



**Report of Ms. Farah Karimi,
Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration
to the Standing Committee**

(23rd OSCE PA Autumn Meeting, Istanbul, 17 November 2025)

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to report to you for the first time since I was appointed by President Pons to chair this important Committee for the next two years.

Our Committee currently consists of 15 Members from 13 different OSCE participating States. We are looking to include several more Members from non-EU countries such as Central Asia in order to ensure that it is more representative of the OSCE region and the various experiences with migration.

We met online in September to discuss priorities and agreed to focus on the following three topics:

- Implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: Implications for EU and non-EU Member States
- The Experiences of Local Authorities with Migration
- Migration and Economic Development

1. Implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: Implications for EU and non-EU Member States

Our Committee has chosen to focus on the very timely topic of implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. The Pact was adopted by the European Council and the European Parliament in May 2024, after three years of hard and complex negotiations. Support for the ten legislative acts which make up the Pact is by no means homogeneous across EU Member States, and the debate is extremely politicized and polarized. There is pressure for additional changes. There are furthermore a number of issues which need to be addressed, notably concerning returns.

Even though it entered into force on 11 June 2024, the Pact will only enter into application after two years, as of 12 June 2026, so that EU Member States have time to introduce the required changes to national legislation.

Implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum is a complex process that involves multiple actors, including the European Commission, EU Member States, and EU agencies. The deadline for implementation is only seven months away. Yet, much remains to be done by individual EU Member States.

Over the coming months we will organize a number of online and in-person activities to enable Members of the Committee to better understand the requirements and challenges associated with implementation of the Pact. The Committee is especially interested in the new procedures to be implemented at the external borders of the EU. As the OSCE region also encompasses non-EU Member States, it is also important for us to understand implications also for non-EU Member States, in particular countries of origin and transition of migrants and refugees. The Committee also attaches great importance to the issue of fundamental rights and freedoms and the guarantees foreseen for the rights of persons in vulnerable categories such as unaccompanied minors but also victims of trafficking and torture.

We have already had a good online discussion on implementation of the Pact on 3 November with the head of the European Commission's Directorate for Migration and Asylum Michael Shotter as well as a representative of UNHCR's Brussels office.

From 28-29 January 2026, a delegation of the Committee will travel to Brussels to discuss European migration policy and migration cooperation with countries of origin and transit in greater detail with Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner, as well as other key stakeholders. This will also provide an opportunity for Members to learn more about the new Pact for the Mediterranean, unveiled by the European Commission on 16 October 2025 and which seeks to create a common Mediterranean space through three areas of cooperation including migration management, with the EU's Southern Mediterranean Partners in North Africa and the Middle East.

2. The Experiences of Local Authorities in large urban centres with Migration

Local authorities are key stakeholders in migration management. Throughout the many field visits which it has carried out since its inception, the Committee has always sought to meet with mayors and other local authorities to listen to their perspectives and learn more about how migration is impacting their local communities, both positively and negatively.

The idea behind this second area of focus is to generate insights into how large urban centres deal with the complex realities of migration, focusing on the

governance challenges and opportunities created by the presence of diverse groups of migrants and refugees. The discussions will aim to highlight examples of best practice and to also draw some lessons as to how we can foster more effective, equitable and sustainable approaches to migration management while strengthening social cohesion. Due consideration will be given to how city administrations balance social inclusion, public order and resource allocation and to mechanisms to ensure the participation of civil society and community organizations in policy making and implementation.

Our first case study will be the beautiful city of Istanbul which is hosting us for this Autumn Meeting. During our Committee meeting on 17 November we will hear from two speakers from the Presidency of Migration Management of the Ministry of Interior as well as from the Union of Marmara Municipalities who will brief our Committee about the national framework as well as the perspectives of municipal authorities. There will also be representatives from various migrant communities in Istanbul to contribute to the discussion on achievements and challenges. The situation in Syria and sustainability of returns will also be on the agenda of this Committee meeting.

I also intend to use the opportunity of next year's Annual Session to focus on the experiences of local authorities in The Hague in dealing with migrants and refugees. Hopefully we can look at a few other large urban centres as well.

3. Migration and Economic Development

Finally, the Committee has agreed to delve deeper into the dynamic relationship between migration and economic development, with a dual focus on both receiving and origin countries. The Committee intends to explore how migrants contribute to economic growth in host societies through labour market participation, entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer while also analysing the structural challenges which migration can pose for countries of origin particularly the loss of skilled workers through 'brain drain' and its long-term development consequences. We will also seek to identify examples of good practice which maximize the developmental benefits of migration while mitigating its adverse effects, fostering more balanced and sustainable outcomes for all stakeholders.

Next Steps

I look forward to reporting to you again in greater depth at our Winter Meeting in Vienna.

Thank you for your attention.

ANNEX I

OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

A. Mandate

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration was established following the unanimous decision of the OSCE PA Standing Committee on 25 February 2016 in Vienna. Its mandate is defined as follows:

- Serve as a focal point for the OSCE PA's work in the field of migration in all three dimensions of the OSCE: political and security questions; economic issues; and human rights and humanitarian questions; and report back to the President and the Standing Committee;
- Develop policy recommendations aimed at enhancing OSCE work in the field of migration and at improving the treatment of, and prospects for, migrants in OSCE countries;
- Promote discussion within the Assembly on issues related to migration, and promote parliamentary exchanges of best practice in these fields;
- Work closely with the OSCE Secretariat and Institutions as well as with relevant outside actors on issues related to migration to promote the understanding among the members of the Assembly of the importance of the work done in this field.

B. Membership *(as of 13 November 2025)*

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration consists of 15 members from 13 OSCE participating States (8 men, 7 women):

- Farah KARIMI (Netherlands), Chair
- Kemal ÇELİK (Türkiye), Vice-Chair
- Alessandro ALFIERI (Italy), Vice-Chair
- Jan BAUER (Czechia)
- Valérie BOYER (France)
- Johan BÜSER (Sweden)
- Fabrizio COMBA (Italy)
- Hedy FRY (Canada)
- Kyriakos HADJIYIANNI (Cyprus), OSCE PA Vice-President
- Pia KAUMA (Finland), President Emeritus
- Gudrun KUGLER (Austria), OSCE PA Vice-President
- Artemi Vicent RALLO (Spain)
- Özgül SAKI (Türkiye)
- Angelos SYRIGOS (Greece)
- Baroness Rosie WINTERTON (United Kingdom)