανάστευσης στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες, ούτε το ζήτημα της ένταξης των θεμάτων ανάπτυξης στην πολιτική αυτή. Τα δύο αυτά θέματα θα συνεχίσουν να περιλαμβάνονται στην ατζέντα για την κοινωνική πολιτική της Επιτροπής[11].

[11] Η Επιτροπή προσέφερε ήδη συνεισφορά στη συζήτηση σχετικά με την αντιμετώπιση των κρίσεων που αφορούν τους πρόσφυγες στον αναπτυσσόμενο κόσμο με την ανακοίνωσή της για τα προγράμματα Περιφερειακής Προστασίας (COM(2005) 388), που εκδόθηκε συγχρόνως με την παρούσα ανακοίνωση.

Με την παρούσα ανακοίνωση, η Επιτροπή ελπίζει να προσφέρει μία πρώτη συνεισφορά στην παγκόσμια συζήτηση σχετικά με τις σχέσεις μεταξύ μετανάστευσης και ανάπτυξης, ιδίως ενόψει της προοπτικής του διαλόγου υψηλού επιπέδου που θα διεξαχθεί το 2006 στο πλαίσιο της Γενικής Συνέλευσης των Ηνωμένων Εθνών. Η πολιτική που παρουσιάστηκε στην παρούσα ανακοίνωση, που εκπονήθηκε και εφαρμόστηκε σε στενή συνεργασία με τις χώρες προέλευσης και διαμετακόμισης και προσαρμόστηκε στις ανάγκες τους, θα συμβάλει στην ανάπτυξη της συνοχής της εξωτερικής διάστασης της πολιτικής της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης με την αναπτυξιακή πολιτική.

ANNEX 1:
STEPS FORWARD AT EU LEVEL SINCE 2002

1. Legislative or regulatory reforms

Directive 2004/114/EC on the admission to the EU of third country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training, or voluntary service, was adopted on 13 December 2004[1]. This Directive lays down common conditions and rules for the admission of third-country students, thus facilitating entry and residence, without, however, containing a right to entry. It is left to Member States' discretion whether to apply the Directive to other categories of persons, such as school pupils, unremunerated trainees and people doing voluntary service in the EU. Member States must transpose the Directive by 12 January 2007. Furthermore, a Directive on a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for purposes of scientific research[2] is expected to be adopted by summer 2005. This procedure shall both speed up and ease the admission of researchers from third countries into the EU.

In addition, the recent Green Paper on economic migration[3] has triggered a debate on what rules should apply to the admission of migrants for economic purposes. It should lead to new Community initiatives in this field, which the Commission will set out in an Action Plan to be published before the end of 2005 (cf. point 1 of Annex 5).

2. Facilitating return migration

According to the Return Action Programme, approved by the Council on 28 November 2002, country-specific return programmes should be designed. The aim of such programmes should be to ensure effective and timely return. Furthermore, the question of creating sustainable solutions as a means to tackle root causes for illegal immigration should be considered.

Return, either temporary or permanent, can bring back human, financial, economic and social capital to developing countries. Return programmes should therefore explicitly take this dimension into account. Such was the case of the Afghanistan Return Plan, the first country-specific return programme adopted by the Council. Moreover, thanks to the financial support of the European Union, over 150 highly qualified and skilled Afghans have returned from Member States to their country of origin in order to support capacity building for relevant Ministries and overall reconstruction efforts. The Afghanistan experience demonstrated that return of nationals can give an important boost to reconstruction and development efforts. Ensuring a good matching between the needs of the developing country and the skills available can be an important factor in making returns successful.

The experience gained from the Afghanistan return programme will be used in the planning of similar future country-specific return programmes. Those programmes will also benefit from Community funding within the framework of preparatory actions for a financial instrument for return management in 2005/2006 and from the future European Return Fund for the period 2008-2013 as part of the General programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows'[4].

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1 Council Directive 2004/114/EC - OJ L 375, 23.12.2004, p. 12.

2 Part of the package presented under COM(2004) 178, 16.3.2004.

3 COM(2004) 811, 11.1.2005.

4 Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament establishing a framework programme on Solidarity and Management of Migration flows for the period 2007-2013 - COM(2005) 123, 6.4.2005).

3. Provision of assistance to pilot projects in the area of migration with an impact on development

Since 2001, the Community has provided financial support, within the framework of the now discontinued budget line B7-667, to various preparatory actions for cooperation with third counties in the area of migration and asylum. A number of these preparatory actions seek to maximise the impact of migration on the development of countries of origin of migrants, by facilitating and enhancing the various types of contribution – financial contributions, but also skills or other forms of know-how – which migrants can make to these countries.

For instance, several projects seek to facilitate the involvement of migrants residing in EU Member States in development-friendly activities in their countries of origin, usually with a view to helping them set up or participate in small scale entrepreneurial activities there. In several of these projects migrants' organisations in EU Member States play an important role in mobilising and supporting potentially interested migrants. Some projects are oriented toward the permanent return of interested migrants to their country of origin while others are not. Some of these projects also include a component for making it easier for SMEs in countries of origin of migrants to reach out to markets in the EU. Other projects worth noting include an initiative for developing alternative, inexpensive remittance channels based on new technology (debit cards and use of automatic teller machines – ATMs); a project for assisting countries in the Mediterranean area and Africa to develop mechanisms for encouraging development-friendly forms of labour migration; and two projects for facilitating the return of Afghan nationals to their country for contributing to the reconstruction effort. The vast majority of these projects are still underway, and it is therefore too early to draw definitive conclusions. An independent evaluation of budget line B7-667 will be carried out; its results will certainly help to identify the activities that this type of instrument can usefully support.

On the basis of these three years of preparatory actions, the Aeneas programme, for technical and financial assistance to third countries in the areas of asylum and migration, was established in March 2004 (for the period 2004-2008 with a total budget of € 250 million). This programme aims to support third countries' efforts in better managing migratory flows in all their dimensions (legal and illegal migration, readmission and reintegration of migrants, trafficking in human beings, international protection of refugees and displaced persons). It is intended to be applicable to any third country of interest for the Community. In particular, article 2.2 provides indications on the types of actions that could be undertaken in order to foster closer linkages between migration and development:

- development of actions aimed at maintaining links between local communities in the country of origin and their legal emigrants and facilitating the contribution of migrants to the social and economic development of communities in their country of origin, including facilitating the use of remittances for productive investments and development initiatives, as well as providing support to micro-credit programmes;
- facilitation of dialogue and exchange of information between the institutions of the third country and the nationals of that country who are considering emigrating;
- support for targeted socio-economic reintegration of returnees into their country of origin, including training and capacity-building aimed at facilitating their integration into the labour market.

The first call for proposals (2004) was closed on 30 March 2005 and allowed the submission of 83 projects.

4. Mainstreaming migration into development policy and assistance to third countries

Since the 2002 Communication, significant steps have been taken to mainstream migration issues into development policy and Community assistance to third countries. In many cases this can contribute to improving the impact of migration on development.

