

European Movement International Work Plan 2016

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1 Introduction

The EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL (EMI) is a non-profit association whose main objective is to contribute to the establishment of a united, federal Europe founded on the principles of peace, democracy, liberty, solidarity, and respect for basic human rights. The European Movement brings together a large spectrum of organisations, including National Councils (39), International Associations (32) and Supporting Members (3).

The EMI members are united through a network that allows the European Movement to fulfil its role as a promoter of active participation of citizens and civil society organisations. This wide and diversified membership is allowed through the initial choice made to welcome all types of cultural, political, economic and social orientations at the heart of the European Movement.

The EMI Work Plan for 2016 will include three general types of actions: Statutory Activities (Federal Assembly, Members Council and Board Meetings); Networking and Capacity-Building Activities; and Content-based and/or Project-oriented Activities.

Following the success of the membership policy in the past few years, in 2016 the EMI will continue to strengthen its network through an active strategy of new members' recruitment. This plan clearly focuses on increasing the support base of the EMI and its ability to reach out to more citizens through further organized civil society sectors across Europe.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the EMI will seek to find the correct balance between promoting the active involvement of civil society organisations through the promotion of civil dialogue at the European level, and the active participation of European citizens through activities oriented towards the general public (with the involvement of the EM National Councils). As in past years, the main objective will be to narrow the gap between citizens and the European Institutions through an enhanced communication strategy that involves civil society and the different levels of government (and particularly the EMI network) as an interface between the two.

The European Movement's debate will be in lead with the priorities of the European Commission, laid out in their ambitious work plan, the priorities of the European Council, laid out in the Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change, and the priorities of the Dutch and Slovak presidencies. It will focus especially on those priorities that address the empowerment and participation of all citizens, working to improve the democratic governance and legitimacy of the EU by improved civil dialogue, enhanced transparency and quality of the consultation processes, and raising public awareness of European issues. With the Parliament, Commission and Council President in their positions for over a year, it is time to put ideas into practice.

2 Statutory Activities

In 2016, the EMI will convene one meeting of its Federal Assembly, one meeting of its Members' Council and four meetings of its Board.

2.1 Federal Assembly

The 2016 meeting of the Federal Assembly (FA) will take place in **the Netherlands**, on the occasion of the **Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union – in May 2016**. It will gather around 100 delegates from all over Europe, representing the EMI Members, its Board, staff and external guests.

2.2 Members' Council

The 2016 meeting of the Members' Council (MC) will take place on **25 November 2016** in **Geneva, Switzerland**. It will gather around 75 delegates coming from all over Europe, representing the EMI Members, its Board, staff and external guests.

2.3 Board Meetings

The EMI Board will meet four times in 2016 and the meetings' dates will be later defined. The Board meetings are to be attended by the Board members and supported by few staff members.

3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

The EMI Network is currently composed by 74 Member Organisations, including 39 National Councils, 32 International Associations and 3 Supporting Members. Considering the network as a whole, we still need to take into consideration important disparities regarding the size and capacities of respective Members: some of them are already at a very advanced stage concerning the structure, resources and capacities, whilst others are still in a developing phase, trying to grow and consolidate their activities, as well as organisational structures. The EMI will maintain its efforts to **attract new Members** by developing target group-oriented actions; but in 2016 it will also focus on **strengthening the capacities** of the already existing ones. The EMI shall do so by organising opportunities for exchange among the European associations, trainings, regional cooperation projects and other capacity-building opportunities aimed at the National Councils. The EMI Secretariat dedicates its work-power equally to all Members and, likewise, focuses both on political communication and political representation.

