



Provisional edition

Thursday 24 June 2021, morning

Official report of debates

Debate: For a European policy on diasporas

Mr Viorel-Riceard BADEA (Romania, EPP/CD): Dear colleagues, dear President,

First of all, I would like to express my greatest support for this report, because of the proposals that the draft resolution and the draft recommendation contain.

As a senator representing Romanians living beyond the country's borders, I am following this topic with great interest and I am concerned about the way in which my fellow citizens are integrated in the states where they have chosen to live, in the majority of cases, as a result of the European Union's right to free choice of movement and residence.

There are significant communities of Romanians in Spain, Italy, Great Britain, Germany, but also in many other states. According to a study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Romania is the fifth largest diaspora in the world in terms of the number of inhabitants.

I have initiated at the Council of Europe, in this Assembly, up to now three motions for resolution on issues that unequivocally refer to the fate of a large part of the Romanian diaspora. Respectively the right to work of domestic workers, especially women, the impact of labour migration on the children left in the countries of origin.

All these documents became resolutions of the Parliamentary Assembly. The precarious status of trans-customer and seasonal workers in Europe was another proposal of mine that has already been forwarded to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons for allocation to the rapporteur.

I hope that the recommendations included in these documents will be taken into account as relevant factors for improving the situation of these people. In order to provide decent working conditions similar to those given to any employee, both for domestic and trans-domestic workers, and not least for the provision of increased protection for these children whose parents have gone to work abroad.

Dear colleagues, the engagement of the members of the diaspora community in everything that represents the life of the community in which they live, through their involvement in the decision-making process for their respective community, is extremely important. But, at the same time, the efforts that states of origin have to make to create within a reasonable time frame solid premises to facilitate the return to the country of origin for the members of the diaspora who want to undertake this return are also very important.

In this report:

1. Speeches in English, French, German and Italian are reported in full in English.
2. Speeches in other languages are summarised from the interpretation and indicated by an asterisk (*).
3. Speeches in German and Italian are available in full on the Assembly's website.
4. The text of the amendments is available at the document centre and on the Assembly's website. Only oral amendments or oral sub-amendments are reproduced in the report of debates.
5. Corrections should be handed in at Room 1081 not later than 24 hours after the report has been published.

However, I strongly support a strategic partnership between civil society, states and the private sector and international organisations capable of generating a European diaspora policy. And this proposal to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to draw up a white paper of good practices of diaspora inclusion in the member States of the Council of Europe seems to me an excellent proposal.

Thank you very much.