A dialogue on migration issues, also touching sometimes on development aspects, has been going on with a number of third countries in the EU's neighbourhood, in the framework of the relevant bodies and in a spirit of partnership. Migration is also increasingly part of the dialogue between the EU and ACP countries, both in a bilateral and regional context. In this context, all Country Strategy Papers, which constitute the framework under which Community assistance to its developing country partners is programmed, were reviewed to assess whether there was a case for addressing migration issues. Although the dialogue on migration issues has just started with some countries, it has already contributed to a better understanding of the migration and development dimension and allowed a number of developing countries to highlight issues such as the mobilisation of diasporas as priorities that should be the focus of Community assistance in the future.

ANNEX 2:
INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOSTERING CHEAP, FAST AND SECURE WAYS TO TRANSFER REMITTANCES

Over the past few years, the cost of sending remittances over a number of corridors[5] has come down significantly in some parts of the world. For example, in Latin America, according to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), average costs have almost halved from around 15 % at the end the 1990s to 7.9 % by February 2004. Still, such rates cannot be called cheap. In addition, progress is far from uniform and the high cost of remitting – especially if compared with the cost for intra-Euro zone transfers – certainly remains an obstacle to higher remittance flows through formal channels. The efforts the EU will make in this area are in line with the commitments taken by the G8 at the Sea Island Summit in June 2004 to ensure a decrease in the cost of remittances[6].

The Commission believes that action is needed in the five areas that are addressed in this annex[7]. Moreover, as financial institutions are key actors in the area of remittances, the Commission will propose to the European organisations representing this sector to discuss various aspects relating to remittances, in the context of the on-going dialogue within the framework of the European Payments Council.

1. Improving available data on remittance flows and services

Policy on remittances needs to be based on accurate data. Unfortunately, this is at present rarely available. Remittance flows through informal channels[8] are almost never covered, and there are indications that formal flows are often grossly under-estimated. In addition, most Member States do not provide a breakdown of remittance flows by receiving country. Improved data would need to cover informal flows, to address the underestimation of formal flows[9], and to provide a detailed breakdown of bilateral flows. Finally, the development of specific studies, such as longitudinal surveys, and ensuring more comparability of international statistics would allow the development of policies that are better targeted and adapted to the situation. More information is also needed about the ways in which money is being transferred and the reasons for doing so. Household surveys could be an important instrument in providing that knowledge[10]. Initiatives in this area are already being prepared with regard to remittance flows from the EU to Latin America, as a follow-up to the Conclusions of the Guadalajara Summit. Work in this area should be co-ordinated with other

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5 The notion of 'corridor' refers to pairs of countries – a country that is the source of remittances and another country which receives them.

6 'Reduce the cost of remittance services through the promotion of competition, the use of innovative payment instruments, and by enhancing access to formal financial systems in sending and receiving countries. In some cases, remittance costs between sending and receiving countries have been reduced by up to 50 % or more. G8 countries believe that similar reductions of high costs could be realised in the case of other countries'.

7 In development terms it would make sense to apply all improvements in the transfer of remittances to all other retail financial flows from developed countries to developing countries, not only to those flows involving migrants.

8 i.e. those channels whose flows are not officially recorded, either because the money is transferred physically by the migrant him/herself or by another person he or she has entrusted with this task, or because they are performed by money transfer operators that are not officially registered. On certain corridors, it is estimated that informal flows exceed formal ones in volume.

9 In particular by including transfers by workers residing in a country for less than one year.

10 In compliance with relevant EC legislation on personal data protection in cases where such data would need to be included in the surveys.

institutions and international organisations active in this field[11]. In addition, it would also be useful to know more about the various types of use of remittances in countries of origin (consumption, investment or savings, and, in the latter case, the type of savings vehicles) and the respective share of the various economic activities for which remittances are used, in the case of investment.

Collecting and publishing better data has at least two functions: firstly, it helps policy-makers to take informed decisions; secondly, data on flows in particular remittance corridors can act as a wake-up call to the financial industry that there are business opportunities out there. The experiences of Turkish banks in Germany, Greek banks in countries of Greek emigration or, more recently, Spanish banks vis-à-vis the Latin American communities residing in Spain show that banking institutions, once aware of the potential market represented by remittances, can become quite competitive actors in these markets, thus fostering competition.

In the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade in services, the UN-Technical Subgroup on Movement of Natural Persons will carry out work on developing a new definition of remittances within the balance of payments framework, and on developing a statistical framework for the measurement of the economic impact of the movement of persons. The Technical Subgroup recommends changing the definition of "workers´ remittances" to a broader concept of personal transfers, which includes all household to household transfers.

Official data on remittance flows is patchy, often of mediocre quality and does not reflect alternative remittance channels. The Commission will launch initiatives to improve the collection of data to better understand the size of migrant remittance flows. In particular, it will raise with Member States the possibility of reporting on remittance data by destination.

In collaboration with institutions such as the World Bank, it will also promote household surveys which are able to capture informal remittance channels, focusing on selected bilateral "remittance corridors".

In addition, it will launch studies to gather better information on the remittance industry, its cost structures, possible indicators of a lack of competition and technical inefficiencies.

Such studies could shed light on possible ways to improve competition and realise efficiency gains. They should include the identification of main channels by destination (different channels are relevant for different countries of origin), as well as of the cost of a typical remittance through the different relevant channels and analyses of the cost structure of remittance providers and their margins.

2. Increasing transparency

A relatively simple but potentially forceful measure to increase competition is to make the information on the costs and other conditions – including the exchange rates used – that apply to each remittance channel more widely available to the public. Increasing the transparency of the remittance market will enable potential remitters to make better informed choices. A

[11] As far as the Mediterranean region is concerned, the EIB-managed FEMIP (Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership) has recently launched a study on workers' remittances in eight Mediterranean Partner Countries. Its purpose is to identify the constraints of sending funds to Mediterranean countries, to provide innovative solutions to facilitate these flows and mobilize additional savings, as well as to promote their impact on economic development in recipient countries.

number of Member States have taken active steps to improve transparency in the remittance market[12].

The Commission is planning to adopt a proposal for a Directive on payment services which will increase competition and enhance transparency by requiring payment service providers to make charges (including exchange rate conversions) and other conditions (e.g. execution times) fully transparent to customers. It will also require Member States to establish a register of all authorised payment institutions (including money transfer operators), to be updated on a regular basis and publicly available for consultation, in particular online.

The Commission also calls on Member States to encourage initiatives aimed at providing any additional and relevant information to migrants and will foster a dialogue amongst Member States with a view to identifying best practices in this field.

It will also give consideration to supporting the setting-up of a Europe-wide website providing information on the cost and conditions applying to the various remittance channels, including conventional ones.

Such initiatives will make it easier for potential clients to compare the various options available. In addition to benefiting migrants, they would allow comparisons across Member States and help reveal limited competition or other market inefficiencies.

The Commission also supports joint efforts by the Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the World Bank to define remittance principles. Applied by money transfer operators on a voluntary basis, they would make it easier for remittance senders to understand what service they can expect for their money.

Pre-departure information initiatives in countries of origin, as provided for example in the Philippines, could also contribute to more transparency.

3. Improving the legal framework for remittances

* On the EU side, Article 56 of the EC Treaty already facilitates remittance flows by providing for freedom of capital movements between the EU and third countries. However, it is also necessary to ensure that no disproportionate requirement is placed on money transfer operators (MTOs). Whereas some countries only impose light registration requirements on MTOs, others operate licensing systems and some even impose the same requirements as on banking institutions, a step that does not appear justified in terms of prudential risk, since the money transfer business typically does not involve any lending. A lighter hand in regulating would allow a number of presently informal MTOs to be appropriately regulated, thus retaining their advantages in terms of cost, speed and reliability while addressing public authorities' legitimate security concerns. This would help foster competition on the market for formal remittance services.