In 2016, the EMI will work to keep constant contact with its civil society partners in order to further develop co-operation as well as strive to develop new partnerships facilitating the network, especially in the regions where the cooperation is still underdeveloped or non-existent. The aim of the EMI is to develop itself as an essential aggregating pole of European-minded civil society, both at the national and pan-European levels. In order to fulfil this objective, our organisation has to build upon its reputation while improving its image and efficiency as a space for dialogue, exchange and co-operation. With that in mind, the EMI will further develop its communication tools, which are crucial for both visibility and capacity-building. In 2014, the EMI changed and updated its website, which now allows for a greater flow of information, with more items being posted and a greater flexibility in the types of content that can be used – with a lot more focus on visuals. In 2016, and going forwards, EMI members will be encouraged to use the comment features of the new website, and also to volunteer items to be featured. Of particular note is a new events calendar that displays upcoming and past events from across the network. The information posted on the website is also now regularly disseminated via the two main EMI social media channels: its Twitter and Facebook accounts. In 2016, the EMI also plans to redevelop its members' newsletter to allow for greater sharing and understanding of different member organisation's activities from across the network.

In 2016 the EMI will continue to organise **briefing events, conferences and seminars** on diverse European topics in line with the current European agenda, not only in Brussels, but also Europe-wide, in cooperation with its National Councils and International Associations. Those events have proven to be very successful, both in terms of content and attendance. While bringing together representatives of the European Institutions and Civil Society Organisations, the EMI briefings allow for debates around new ideas for Europe and discussing the role of civil society in the context of participatory democracy in different areas of policy making. Those activities are also a powerful instrument for attracting new members. The visibility they offer to the EMI shows the importance of such events in the current European context.

In that context, specific services will be offered to Members, as for example the dissemination of a European agenda presenting the main issues at stake, or the dissemination of specific information on a certain topic.

Likewise, and building up on the success of the previous editions, the EMI will organise its yearly **Heads of Office Meeting in October 2016**. The meeting targets individuals in charge of the daily management of the EMI Members: General Secretaries, Executive Directors, Presidents or

Board Members. The main purpose of the event is to share experiences and good practices in order to improve the Members' internal co-operation, but also their relations to the European Institutions. In the past, mentoring initiatives among Members have proven their value. These experiences will again be promoted in the next years, based on a specific analysis of the Organisations that should work together and taking into account the past experience.

In 2016, the EMI will also organize its yearly Meeting of International Associations. This gathering is a concept that was created in 2013 and by 2016 will be into its 3rd iteration, with an annual meeting planned usually for February. It is a reflection of the growing number of International Associations amongst EMI members, which brings with it an ever-evolving dynamic on how the EMI's network operates. The meetings are organised as a brainstorm, to hear from members, and to work out what exchanges the EMI should facilitate, in terms of:

- Communications between member organisations, as it becomes an increasingly diverse organisation ;
- Access to information vis-à-vis the institutions ;
- Creating added value for members work.

All these actions aim at promoting and supporting the network of EMI Members and creating a collective sense of responsibility for the organisation. In that context specific priorities could be delegated to some Members that would be in charge of dealing with the issue and have a mandate to come back to the EMI with a proposal, a statement or an analysis of this subject. In that way, Members will feel more responsible for some debates on the European level.

Last but not least, and in order to promote a good and fluid communication between the Members, EMI Board and Secretariat, regular contacts with the European Associations will be further exercised, the EMI-Wiki will be updated, promoted and coordinated by the Secretariat, and visits to the National Councils will be planned and conducted by Board and/or Secretariat Members.

4 Content-based Activities

Most of the content-based activities will be developed by, or at least originate from the work of the three Political Committees, which operate in line with EMI Strategic Priorities. These Political Committees will meet in the fringes of the Statutory Meetings and whenever deemed necessary, and are open to all the Members. Whenever possible, the Political Committees will cooperate and/or initiate projects which are relevant to more than one of them.

The Political Committees can delegate parts of their work to specific Members. Their main purpose is to determine the lobbying positions that the EMI will defend in the name of its Members in the European institutions.

