

TALSMANDEN GRUPE
SPREKERGRUPE
SPOKESMAN GROUP
GRUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE
GRUPA DEL PORTAVOCE
BUREAU VAN DE WOORDVOERERS

INFORMATION

INFORMATORISCHE AUßERZEICHNUNG

NOTE D'INFORMATION

NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE

TER DOCUMENTIE

Brussels, December 1974

ACTION PROGRAMME INFORMATION NEWS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Commission has approved and sent to the Council an action programme in favour of migrant workers and their families.¹ It has been drawn up in the framework of the Community's social action programme for the period 1974-76 and in accordance with the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 approving this programme.

Two of the principal goals which the Commission has set itself in this programme concern social security for migrants from third countries and political rights for all migrants regardless of origin.

Social Security: The aim is to grant non-Community migrants equality of treatment with their Community colleagues. The Commission advocates an intermediate stage which will ensure family allowances for children who remain in the country of origin. In addition, it urges the aggregation of periods of insurance, both in the home country and in the Community, so that pensions can relate to the total period of employment. Moreover, it also advocates the right to export to the home country sickness and old-age pensions.

Political rights: The Commission has taken up a position in favour of giving political rights at local level by 1980 to migrants irrespective of origin. These rights would be subject to reasonable residence requirements yet to be worked out. This is the most effective way of giving migrants real influence over their living and working conditions. As an immediate step, the Commission envisages the setting up of a system of consultative organisations which would ensure for migrants a voice in decisions taken at local level.

The number of migrant workers have increased sharply over the past decade. In 1973 over six million migrant workers were estimated to be employed in the Community, about three quarters of whom were from non-Community countries. If the families of these workers are taken into account the total migrant population in the Community is probably over ten million or 4% of the total population. It is estimated that about 10% of total immigration is carried out illegally.

This influx of migrant workers has had various effects on the countries concerned. The availability of foreign labour has contributed to a faster rate of economic growth than would otherwise have been possible, and has allowed the national economies to adjust more easily to short-term changes in demand. On the other hand the ready availability of a relatively cheap source of unskilled manpower has often retarded the search for greater productivity in Community industries.

Migration has also had important and adverse effects on the regional balance in the Community as it has encouraged the continuing concentration of resources and manpower in the Community's central and already heavily industrialised areas at the expense of the peripheral regions such as southern Italy, western Ireland, Brittany, Scotland, etc. The poorer regions can thus be said to subsidise the richer ones by supplying them with the better qualified and more dynamic elements of their population.

In the industrialised areas, on the other hand, the constant influx of migrants has aggravated urban problems by putting an increased burden on social facilities. The introduction to the present programme states that "there can be no permanent solution to the problems caused by migration within the Community without an effective Community regional policy to redress the existing imbalances and reduce the necessity for migration which at present exists."

Third country migrants

As the great majority of today's migrants come from outside the Community, it is essential to consider also the socio-economic repercussions of migration on the third

¹SEC(74)4242.

countries most affected. As with the poorer regions of the Community, these countries also are suffering a growing loss of manpower. A long-term programme for migrants cannot confine itself to the social problems caused by migration but must embrace the whole range of economic, regional, industrial and development policies which affect migration.

But in addition to the long-term, global approach to the problem of migration, there is an urgent need for specific social and educational measures to improve the conditions of the migrant workers and their families and it is with these aspects that the present programme concerns itself. The social conditions of migrants give cause for serious concern especially in the case of third country migrants who have no Community protection and rely solely on often restrictive national legislation.

The programme introduction sums up the situation thus: "after more than a decade of benefit from migrant labour, the Community finds itself with a large unassimilated group of foreign workers who share almost all the obligations of the society in which they live and work but, more often than not, have a less than equal share in its benefits and rights. This situation is in the long term intolerable - degrading for the migrant and dangerous for the Community".

The position of third country migrants is regulated mostly by bilateral agreements between the host country and the country of origin so the degree of protection varies throughout the Community. The Commission's view is that one of the basic aims of this action programme must be the progressive elimination of all discrimination against non-Community migrants in living and working conditions. This requires that solutions be found in common, hence the need for coordination of the policies of the Member States towards immigration from outside the Community.