Even within the EU with its largely integrated financial markets, the regulation of remittance services varies substantially from one country to another. The Commission plans to foster the creation of a level playing field with harmonised licensing provisions throughout the Union. The forthcoming proposal for a Directive on payment services will ensure that money transfer

[12] For example the United Kingdom has sponsored a remittance product survey covering six countries of origin of migrants ('Sending money home? A survey of remittances products and services in the United Kingdom'). Some information on this initiative is available on www.sendmoneyhome.org.

operators are subject to appropriate regulatory requirements, harmonised throughout the EU and adapted to their specific risk profile.

Whilst ensuring that MTOs are subject to anti-money laundering/terrorist financing measures, this regulatory regime will establish a level playing field for the provision of payment services in the internal market and thus foster competition. The Commission has extensively consulted all stakeholders in preparing the draft Directive.

In addition, the Commission will support an exchange of information on market initiatives aimed at lowering the cost of remittance flows.

More generally, other steps that increase competition and encourage new entrants into the remittance market are highly beneficial. For example, exclusive agreements that tie up existing large-scale retail networks – such as national post offices – to a given MTO should be reconsidered, as they unduly limit competition.

* On the side of recipient countries, a number of regulations can act in a direct or indirect way as obstacles to remittance flows. For example taxes on remittance flows will reduce the amount of formal remittances; restrictions on capital movements or dual exchange rates will also favour informal channels of remittance transfer; and insufficient competition in the banking sector can be a contributory factor in making remittance payments expensive.

The Commission is willing to discuss with interested developing countries ways to overcome obstacles to remittance flows and to consider, where appropriate, whether specific technical assistance to improve their financial and economic infrastructure could be made available by the Community in the framework of its programmes, as well as by the European Investment Bank.

The Commission will also continue to coordinate efforts with those Member States that provide similar types of assistance to developing countries.

4. Improving the technical framework for remittances

A first issue in this respect is the potential for creating links between EU payment systems and those of developing countries which are the source of significant migration flows to the EU. This could draw on the experience acquired by the EU in setting-up a Pan European Automated Clearing House for retail payments for the introduction of the euro. There is already a precedent in this area, with the establishment of an automated clearing house between the United States and Mexico. Some EU Member States are currently looking at the feasibility of similar schemes, and the Commission wishes to take part in such efforts.

The proposal for a Directive on payment services (see above), by supporting the creation of EU-wide infrastructure for the provision of payment services, will in itself make it easier to reach the critical mass that might make it profitable to link EU payment systems with those of third countries.

In addition, a number of schemes involving the use of state of the art technology[13] are currently being developed. The Commission believes that such systems can offer a potential, even though illiteracy and technological shortfalls could limit their relevance in some developing countries.

[13] In particular money transfers involving credit or debit cards and allowing unbanked beneficiaries to withdraw the transferred money from ATMs. Other novel systems are based on mobile phone technology.

The Commission will, in the light of market developments and with the involvement of private operators, further consider the possibility of providing, within the framework of the Aeneas programme, financial support to pilot projects fostering the use of new technologies with a view to providing cheap, easily available competitive remittance services that open up economic opportunities in developing countries.

5. Improving access to banking/financial services

In sending countries, apart from transparency (see point 2. above), the main issue is facilitating the access of migrants to banking services. Better information about remittance flows may increase financial institutions' interest for migrants as potentially interesting customers. Several Spanish banks have taken significant steps to attract migrants, for example by opening off-hours banking facilities and hiring staff from the main migrant communities. But public authorities can have a role to play in facilitating this change of mindset, as was indeed the case in Spain. Measures to improve the financial inclusion of migrants should be inspired by good practice in the EU and beyond.

In recipient countries, insufficient access of the rural population and the poor to banking services often remains a critical issue, as banking networks rarely extend beyond large cities. Solutions include partnerships between 'mainstream' banking institutions and those networks that are present in rural areas, i.e. micro-finance institutions or post offices. Already effective or planned partnerships such as those between Spanish financial institutions and Latin American micro-finance institutions or between French and African institutions seem to point to the way forward. At the same time, recipient countries should look at regulatory obstacles that often make it difficult or impossible for micro-finance institutions to team up with mainstream institutions, including those that prevent the emergence of real competition in the banking sector.

The Commission will raise the issue of the access of migrants to financial services in its contacts with relevant stakeholders. It is also ready to consider – in partnership with the countries concerned – initiatives aimed at improving access to banking and financial services in developing countries, with a focus on the possible role of micro-finance institutions., as well as appropriate accompanying measures (information activities, etc.).

ANNEX 3:
INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FACILITATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF REMITTANCES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MIGRANTS' COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

The discussion of this issue raises an important caveat. Whereas remittances do constitute very important financial flows to developing countries, they have a specific characteristic when compared with other types of flow: they are private money.

The Commission believes that respecting the private nature of remittances must be the overarching principle underlying Community policy in this area. The objective in this area should therefore be to open opportunities for migrants who wish to use part of their remittances for any form of investment supporting development.

In addition, remittance flows are influenced by a number of factors on which policy makers have little influence. For example, the composition of migration will matter as much as its size for determining the size of remittance flows. Migrants remit money to those who are close to them, usually members of their family who stayed behind. This is why family reunion, for instance, tends to lead to a reduction in the volume of remittances from the EU to Turkey and North Africa. Looking ahead, the retirement of the first generation of migrants will also affect remittance flows to the Mediterranean region. Another example of the importance of the composition of migration flows relates to the fact that highly skilled migrants tend to send a smaller proportion of their income home. Therefore, selective immigration schemes can also affect remittance flows.

This being said, there are a number of ways in which a policy mix, which should be country specific, can support such objectives. In this respect, specific attention needs to be paid to so-called collective remittances, i.e. the transfers that migrants make collectively for philanthropic purposes via their organisations in the country of residence, also known as Hometown Associations (HTAs).

The Commission believes that action can be considered in the following four areas:

1. Improving the investment climate and fostering good governance

There is significant evidence that no incentive system will be as effective in persuading migrants – as indeed any other investor – to invest part of their remittances in business activities in their home country as a sound investment climate. This entails simplified business procedures, a transparent bureaucracy, a functioning judicial system that guarantees the rule of law and property rights, absence of corruption as well as a sound macro-economic framework and good quality infrastructure. All these factors also impact on brain drain, return and retention, three issues that are discussed in other parts of this Communication. Promoting these and other aspects of good governance is above all a responsibility for developing countries themselves, but donors can and should play a supportive role. The approach the Commission proposes to follow in these areas will be further explored in the forthcoming review of the EU Development Policy Statement[14].

2. Extending financial intermediation in developing countries[15]

Not all migrants are willing and/or able to become entrepreneurs – especially where, as they remain in their country of residence, they would have to manage their investment from a

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[14] Proposal for a joint Council/EP/Commission statement on EU Development Policy, the 'Brussels Consensus', July 2005.