4.1 EMI Political Committee on More Democracy, Citizens' Rights and Freedom

Looking at the results of the European elections 2014, it seems fundamental to work on some changes at the EU level in order to reconnect the European Project with its citizens and civil society. The EMI Political Committee on More Democracy, Citizens' Rights and Freedom will work on improving the EU democratic governance following the partnership principle and a possible relaunch, promoting the implementation of participatory democracy, involvement of representative associations and civil society organisations and renewal of citizens' initiatives in policy making processes, such as those EU programmes aiming to build active European citizenship.

The EMI will continue to coordinate Europe+ Civil Society for the Renewal of European Democracy, an alliance made of more than 40 European organisations. After its successful launch on 8 July 2014, EMI will keep on mobilising Europe+ members to strengthen the European debate and "civil dialogue" with EU institutions and to work towards a constructive regeneration of the European project. EMI will develop adequate multi-level instruments to communicate the aims and actions of Europe+. The PC will offer members of Europe+ which are not (yet) members of EMI an observer status.

The scope of the initiative is the enforcement of implementation of existing Treaty's provisions or introducing changes to the Treaty through a Convention where necessary; working together for positive democratic change in the EU through the active and better involvement of citizens.

The PC will endeavour on consolidating the Freedom of Movement while addressing the need for a Common European Migration and Asylum Policy, protecting fundamental rights and fighting against discrimination and achieving proper and reliable Data Protection, as well as the freedom of assembly and association. In that framework, the PC will elaborate on how to foster political and legal instruments in order to safeguard the rule of law in the European Union.

The PC will develop a position on informal trilogues which are more and more used to substitute the EU's normal legislative procedure, making it less accessible for representative associations and civil society organisations to participate in the process.

The PC shall foster democracy also Europe wide. Together with the PC "Europe in the World" will deal with the European Dimension of democracy and civil rights in accession countries and other Council of Europe countries and Belarus.

4.2 EMI Political Committee on Jobs, Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth

- **Implementation of COP21**

In December 2015, the COP21 summit in Paris should come up with a (hopefully binding) text aiming to limit the increase in temperatures to less than 2°C. The EU is aiming to include a clause to make it possible to revise the target of 2°C in time.

On the sides of the summit, CSOs will be meeting to share already existing initiatives and push forward the radical change that society needs to undergo in order to limit climate change and deal with the consequences that have already appeared. After the summit there will be a need to put pressure on governments to implement the adopted text. In 2016, the Political Committee will track and advocate implementation of the new agreement.

- **Energy union**

The Energy Union is the EU's response to the Russian threat to its gas supplies and a way to implement the commitments made at the COP21 in Paris as well as in the European Council in October 2014 (40% reduction greenhouse gasses; 27% non-binding energy efficiency and renewable target). An Energy Union package was published by the Commission on 25 February 2015. The plans for energy union include completing the single market, increasing energy security, boosting efficiency, reducing the use of fossil fuels and increased research on new energy sources. Throughout 2016, new legislative proposals on the implementation Energy Union are expected. The Political Committee will monitor these developments.

- **Follow-up on the EMU Report**

In February 2015, Jean-Claude Juncker presented an "Analytical Note on the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)", prepared in close cooperation with the Presidents of the European Council, Eurogroup and European Central Bank. This analysis prepares the ground for discussion, and is meant to be the first step towards a report of the Four Presidents on the future of the Economic and Monetary Union, to be presented in June 2015. Furthermore, the Commission will present in 2015 a package on deepening the Economic and Monetary Union. In 2016, the Political Committee will focus on the follow-up to the Presidents report and EC Communication.

- **Social Union / European Social Model**

A European Social Union, or social dimension of the European Monetary Union, is a concept increasingly discussed. There have been increasing calls to revive the European Social Model, urging the Commission to choose a different path after promoting austerity measures. In light of the crisis and deepening of the EMU, it is of interest: the European Monetary Union and social aspects are interlinked – i.e. social imbalances such as youth unemployment threaten the Monetary Union. Already, a European minimum wage is advocated as a source of growth and stability. In 2016, the Political Committee will track and engage in these discussions, to develop an EMI opinion and to deliver input at an early stage.