In the case of Community migrants, Italian and Irish workers for the most part, a major step towards the abolition of discrimination based on nationality was achieved in respect of employment, wages and other working conditions by the adoption of Regulation 1612 in 1968. Nevertheless, experience has shown that to achieve full equality of treatment in living and working conditions this Regulation needs to be supplemented.

The Commission intends to implement the various items of the present programme by a series of proposals to the Council during 1975 and 1976, under the headings of free movement of labour, social security, health, vocational training, social services, housing, education of migrants' children, information and statistics, civic and political rights, illegal immigration, coordination of migration policies. The Commission will also submit as soon as possible a Charter for Migrants which has been requested by the European Parliament.

Some proposed actions

Some of the actions for which the Commission will be making concrete proposals in favour of migrant workers and their families are the following:

Free movement of labour

Implementing in 1975 the SEDOC system for the computerised exchange of information about labour supply and demand;

Extension of right of migrants to be joined by other family members;

Fuller exercise of trade union rights, e.g. participation in public law bodies.

Social Security

(a) For Community nationals

- Uniform system of payment for family benefits;
- Co-ordination of certain non-contributory schemes;
- Regulation concerning schemes for self employed.

(b) For third country nationals

- Extension of benefits.

Vocational training, including language

- Increased "crash courses";
- Extension of paid day release schemes;
- Pilot schemes for training and exchange of language specialists.

Social services

- Improvement and extension of social services;
- Examination of financing of housing for migrants plus pilot schemes.

Civic and political rights

- Full participation at local level in the life of the host country.

MIGRANT WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE COMMUNITIES

April 1973

Country of employment Country of origin	BELGIUM yearly average 1972	DENMARK 1.1.71	GERMANY at the end of January 1973	FRANCE 31.12.72	IRELAND 1972	ITALY yearly average 1971	LUXEMBOURG yearly average 1972	THE NETHERLANDS 15.6.72	UNITED KINGDOM 1971 approximately	Estimated total of migrant workers employed in the Communities by nationality during 1973
Belgium	-	155	11,504	25,000	50	539	6,700	23,308	13,500	80,000
Denmark	200	-	3,954	1,000	50	248	-	180	2,000	7,500
Germany	4,500	4,080	-	25,000	210	7,190	3,800	12,000	20,000	78,000
France	15,000	526	54,669	-	210	4,145	6,200	1,700	20,000	102,000
Ireland	100	150	806	1,000	-	300	-	180	470,000	472,000
Italy	87,000	477	409,448	230,000	500	-	10,900	9,000	121,000	869,000
Luxembourg	1,400	1	2,209	2,000	7	32	-	60	500	6,200
The Netherlands	13,500	593	75,127	5,000	250	1,146	600	-	6,000	102,000
United Kingdom	5,000	2,515	19,839	10,000	-	4,500	100	3,800	-	46,000
E.E.C.	126,700	8,497	577,556	299,000	1,277	18,100	28,300	50,228	652,000	1,762,700
Greece	30,000	934	179,157	270,000	-	2,006	1,700	12,981	30,000	526,000
Yugoslavia	7,000	3,453	268,406	5,000	-	768	-	1,126	50,000	332,000
Portugal	1,200	4,520	465,611	50,000	-	4,103	400	8,388	4,000	538,000
Turkey	3,500	934	68,994	380,000	-	631	6,500	2,567	5,000	469,000
Algeria	12,000	5,730	528,414	18,000	-	317	-	21,588	3,000	589,000
Morocco	3,000	-	1,700	450,000	-	-	-	-	600	456,000
Tunisia	16,500	1,645	15,261	120,000	-	-	-	12,843	2,000	168,000
Other non-Member countries	2,100	-	11,124	60,000	-	-	-	-	200	74,000
Total number of non-Member countries	18,000	11,148	230,575	118,000	843	18,205	2,000	12,259	918,205	1,341,000
TOTAL	93,300	28,364	1,769,241	471,000	943	26,030	12,600	71,752	1,013,005	4,493,000
	220,000	36,861	2,346,800	770,000	2,120	44,130	40,900	121,950	1,655,005	6,255,700