[15] This is closely linked to the issues addressed under point 5 of Annex 2.

distance. However, the Commission believes that there are ways to make it easier for migrants to contribute to the development of their country of origin, while reaping fair rewards for their hard-earned savings. The establishment of an efficient system of financial intermediation can play a key role in encouraging migrants or their relatives back home to entrust their savings to financial institutions. This could lead to a better allocation of resources promoting productive investment and therefore result in welfare gains for the country or region of origin. In a number of developing countries, especially in Africa, there is reportedly a 'financing gap' between micro-finance loans on the one hand (typically up to a few hundred euros) and loans to large SMEs (from a few tens of thousand euros upward), with small enterprises finding it difficult to obtain loans in the region of a few thousand euros. Guarantee mechanisms could play a useful role in this respect. In addition, there are in some cases rules that make it difficult for micro-finance institutions to offer a full range of financial services to poor or rural people. Addressing them would make it easier to 'bank the unbanked' and therefore help maximise the potential of remittances (for example by enabling recipients to have access to savings instruments). In addition to the assistance already being provided to some developing countries in developing their financial service sectors, the Commission could consider further assistance in this area. Community assistance in making micro-finance institutions more active in the area of remittances will need to take into account the ongoing work by other donors.

The Commission is willing to look – in partnership with the countries concerned and, where relevant, in cooperation with the EIB – at possibilities to enhance financial intermediation in developing countries, including through facilitating partnerships between micro-finance institutions and mainstream financial institutions.

Although the EC cannot fund credit lines/revolving funds and guarantee funds for microfinance operations, including those involving migrants, the Commission is ready to consider partnerships in these areas with interested IFIs, including the EIB, provided that an upfront agreement can be reached with such institutions and under the condition that they take full responsibility for the operational implementation of the credit line/guarantee fund.

3. Collective remittances and co-funding schemes

Hometown Associations (HTAs) can play an important role in helping allocate part of the savings of individual migrants towards initiatives that either are directed towards productive activities (industry, agriculture) or at least play a role in improving the living conditions of people in communities of origin, for example via the financing of small-scale local infrastructure (water sanitation, health infrastructure, etc.). There is now significant evidence that, in order for such efforts to bear fruit, migrants' organisations and the relevant local communities need to be at the origin of the projects. Support from local authorities and other donors can however be an asset. Co-funding to top up the efforts of migrants is sometimes provided by public authorities, either from the receiving country[16] or from the country of origin (this is the case of the 'tres por uno' scheme, initiated by the State of Zacatecas and later emulated in other Mexican States).

[16] This type of scheme is an important component of the co-development policy that has been devised by France. In particular, programmes to support initiatives by migrants from Senegal and Mali residing in France in their country of origin are underway. In Italy and Spain similar schemes – often initiated at regional or city level (Italy) or at the level of regional communities (Spain) – have been launched to support projects in various countries. In the Netherlands, migrants' projects are supported via the so-called 'Front Office' facility, which is managed on behalf of the Dutch government by five co-financing NGOs. The Community has also provided support to such projects in the framework of budget line B7-667 (cf. Annex 1).

Following an evaluation of the sustainability, relevance and effectiveness of the pilot projects funded under former budget line B7-667 (cf. Annex 1), the Commission will consider the possibility of providing funding in the context of the appropriate budget lines to joint projects by diaspora organisations – preferably from two or more Member States – and local organisations interested in supporting local development.

It also invites Member States which run similar schemes or consider doing so to exchange experiences and best practices.

4. Incentive-based policies

Many countries of origin have developed special incentive schemes to encourage migrants to invest part of the funds they remit in savings vehicles that are used for funding development-friendly infrastructure or productive activities, such as Government bonds or savings accounts offering privileged interest-rates. The record of such incentive schemes is somewhat mixed, however, and the Commission does not wish to recommend this sort of action, given the variety of possible schemes. Nonetheless it is clear that the governments of countries of origin of migrants should refrain from creating or maintaining disincentives to such investments (i.e. treating them less favourably than purely domestic investments).

ANNEX 4:
INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FACILITATING THE INVOLVEMENT OF DIASPORAS IN HOME COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT

As part of transnational communities linking countries of origin and countries of residence, diasporas[17] can make an important contribution to the development of their home countries. The various ways in which their possible forms of contribution – remittances, skill or know-how transfers, etc. – can be facilitated are addressed in the various sections of Chapter 2 and the relevant annexes. This annex, however, looks at how – if appropriate – public authorities can encourage diaspora members to become more involved in the development of their country or region of origin.

Of course, it is up to each diaspora member to decide whether, to what extent and in what form (s)he wishes to contribute to the development of his/her country of origin. Public policies in this area can only provide incentives, facilitate and be responsive to people's own initiatives.

The Commission believes that action in this area should concentrate on the following three sets of issues:

1. Helping developing countries map their diasporas and build links with them

A key difficulty that sending and receiving country governments are often faced with in terms of dealing with the diaspora is precisely knowing the diaspora. There is therefore a case for a policy to support the creation of databases of the skills available in a given country's or region's diaspora abroad, where interested members can register. A number of projects along these lines have already been launched – for example a database where skilled members of the Senegalese diaspora abroad can register their interest in contributing to the country's development and provide details of their skills – and such initiatives could be used as sources of inspiration by other countries. Another example is the support provided by Italy to Egypt[18] or to Ghana and Ethiopia (via the MIDA-Italy programme, managed by the International Organisation for Migration), to improve their links with their respective diasporas, notably in Italy.

In addition, governments in receiving countries that would like to involve foreign diasporas in their work with developing countries, or to support their initiatives, are faced with the additional difficulty of identifying 'the right interlocutors' among the various organisations representing diasporas. France, for example, has addressed this problem by encouraging diaspora organisations involved in the development of countries of origin to pool their efforts within the framework of an umbrella organisation, FORIM[19]. Other Member States are moving in the same direction, for example the Netherlands, which has set up a 'National Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee' (LOM), which groups together seven ethnic minority organisations and which will in future be consulted on important development policy

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17 For the purposes of this Communication, we use a broad definition of the diaspora. The diaspora from a given country therefore includes not only the nationals from that country living abroad, but also migrants who, living abroad, have acquired the citizenship of their country of residence (often losing their original citizenship in the process) and migrants' children born abroad, whatever their citizenship, as long as they retain some form of commitment to and/or interest in their country of origin or that of their parents. In some extreme cases, such as the Chinese diaspora, people may still feel part of a country's diaspora even though their family has been living in another country for several generations.

18 Cf. the website http://www.emigration.gov.eg

19 Forum des organisations de solidarité internationale issues des migrations.

initiatives, or Germany's GTZ, which has taken steps to build a working relationship with organisations representing the diaspora. The UK is also taking steps in the same direction, through support to an umbrella organisation (Connections for Development).

The Commission will consider supporting efforts initiated by source countries at national or regional level to set up databases where members of diasporas interested in contributing to home countries' development can register on a voluntary basis, and more generally to maintain links between these countries' and their diasporas, in coordination with other donors.

The Commission invites those Member States that do not already do so to identify and engage diaspora organisations which could be suitable and representative interlocutors in development policy and/or possible initiators of development projects in countries of origin. It would also welcome steps by the organisations representing diasporas involved in the development of countries of origin to set up a mechanism that could ensure appropriate representation of their interests at EU level, in particular as far as policies of interest to these countries are concerned.