- **Review of the Juncker Investment Plan**

The Juncker Investment Plan, presented in November 2014, has come under criticism from Member States and NGOs for various reasons (i.e. no earmarked sums, the possible diversion of money away from existing structural funds, the estimated leverage effect). In 2016, the Commission will review progress of the Juncker plan, including at the level of Heads of State and Government. A Civil Society aspect in this review is important, seen the foreseen impact on jobs and growth. The Political Committee will see if it can contribute to the Investment Plan review.

- **Own resources**

Before the end of 2016 a report on the EU's own resources will be presented by a High Level Group chaired by Mario Monti. As the EMI has always advocated own resources (possibly via a Financial Transaction Tax), it will closely monitor the process, provide input if necessary and take its positions once the report has been presented. It will also work a on follow-up to the report, if possible.

- **Youth guarantee**

The Youth Guarantee is a tool to ensure that all youth under 25 receive a quality job, internship or education offer within four months of finishing school or becoming unemployed, endorsed in April 2013. Youth organisations (namely AEGEE) have criticized the national Youth Guarantee implementation and ensuing Commission analysis, namely because of the low budget allocated by the EU and the limited (or non-existent) involvement of the youth sector in the implementation of the plans at national level. In 2016, the Political Committee, with the support of member organisations involved in youth work, will monitor the implementation of the national plans and the involvement of the youth sector, making constructive suggestions for improvement where necessary.

- **Education: E-skills**

Europe's job market will increasingly become dependent on IT skills of its workforce, but training in this area is severely lacking. Several initiatives have been launched by the Commission to try to address this issue. To raise awareness on e-skills and the demand for highly skilled digital jobs the Commission has been organizing the "e-Skills Week". This initiative mobilises more than 650 organisations across Europe, including NGOs, in a wide range of pan-European and national activities. Seeing the relevance of better e-skills for the reduction of youth unemployment and the link with the Juncker investment plan and the Digital Single Market, the Political committee will monitor the developments in this initiative and contribute where necessary, also by communicating on them at national level to raise awareness among stakeholders. It will also engage the European Movement in the e-skills campaign as a representative of European civil society.

- **Open Innovation 2.0**

Open Innovation 2.0 is a new innovation paradigm involving all stakeholders (citizens, public sector, enterprises and research) together aiming at reinforcing the European jobs and growth market. Very often citizens are not as involved in the innovation process as they could be. Their role is important, as they can engage with fresh ideas and reasoning which elaborates on the

practical aspects of every innovative product. Therefore, open engagement platforms can well be driven by public sector together with industry e.g. in areas like healthcare, education and training, or other public services where the users have strong preference in the quality, performance and cost of the services. Digital platforms should lead to new kinds of structures in service sector, and if properly designed, the engagement platforms offer entirely new innovation space for active citizens. Open Innovation and open engagement platforms lead also to entirely new digital skill profiles. Curiosity and courage are driving the entrepreneurship whilst the engagement platforms provide the needed safety net of like-minded peers.

- **Digital economy and new citizenship**

Digital developments provide also meaningful change to the public administration, establishing much more effective, simplified and users' friendly e-administration, which obviously needs interoperability solutions for Europe. These developments introduce the opportunity for open governments: opening public data and delivering full access to the public information, building the new relation between the state and citizens creating possibilities for online consultations, crowdsourcing models, in which citizens can play the role of source of knowledge for public institutions, and empowering citizens in the participation in the legislative proposals and decision making processes, which leads us to the participatory democracy development. These developments also can respond to the new expectations of the citizens as the residents of the big cities, because they create the good basis for the smart cities development. In general, these developments will create the new citizenship, which is needed for reinvigorating European democracy.

