

Standing Committee meeting, Hamburg, 3 September 2017,

Attachment 4.2

24.8.2017/Memo

BSPC Working Group on Migration and Integration

Draft Scope of work and mandate

1. Requests from the Standing Committee Meeting 28 April 2017 in Hamburg

At the Standing Committee meeting 28 April, the scope, objective and tasks of a new BSPC Working Group on Innovation were discussed.

The meeting agreed to recommend the 26th BSPC to launch a new BSPC Working Group on Migration and Integration.

As in previous cases, the Working Group should discuss and define its priorities at its inaugural meeting.

A Chairperson of the new Working Group has not yet been proposed.

The BSPC Standing Committee will ponder the mandate and priorities of the new WG at the SC meeting in Hamburg on 3 September. The formal launching of the new WG will be made by the 26th BSPC, by means of a paragraph in the 26th BSPC Resolution.

2. Scope of Work of the new Working Group

The scope of work of WG ISHC should cover, but not be limited to, the following main items:

A. Migration and integration in the Baltic Sea region - a survey on the current situation

The refugee crisis as well as the topic of migration and integration defer in the Baltic Sea region states. To find a common platform for deliberations about common activities it seems to be necessary, that the working group elaborates a common fundament for the discussion by collecting information about the current situation in the Baltic Sea region countries and its immigration policies.

The information base should cover migration routes not only from the South and East to the West and North of Europe but also from other continents to Europe.

B. Best practice examples

The WG should, through e.g. expert presentations, study visits and questionnaires, collect and compile examples of best practices, integration programmes and measures, follow and influence political initiatives.

The issues should embrace various aspects related to migration and integration. The aim is to get an impression of the state of migration and integration in the Baltic Sea Region and to

identify where common action is possible and further action is needed. This will form one part of the base for the political recommendations of the WG. It should also be examined how the BSR countries could benefit from the experience of other countries.

C. Measures to Promote Integration

The WG should, by means of e.g. expert presentations, study visits and questionnaires, collect and compile examples of measures to promote integration.

The aim is to identify typical measures that have been applied and to assess the achievements made. This also serves to identify gaps and needs for measures to promote integration. This will form another part of the base for the political recommendations of the WG. The WG should further help to actively drive cooperation and develop recommendations for improving collaboration and exchange of information between Baltic Sea countries in matters related to immigration and migratory flows between various authorities, organisations and other operators.

D. Political Recommendations

The primary outcome of the activities of the WG is to elaborate political recommendations migration and integration. The political recommendations should be based on an assessment of the specific role and added value that the parliamentarians can contribute for the promotion of integration. The political recommendations constitute a manifestation of the joint political push that parliamentarians of the BSPC can exert on the governments of the Baltic Sea Region.

4. Timeframe for the Working Group

The WG will be launched by the 26th BSPC in Hamburg 4 September 2017. The first meeting of the WG migration and integration should be assembled before the end of 2017. The WG will then meet on at least five more occasions, tentatively in March 2018, June 2018, November 2018, March 2019 and May/June 2019. A mid-way report should be presented at the 27th BSPC in Mariehamn 2018. The final report of the WG will be submitted to the 28th BSPC.

5. The Inaugural Meeting of the Working Group

The first meeting of the WG should include the following issues:

- Expert presentations to give an overall view on the refugee prizes as well as on migration and integration in the Baltic Sea region and beyond;
- adoption of the mandate of the WG;
- deliberations over the topics, themes and priorities of the WG;
- appointment of vice chair(s) of the WG;
- meeting schedule, themes and venues.

The call for the first meeting of the WG will be issued immediately after the 26th BSPC.

Annex 1

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
The BSPC Working Group on Migration and Integration



Adopted by the 26th BSPC on 5 September 2017

The BSPC Working Group on Sustainable Tourism

1. Constitution

The Working Group is constituted as an ad-hoc working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in accordance with the BSPC Rules of Procedure.

2. Objectives

The overarching objective of the Working Group is to elaborate political positions and recommendations pertaining to migration and integration. For this purpose, the Working Group should establish and maintain contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and other actors in the Baltic Sea Region.

The scope of work of the Working Group should cover, but not be limited to, issues such as

- The state of the refugee crisis, migration and integration in the Baltic Sea Region;
- Best practices in migration and integration;
- Measures to solve current challenges;
- Challenges and opportunities for integration;

The Working Group and its members should aim at raising the political attention on migration and integration, for instance by pursuing those issues in the national parliaments of the members of the Working Group. Moreover, the Working Group should contribute to the exchange of knowledge and best practices within its area of responsibility. It should furthermore help to actively drive cooperation in the BSR on this policy field and to follow and influence political initiatives

The Working Group should provide political input to the Conference resolutions of the 27th and the 28th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conferences.

3. Participation

All member parliaments and parliamentary organizations of the BSPC are invited to participate in the Working Group with one member and one substitute each, accompanied by one advisor and/or one interpreter. Members and substitutes must be parliamentarians.

Representatives of other national parliaments and relevant international organizations can be involved by unanimous decision of the Working Group members.

4. Mode of Work

The Working Group shall be headed by a Chairmanship, consisting of a Chairperson and 1-2 Vice Chairpersons.

At its first meeting, the Working Group should appoint 1-2 Vice Chairpersons.

The Working Group should adopt a working plan at its first meeting.

Decisions of the Working Group shall be made by consensus. Abstentions do not disrupt consensus.

The working language shall be English for deliberations as well as documents. Russian interpretation will be provided on a need basis. Translation of background material and other documents for the Working Group meetings to any other language than English will only be done on request. The costs in such cases shall be borne by the requesting member parliament.

5. Administration

Basic secretariat resources for the Working Group arrangements and meetings will be provided by the Chairmanship of the Working Group together with the BSPC Secretariat.

Additional staff support to the Chair and Vice Chair(s) shall be provided by their home parliaments. Staff support to the members of the Working Group shall be provided by their home parliaments.

Meetings will be arranged on a rotating basis between member parliaments. The secretariat of the parliament hosting a meeting shall provide assistance to the practical preparation of the meeting (booking of meeting facilities and meals, suggestions for accommodation, necessary transportation, help in finding relevant local guest speakers etc).

6. Costs

Members and staff of the Working Group shall cover their own travel and accommodation costs and other expenses in connection to activities in the group.

Meeting costs and all related expenditures will, as a rule, be covered by the BSPC joint financing mechanism.

7. Timeframe

The start-up of the Working Group activities shall commence in fall 2017. The Working Group will agree on a meeting schedule at its first meeting.

The Working Group should present a midway report at the 27th BSPC in 2018. The final report of the Working Group shall be submitted to the 28th BSPC in 2019.