2. The role of young people

Helping young people from migrant communities maintain some form of relationship with the country of origin of their parents can both contribute to their integration – by helping avoid a sense of not belonging anywhere – and encourage them to maintain a commitment to the development of that country[20], for example by encouraging them to visit it and get acquainted with the challenges it faces. Community policy, based on existing intra-EU experience, could play a role in this respect.

In addition to already existing initiatives, notably by local authorities in the framework of twinning schemes, which should be encouraged, the Commission will assess the feasibility of youth exchange schemes focused in particular on migrant communities, based on the experience gathered with existing intra-EU schemes.

3. Integration and citizenship

Integration of migrants is much more than just a part of a diaspora mobilisation policy; it is one of the central pillars of EU immigration policy, and its main features are covered in a number of recent policy documents[21]. This policy, by allowing migrants to feel that their cultural identity is recognised and valued, should encourage them to remain committed to their country of origin and those they have left behind. In addition, it is also increasingly being recognised that migrants' personal involvement in the development of their country of origin in turn facilitates their integration in the country of residence. The Commission is about to propose new orientations in the area of integration, by way of a Communication that will be adopted simultaneously with this Communication.

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[20] Even if there is evidence that second-generation diaspora members have forms of commitment that differ from those of the first generation: skill transfers or productive investment tend to replace remittances.

[21] In particular the Common Basic Principles adopted by the Council on 19 November 2004. In addition, there is Community legislation already in force on various important issues such as the rights of long term residents, family reunification, and the fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia. A handbook on integration for policy-makers and practitioners was also published in November 2004, and further efforts will be undertaken to encourage exchanges of experiences between Member States. In addition, a second Annual Report on Migration and Integration will soon be published.

ANNEX 5:
INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOSTERING CIRCULAR MIGRATION AND BRAIN CIRCULATION

The development of new, faster modes of transportation and communication as well as the emergence of transnational communities mean that circular migration, in which migrants tend to go back and forth between the source country and the destination country, and return migration will become increasingly widespread. From a development standpoint this is good news, as circular and return migration offer a significant potential for both source and destination countries, the migrant and his/her relatives in the country of origin. Return, even temporary, is likely to lead to the transfer of skills, know how and/or new cultural attitudes. Both circular migration and return can help mitigate the impact of brain drain. Both also foster brain circulation, which can be defined for the purpose of this Communication as the possibility for developing countries to draw on the skills, know-how and other forms of experience gained by their migrants – whether they have returned or not – and members of their diaspora abroad. However, there are still obstacles to circular migration and to the return of migrants to their country of origin. Removing them would help liberate the potential of brain circulation for development.

The Commission believes that action is necessary in the four following areas:

1. Managed migration as an instrument of brain circulation

The Commission recently published a Green Paper on an EU approach to managing economic migration[22], the aim of which is to actively contribute to the on-going debate on the most appropriate form of Community rules for admitting economic migrants.

The Green Paper stresses the need for the Community to manage migration flows in cooperation with countries of origin, thereby taking into account the challenges they face– including brain drain in particular – and their needs. It specifically asks the question of whether preference, in terms of admission, should be granted to certain third countries and how[23].

As a result of the comprehensive debate launched by the Green Paper, which culminated with a hearing organised on 14 June 2005, the Commission will present, by the end of 2005, a policy plan on legal migration. This plan will include ideas on how the joint management of economic migration flows between countries of origin and destination can contribute to improving the benefits of migration for the development of countries of origin

2. Maximising the potential of temporary migration

Temporary migration – sometimes even seasonal migration – is becoming an increasingly popular way of meeting the demand for unskilled or relatively low skilled labour in a number of Member States. Whilst it is true that such temporary migration has limited advantages in terms of skills enhancement, especially as far as low-skilled workers are concerned, its potential positive impact on development or at least poverty alleviation should not be dismissed too quickly. It can help relieve excess labour supply in developing countries, and the remittances which workers send to their relatives often represent a significant share of

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22 COM(2004) 811, 11.1.2005

23 Bilateral agreements between a country of destination and a country of origin, aimed at joint management of economic migration flows – as concluded by some EU Member States with a number of third countries – are one possible way in which such preferences can be granted.

families' overall income – especially since temporary migrants tend to remit more than longer-term migrants as a percentage of their income.

Policies to maximise the developmental impact of temporary migration, in addition to the general recommendations on remittances[24], should focus on encouraging circular migration, by giving a priority for further temporary employment to workers who have already worked under such schemes and have returned at the end of their contract, and also on offering appropriate rewards to participating migrants. This could for instance build on the experience of some Member Starts in reimbursing pension contributions at the end of the worker's contract or include the payment by the country of residence of a top up on the worker's savings. Taking into account the results of the debate on the Green Paper on economic migration, the Commission will also examine the possibility of defining a general framework for the entrance and short-term stay within the common area of seasonal migrants. The Commission will continue discussions with Member States, social partners and civil society on these issues.

In addition, temporary migration linked to the cross-border provision of services is also starting to feature highly on the international trade policy agenda, within the framework of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS – the so-called Mode 4), with a focus on skilled labour. However the numbers of people covered by Mode 4 commitments, or taking advantage of them, are extremely small in comparison with the numbers of other temporary migrants or of long-term migrants.

Whilst Mode 4 is only one form of temporary migration - and is essentially an aspect of trade rather than migration policy – it may offer insights into the development of temporary migration schemes that would help both to maximize brain circulation in the interests of developing countries and contribute to well managed migration through clear rules on period and purpose of stay. The Community is promoting an approach to Mode 4 which adopts common terminology and transparent arrangements governing the categories of people covered and length of stay. This model could be built on for the further development of Mode 4.

In addition, the Commission already proposed in March 2004 a Recommendation concerning the facilitation of issuing conditions for uniform short stay visas for researchers from third countries travelling within the EU for the purpose of carrying out scientific research.

3. Facilitating return migration

The return of migrants to their country of origin can have a significant positive impact in development terms, provided that it is well prepared and that the migrant is an active protagonist in his/her own return, with a project – entrepreneurial for example – (s)he intends to carry out. While schemes to assist the return of migrants will usually be focused on legal migrants, they should not necessarily be reserved to them. The experience of the French "aide à la réinsertion" scheme shows that such schemes sometimes offer an 'honourable way out' to migrants whose migration project has failed, including some illegal migrants.

A number of general lessons can be drawn from the various return schemes that have been developed, notably at the level of EU Member States[25], by the Community[26] and by

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24 Cf. section 2.1. in the main text and Annexes 2 and 3.

25 An interesting example is the scheme run by the 'Gothenburg Initiative' (Göteborg Initiativet), an NGO supported by the City of Gothenburg and the Swedish authorities, which has devised a scheme whereby willing refugees, notably from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Somalia, living in Gothenburg are being supported in developing self-employing business activities upon returning to their country of origin.

international organisations such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). A first lesson is that financial support is not enough to make return a success[27]. Advice and other forms of non-financial assistance, both before and after the migrant's return, play an indispensable role, especially when the migrant – who does not necessarily have directly relevant experience – intends to start his/her own business in the country of origin. Another lesson is that migrants are often reluctant to envisage a return to their home country unless they have some guarantee that they will be able to continue to travel back and forth between the country of origin and the (former) country of destination. This is obviously the case when the migrant plans to continue some form of business activity in his/her former country of residence, but such a possibility can also play the role of an insurance mechanism, especially when the migrant – be he or she a former refugee or asylum seeker or not – comes from a country whose future stability – economic or political – remains problematic. This problem can be addressed, at least on a temporary basis, by granting the returnee a multi-entry visa allowing him/her to return to his/her former country of residence. A number of Member States have taken steps in this direction. Another possibility that has similar effects is to maintain the validity of the returning migrant's residence permit for a certain amount of time after his/her return. Such a system exists in Denmark, where, in addition, refugees potentially willing to return to their country of origin are given the possibility of returning temporarily to assess the situation and prospects before they make a final decision to return, and refugees and their families who return voluntarily are allowed to go back to Denmark within one year of their return.