4.3 EMI Political Committee “Europe in the World”

The EMI Political Committee “Europe in the World” will actively monitor the work of the European External Action Service and contribute to the shaping of an EU Foreign Policy. It will also closely follow the work of international institutions and bodies involved in the shaping of the European Security and Defence Policy, and the global dimension of European relations.

- **Sustainable Development**

The governments, civil society, international institutions and other partners are building on the momentum generated by the Millennium Development Goals and the progress made so far to achieve them. An ambitious Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda is expected to be adopted by UN Member States at the Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015. The anchoring of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals in European policy and its funding will constitute a core of work of the Dutch EU Presidency (January-July 2016), which will play a role in designing the future relationship between the EU and developing countries. With this in mind, benefiting from the work done through 2015 in relation to the European Year of Development, the Political Committee “Europe in the World” will further contribute to the shaping of the role of the EU as a strong global player in development cooperation.

- **European Values' Promotion – Global Dimension**

With regard to the above, the theme of the next European Year, “A European Year to End Violence against Women”, as well as the focus of the Dutch Presidency in the first semester of 2016, the work of the PC will pay special attention to the problem of human rights protection and gender equality. The Commission's work program envisages proposals necessary for the signature, conclusion and implementation of EU's accession agreement to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to ensure greater effectiveness and homogeneity in the observance of fundamental rights in Europe. With respect to the external policy, the work

program stresses the necessity of including the promotion of human rights in all external actions since Article 21 of the Treaty requires the EU to mainstream human rights in all Union's actions on the international scene. In 2016, the first-ever United Nation's global humanitarian summit will take place in Istanbul and set a new agenda for global humanitarian action. It will focus on humanitarian effectiveness, reducing vulnerability and managing risk, transformation through innovation, and serving the needs of people in conflict, and the PC shall follow on its proceedings accordingly.

- **South-North Dialogue**

As a follow up of its activities within the framework of the South-North Mediterranean Dialogue, an initiative of the EMI, launched in Malta in November 2004 and concluded in Tunis in 2012, due to the latest developments in the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa – inter alia Libya, Syria and rise of terrorism in Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) - tightly linked to the future of Europe, the Political Committee will reintegrate the South-North Dialogue into its agenda. The threats and cruel attacks faced particularly in the Middle East pose particular challenges here. To start with, new contacts should be developed with civil society actors and public authorities on both shores of the Mediterranean, in order to engage with them in smaller, more concrete, but also longer-term actions and activities, which could prospectively lead to the organisation of the fourth EMI Mediterranean Congress. The work in this policy area can be tightly linked to the cluster on promotion of human rights in EU external actions and fight with terrorism and extremism.

- **European Neighbourhood Policy**

Another goal of the PC is the reinforcement of the EU Neighbourhood Policy. As Middle East and MENA countries within this policy framework are covered by the goals of "South-North Mediterranean Dialogue", the special focus of this work cluster will be on developing the perspectives of the Eastern Partnership countries, and enhancing the dialogue with Russia, one of the major challenges of the EU foreign policy. The PC will support the progress of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova on the European path. Also, a new course of work in Ukraine will be established, with a perspective launch of the European Movement in Ukraine. The PC will also actively continue its Armenia-Azerbaijan Dialogue over the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework of EMI Tbilisi Process started in 2012. The PC will also encourage the dialogue between civil society organizations and local, regional governments. As the closest level of government to the citizens, Local and Regional Governments are the natural partners of CSOs. Through the dialogue that they build with their counterparts, they can support peace processes and the development of democracy. In late 2015 the High Representative will present the results of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) review with a view to new policy orientations following a consultation launched together with the annual ENP package. The PC shall follow up the consultation results and adjust its actions to the new ENP orientations.

- **EU Enlargement**

Directorate General European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the Juncker team give the enlargement negotiations the same priority and intensity as in the previous years. Therefore, the PC will continue on monitoring the EU Enlargement policy and supporting the European agenda of candidate and potential candidate countries. Through its wide scope of work in the region, which includes a plethora of diverse project partnerships, the PC will actively follow-up on the advancements of the Western Balkans and Turkey EU accession process and foster the necessary reform processes.