The Commission will invite Member States and other interested stakeholders to share their experience of the elaboration and management of assisted return programmes and of support of countries of origin with the successful reintegration of return migrants. Within this framework, it will examine relevant short-term visa policy issues.

A number of practical steps should also be taken to facilitate the return of migrants to their country of origin:

- Member States should ensure that the pensions obtained in a migrant's former country of residence can be paid to him/her in the country of origin after his/her return; or that the contributions made by a migrant and by his/her employers into public pension schemes can be paid back to him/her as a lump sum upon his/her return to the country of origin in cases where the total amounts paid are not enough to entitle him/her to a pension.
- Steps should be taken to ensure that a migrant's education and qualifications received in the country of destination can be easily recognised by authorities in the country of origin, as this will facilitate his/her professional integration upon returning[28].
- Member States could offer the possibility for financial institutions to open up special savings accounts accessible to migrants intending to return to their home country at the end of their work experience. These products could benefit from a favourable tax treatment,

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26 Especially the Afghanistan return scheme (cf. point 2 of Annex 1).

27 In addition, exclusively financial support might attract purely opportunistic applicants with no serious interest in developing and implementing a personal project for a successful return.

28 Conversely, steps to facilitate the recognition of the skills acquired by migrants outside of the EU, if feasible, could make it easier to fully use their potential and avoid the risk of 'brain waste'. The development of co-operation with a number of third countries – notably the EU's immediate neighbours – in the area of education could allow for some progress in this respect, at least as far as formal qualifications (diplomas) are concerned.

and the Member State of residence could also grant an interest rate subsidy and/or a bonus at the time of return.

- As far as researchers and other skilled professionals are concerned, it is essential that they can, upon return, continue to have exchanges with their former colleagues. Fellowships for returning researchers and instruments such as web portals to allow continuous interactions within trans-national research communities are among the instruments that will be supported under the 7th Framework Programme on R&D[29].

The Commission will look at the possibility of proposing measures in areas such as the transferability of pension rights, the recognition of qualifications or mechanisms to ensure that researchers or other professionals who have worked in the EU can keep in touch with their former colleagues to facilitate voluntary returns and help them reintegrate successfully.

4. Temporary or virtual return

Migrants do not necessarily need to return permanently to their country of origin to contribute usefully to its development. Indeed, temporary return appears as a promising way in which diasporas can be mobilised in favour of countries of origin (cf. section 2.2. in the main text). Obviously, it is up to individual diaspora members to decide whether and how they want to get involved. However, available evidence shows that many diaspora members are already active, and many more would be willing to follow suit provided that more appropriate conditions were in place. This is where public policy can play an important role.

There are several ways in which temporary return can allow diaspora members to contribute to the development of their country or region of origin. Short or medium term secondments of scientists, doctors, engineers or other qualified professionals in institutions in their countries of origin can enable them to share their skills and knowledge with those who have remained "at home". Diaspora skills databases (see point 1 in Annex 4) can enable authorities or institutions in countries to tap into the available skills potential. International organisations such as IOM (with the Migration for Development in Africa programme – MIDA) and UNDP (with the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals scheme – TOKTEN) have developed significant expertise in this area, and the activities they manage are often supported financially by one or several EU Member States[30] or the Community. In this case, temporary return can be complemented or in some cases replaced by "virtual return", relying on electronic communications (for example, via distance learning, a University professor in an EU Member State can also teach to students in a University in his/her country of origin, where (s)he could also be physically present for a couple of months each year).

The Commission proposes to build upon existing experience in temporary or virtual return programmes and extend it, where necessary, to other parts of the developing world. It will also look at the possible support that could be provided to e-learning schemes within the

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29 Moreover, the Commission has already issued, as part of the package on the admission of third country nationals to carry out scientific research in the European Community - COM(2004) 178, 16.3.2004 -, a draft recommendation encouraging Member States to 'promote the international mobility of researchers from third countries needing to travel frequently within the European Union by issuing them with multiple entry visas'. In addition to ensuring brain circulation, such measures can also contribute to limiting the brain drain of scientists from developing countries (cf. section 2.4. in the main text and Annex 6), by lowering the disadvantages for researchers of residing and working in developing countries.

30 For instance, a MIDA project for the Great Lakes region was funded by Belgium, and another project for Ghana was funded by the UK and the Netherlands.

framework of Community programmes on information and communication technologies (ICT).

Furthermore, initiatives will be taken within the framework of the 7th Framework Programme on Research and Development to facilitate networking between foreign researchers working in the EU – especially those working in areas of direct interest to developing countries – and research organisations in their countries of origin.

The Commission will also look at how to ensure that the residence rights in the EU of diaspora members who decide to engage in such activities are not affected by temporary returns to countries of origin.

Temporary return, and more generally circular migration, can also allow migrants or diaspora members who have succeeded in business activities in the EU to set up additional business activities – either directly connected or not to their main activity in the EU – in their country of origin, thereby actively contributing to the latter's development through innovation and job creation. The work conducted by the Commission in the area of ethnic entrepreneurship[31] shows that migrants and more generally persons of foreign origin are often likelier than other people to engage in entrepreneurial activities. They therefore constitute an important skills potential for their countries of origin, provided that appropriate policies are implemented. Their knowledge of both the country of origin and the country of residence can be an important business asset, in particular for marketing in the EU products from the country of origin[32] – or even the country itself as a tourist destination. Some initiatives have been developed with a view to facilitating the investments of such people in their country of origin, for example a project – funded under EC budget line B7-667 – to help highly skilled members of the Moroccan diaspora in France set up innovative start-ups in Morocco.

The Commission will continue to make support available in future, under the Aeneas programme, to projects by which migrants or diaspora members set up sustainable economic activities in countries of origin, with a preference for projects in third countries involving diasporas in two or more Member States. Such projects should be coherent with the development strategy of the third country concerned.

In addition, it will further study the ways in which interested entrepreneurs from migrant communities can contribute to the development of their country of origin, the obstacles they face in doing so and the policies that should be followed to overcome these obstacles.

Perhaps more importantly, in addition to direct financial support for such involvement of diaspora members, public authorities can also contribute to such efforts by removing a number of obstacles, in particular by:

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31 Following preparatory work, a Commission study on 'Promoting Ethic Minority Entrepreneurs' is about to be carried out in the framework of the Multi-annual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship 2001-2005. In addition, the Commission's Action Plan on Entrepreneurship - COM(2004) 70, presented on 11 February 2004 - foresees a key action on «Providing tailor-made support for ethnic minority entrepreneurs» and commits the Commission to collaborate with national and regional authorities to address those areas where the needs of ethnic entrepreneurs are still insufficiently met, namely access to finance and entrepreneurial networks. It foresees that the Commission will encourage networks among policy-makers and seek the active involvement of representative bodies of ethnic minorities for building a better dialogue at EU, national and regional level.

32 Migrants and more generally diasporas can therefore play an important role in helping their countries of origin take advantage of the important trade concessions granted by the Community to developing countries, notably in the context of the 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) initiative, and which at present are far from being fully used by beneficiary countries.

- in the public sector, offering the possibility for secondments to institutions in developing countries for migrants or diaspora members wishing to engage in such activities;
- in the private sector, removing legal obstacles to unpaid sabbatical leaves and encouraging businesses to enable their employees of foreign origin to take unpaid leave for engaging in such activities[33];
- in both cases, ensuring that the persons in question can continue to contribute to and benefit from social security schemes, in particular health insurance and pension schemes.

The Commission will foster the identification of best practices in areas such as secondments or sabbatical leaves, and the related social security aspects, that can facilitate temporary return, as part of the dialogue to be launched with Member States as a follow-up to this Communication.

[33] This issue may be raised by the Commission with the Social Partners in the framework of the discussions underway on Corporate Social Responsibility.

ANNEX 6:
INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATING THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF BRAIN DRAIN ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Whereas there are many cases where migration is profitable for countries of origin, it can cause damage in specific situations. This is particularly so when emigration leads to significant skills shortages in sectors that are essential for the social or economic development of the countries in question. Such cases are best documented in the healthcare and education sector and the worst affected countries appear to be in Africa and in the Caribbean, but problems could also appear in other sectors or parts of the world. The phenomenon of brain drain affects particularly poorer countries because emigrants tend to have a better education than those who stay at home (the greater the distance, the greater the difference tends to be) and because selective immigration policies in developed countries have contributed to the acceleration of the emigration of skilled professionals.

It must be noted that education abroad can also contribute to brain drain if students do not return at the end of their studies. This phenomenon can become self-sustaining if emigration, by depriving universities of their best students, leads to lower quality levels, encouraging further emigration.

While there is no such thing as a 'right to migrate', it must be acknowledged that the decision to look for and take up employment abroad is largely based on an individual assessment by the persons concerned of the costs and benefits of such a choice. Public policies often have little influence on this decision. In addition, Member States retain significant competences in the area of economic migration and there are obvious limits to the scope for Community action in this area. The Commission believes, however, that action in this area should encompass the following issues:

1. Improving the evidence base

The sensitivity to brain drain-type problems varies enormously from country to country and from sector to sector. Whereas some developing countries suffer from very significant shortages of critical skills, others have an excess supply of these skills[34], and some even have a deliberate policy of exporting skilled people, often trained in specialised, private educational institutions. Any sensible policy on mitigating brain drain should therefore be based on sound data at sectoral and country (or even sub-national, in the case of large countries) level.

The Commission, in collaboration with other interested organisations and donors, is willing to support efforts by interested developing countries to improve their knowledge of their labour markets, including shortages or excesses of skills at sectoral level. This would serve as a basis for countries to devise responses to the identified problems, in the framework of their poverty reduction strategies.

The Commission is ready to support such responses, in the framework of its assistance to these countries. In addition, it would also make such information available to Member States, so as to help them steer their recruitment policies in a way that does not harm the development of countries of origin, as well as to the general public.

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[34] In other words, a situation where there are not enough suitable employment opportunities for graduates. In such situations the emigration of skilled professionals can be characterised as 'brain overflow' rather than as brain drain.

As an example of possible responses, the Commission is currently preparing a separate Communication on 'Addressing the Crisis in Human Resources for Health', which will aim to prepare a set of innovative responses to human resource crisis in developing countries, within the broader health context of these countries, and building upon the framework set out in this Communication.

2. Disciplining recruitment

The issue of limiting recruitment of qualified professionals from developing countries suffering from severe skills shortages in key sectors was raised previously by the Commission in the December 2002 Communication. While it is not desirable to prevent individual would-be migrants from looking for suitable employment in the EU, there is a case for limiting active recruitment by or on behalf of EU employers in those developing countries and sectors that suffer from severe skills shortages. Especially at a time when the need for skills in developed countries is expected to increase, a situation where recruitment is carried out at the expense of development objectives must be avoided. One Member State, the United Kingdom, has developed a voluntary instrument in the healthcare sector[35] and there is therefore already some experience in the EU. In addition, the World Health Assembly has called for international action in this area[36].

It is the Commission's view that isolated action by one or a few countries is unlikely to be very effective if other developed countries do not show the same degree of self-discipline.

The Commission encourages Member States to develop mechanisms such as codes of conduct to limit active recruitment in cases where it would have significantly negative repercussions for targeted developing countries, especially in the healthcare sector, and to coordinate their respective efforts in this area.

The Commission will also strive to persuade other important destination countries to work towards similar arrangements. The possibilities for a global approach to recruitment policies should be explored and this issue be raised in the appropriate international fora, such as the WHO.

The orientations which the Commission will issue as a follow-up to its Green Paper on economic migration could also further contribute to the debate on disciplining recruitment[37].

3. Helping developing countries replenish their skills base

For source countries the phenomenon of brain drain often represents a loss of significant investment in training and education, at least when the people who migrate have been trained by public sector institutions. It is difficult, from a human rights perspective, to restrict people's mobility by preventing them from looking for better paid employment or better living and working conditions elsewhere[38]. However, the question arises whether destination countries could not, in one way or another, help developing countries that suffer from significant skills shortages as a result of migration to replenish their skills base.

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35 A revised, strengthened version of the Code of conduct on recruitments in the healthcare sector was issued in December 2004.

36 'International migration of health personnel: a challenge for health systems in developing countries'. Resolution adopted by the 57th World Health Assembly on 22 May 2004.

37 See Section 2.3 of the main text and Annex 5.

38 Even though some developing countries have devised a number of partial solutions. Indian medical students, for example, are obliged to spend a certain amount of time working in rural or poor areas before they get their diploma.

Some Member States are already providing financial support for the training of health professionals in developing countries where they have been actively recruiting. In the Commission's view this type of 'compensation-schemes' should not be viewed as a substitute for a policy for disciplining recruitment. However, the Commission encourages Member States to consider skill replenishment schemes in countries that, as a result of brain drain processes, need to upgrade their healthcare and/or education human resource basis.

4. Better use of existing skills resources within the EU

An obvious response to the phenomenon of brain drain is for the EU to better use its own, existing skills resources. In this respect, the Lisbon strategy's general objective of raising the activity rate in the EU offers a first response. At a more specific level, a well designed integration policy[39] should also make it easier for the EU to tap into the partly unused potential represented by the migrants already residing in the EU. However, the maintenance by many Member States of transitional restrictions on the free movement of workers from the new Member States can also act in some cases as an obstacle to the optimal use of available skills resources[40] in the enlarged EU. This would appear to militate in favour of a relaxation of temporary restrictions on free movement of workers from the new Member States.

5. Fostering institutional partnerships

It is often difficult for developing countries seeking to encourage skilled professionals to stay in these countries rather than to emigrate or to encourage their return to compete against the wages and working conditions available in developed countries. Still, wages are only part of the equation and the Commission believes that providing such professionals with career prospects and an adequate infrastructure could play an important role in changing the working conditions. Nowhere is this truer than in the research area.

Fostering partnerships between institutions in the EU and in interested developing countries or region could play a role in addressing the causes of brain drain. In each case the precise mix of measures to be put in place would depend on a preliminary assessment of the country or region's specific problems and needs. Measures could include support for the creation of partnerships between scientific or university institutions in developing countries and in the EU to conduct research activities jointly[41].

Other forms of partnerships between research institutions, universities, hospitals or other bodies in developing countries and EU Member States to mitigate brain drain could include 'shared work schemes' in which scientists, researchers, doctors, technicians or other professionals from developing countries would share their work between an institution in their country of origin (University, hospital, research centre, etc.) and a partner institution in an EU Member State[42]. The possibility of providing Community support to such schemes could be assessed, notably in the framework of the 7th Framework Programme on R&D.

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39 Cf. point 3 of Annex 4.

40 However, consideration must also be taken of the fact that some of the new Member States may themselves be suffering from a situation of brain drain in specific sectors, as a result of an outflow of skilled labour to the EU-15 or other developed countries.

41 Support to such partnerships is already an important component of EU policy on research and development and will be further developed under the upcoming 7th Framework Programme.

42 Such schemes constitute one possible form of 'circular migration' (see section 2.3 in the main text and Annex 5).

6. Development cooperation as a source of employment opportunities for skilled professionals in developing countries.

Tens of thousands of skilled professionals from developed countries are employed in the elaboration, management and implementation of ODA-funded assistance projects in developing countries. If a significant number of these professionals could be replaced by nationals from the beneficiary countries or regions, this would create important employment opportunities for these nationals. Most donors have already taken some steps in this direction, but more can be done.

The Commission believes that donors, in the context of OECD/DAC, could usefully review the operational mechanisms of their technical assistance programmes with the specific objective of assessing whether stronger incentives for the employment of skilled professionals from developing countries by implementing bodies could be introduced.

With regard to projects funded by the European Development Fund (EDF) in ACP countries, article 26 of Annex IV of the Cotonou Agreement already provides that, 'in respect of service contracts, given the required competence, preference shall be given to 1) experts … from ACP States where tenders of equivalent economic and technical quality are compared…".

ANNEX 7
COMMISSION INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOW-UP OF THIS COMMUNICATION

1. Dialogue with Member States

Once the Council has adopted Conclusions on the implementation of this Communication, the Commission is in favour of initiating a multidisciplinary dialogue with and between Member States on migration and development, in which Member States' Ministries dealing with migration in its various aspects – Development, Employment, External Relations, and Justice and Home Affairs – would be represented. This dialogue would aim at reinforcing coherence between the two policy areas. Its tasks would be threefold:

- informing Member States on the implementation of this Communication in general and more specifically on progress on a number of initiatives taken in this context;
- serving as a forum to exchange experiences and practices in the various areas covered by this Communication;
- and, in doing so, contributing to improve overall coherence of these activities, in particular to maximise EU leverage at the global level.

This dialogue could be complemented by an electronic forum for communication between members and an internet portal, also open to all interested parties, which would help access the various studies and research papers on issues related to the migration and development nexus prepared by or on behalf of the Member States, EU institutions or international organisations. This would help ensure that the significant amount of already available information is best used and avoid duplications.

At a later stage, this internet portal could be extended to include identified best practices in the various areas covered by this Communication.

2. Dialogue with Third Countries

As developing countries are directly affected by EU policy on migration and development, the Commission will continue to integrate migration related topics in the dialogue with these countries. A number of the orientations presented in this communication and its annexes will require further debate and cooperation with interested developing countries, either individually or as members of regional groupings. These dialogues should use the existing institutional frameworks[43].

Policy initiatives, including assistance projects, should be based on an analysis of the situation of the country or group of countries concerned and designed and carried out in a spirit of partnership with these countries. Where appropriate, issues linked to the migration and development nexus should also be reflected in the relevant country strategy papers (CSPs) or regional strategy papers (RSPs).

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[43] For example the dialogues with individual ACP countries provided for in Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, the bodies set up under the Association or Cooperation Agreements, or the mechanisms of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Another example, is that of the countries of South East Asia, with whom the new bilateral agreements which will be concluded will provide for a "comprehensive dialogue on all migration-related issues" which could be used for addressing migration and development issues, among others.

The Commission also proposes the establishment of a Migration Profile (MP) for each interested developing country. Such a document would bring together all information relevant to the design and management of an effective policy on migration and development[44]. This could help define a policy response which would tailor to the situation and needs of the country or countries concerned the instruments presented in a generic manner in this Communication and its annexes. (the proposed MP is further described in Annex 8).

In addition, the Commission is ready to discuss with interested developing countries and their regional groupings the possibility and appropriateness of better reflecting – where appropriate – issues related to the migration and development nexus in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

3. Cooperation with international organisations

In devising and implementing strategies to maximise the contribution of migration to development, EU institutions should take proper account of the work already done by a number of international organisations in these areas and the expertise available there in order to avoid duplications of efforts. In addition, the Commission does not necessarily possess the specialist expertise available in these organisations. The Commission will therefore reinforce its on-going dialogue on issues of migration and development with organisations such as the World Bank, ILO, UNHCR, the OECD, UNDP or IOM.

4. Other stakeholders

The Commission will maintain a dialogue with non-governmental actors, including social partners, on issues related to migration and development. In particular, it will welcome efforts by diaspora organisations engaged in the development of countries of origin to set up mechanism or structures to ensure their representation at EU level[45]. This should help these organisations express their views on the issues and initiatives set out in this Communication and its annexes and to contribute actively to its follow-up.

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44 Including aspects such as the gender dimension of migration, refugee aspects or the factors that might facilitate illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking.

45 Cf. point 1 of Annex 4.

ANNEX 8:
MIGRATION PROFILES

Given the impact of initiatives in the area of migration and development, an evidence-based approach which takes into account the realities of developing countries is necessary. In order to develop a tailor-made, partnership approach for interested developing countries, a better understanding of the migration situation and related issues is a pre-condition. With this in mind the Commission proposes the establishment of a Migration Profile (MP) for each interested developing country. Such a document, which would be prepared by the Commission in cooperation with the relevant country, would bring together all information relevant to migration and development, thus allowing for a more appropriate policy approach and contributing to a better understanding of the results of the policies implemented.

Each MPs would aim to gather information on issues such as the labour market situation, unemployment rates, labour demand and supply and present or potential skill shortages by sector and occupation, skills needs in the country, skills available in the diaspora, migration flows, incoming and outgoing financial flows linked with migration, including migrant remittances, as well as relevant gender aspects and those related to minors.

MPs would also include an overview of the policy framework of the country considered, including legal instruments relevant to migration. An overview of relevant projects and other initiatives in the country could also be included. They should finally aim to assess both the short- and long-term impact on developing countries' labour markets of various relevant migration-related policies, if possible at a sectoral and occupational level.

A large amount of information required for devising MPs is already available, although not from a single source and not systematically for each country. MPs would provide a framework for bringing existing information from different sources together in a structured manner. In the beginning, MPs would be incomplete, but by revealing the gaps in the available information, they would make it easier to fill these gaps as time went on.

Besides this factual information MPs should also review the results of analyses of the various areas that are relevant for migration policy. They would help respond to challenges such as how to deal with skills shortages or on the contrary labour surpluses, how to tap into the skills of the diaspora or how to maximise inflows of remittances and make more productive use thereof.