- **International Trade**

As the international trade policy contributes to the strategic priorities of the EU, boosting “the Union of jobs, growth and competitiveness”, the PC will promote the Union as a strong global player, fostering the open European trade policy agenda with focus on people and the environment. The emphasis will be put on the bilateral negotiations with the US (TTIP) and Japan. The former constitutes a priority for the PC, further to the nature and impact of the agreement, and following the 2014 and 2015 work, which focused on the involvement of the civil society and representatives of the all levels of governments in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership being negotiated with the USA and transatlantic policy monitoring. The PC will promote pursuing open and fair trade and investment negotiations also with other partners such as Canada, India and number of emerging economies, and focus on sustainable trade achieved through trade agreements.

- **Security and Defence**

The rapidly changing international security situation in Europe and beyond calls for a stronger, more effective Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). As CSDP constitutes one of the core priorities of the Dutch Presidency, the PC will monitor the implementation of the plans of what will be decided during June 2016 summit. The PC will work for further deepening of defense cooperation in Europe and enhancing links with international organisations such as NATO (NATO 2016 Poland Summit) and OSCE. The external dimensions of Migration and Energy strategies, with a special focus on the project of the European Energy Union, will also lie within the scope of the PC’s work.

- **Reform of Global Governance**

The PC will tackle the issue of the international institutional reform. Many of today’s international institutions were created at the end of World War II, more than 60 years ago. The current institutional set proves to be inefficient in today’s multilateral, rapidly changing world, as it was proved in case of Greece and Troika in 2015. In the year to follow, the PC will take a look into ways of possible institutional reform and making the European governance more effective.

5. Project-oriented Activities

5.1. Training Academy

A one-week **annual session** of the EMI Training Academy will take place in Brussels. It will focus on capacity building activities, visits to all the EU institutions and meetings with European professionals. **Tailor-made trainings** will continue to be organised upon request (prospective cooperation with the Université St-Louis-Bruxelles and Lomonosov Moscow State University).

EMI Training Academy's **Alumni** will continue to benefit from privileged invitations to closed EMI events.

Launched in 2014, **Webinars** for the EMI network on different topics of interest will be organised. The number of EMI Webinars open to the public (students, professionals etc.) is still to be defined.

The **partnership** with the Spanish University CEPADE on their on-line academy will be further developed. It will be an on-line bilingual (Spanish-English) academy on European affairs targeting first Erasmus students, and then reaching out to others. The EMI Training Academy will be responsible for promotion of the venture and providing lecturers and other support where necessary. The European Movement in Spain is also involved, bringing its active support in the country, as well as JEF and ESN. The idea is to develop this project across Europe and later include other universities in different countries.

EMI Training Academy's **Communications**: newsletter - continued development of the database and involvement of alumni; Facebook and Twitter – active promotion of activities, website development.

5.2. EMI Transnational Activities, open to all Members

Among the added values that the EMI brings to its Members is the possibility to take part in transnational, pan-European activities and projects, and the exchange of best practices. The EMI Secretariat supports its National Councils and International Associations in establishing transnational cooperation, e.g. by suggesting initiatives, providing support in the application for grants or the implementation of projects, also as co- or leading applicants for calls. Projects that illustrate and emphasize the aspects of pan-European co-operation and best practices' exchange will therefore continue to be developed, whenever possible, in 2016.

Other than these, transversal projects such as the Europe Day will also be developed and implemented in cooperation with the Members who are interested and wish to contribute.

5.2.1. 9 May–Europe Day 2016

Once again, the European Movement International will commemorate the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 2016. In close cooperation with its Members, and with the support of the European Commission, the EMI will develop a wide range of activities involving many citizens all over the continent.

In order to reach out to even more citizens, the EMI will seek the support of many local, national and European partners with the objective of bridging the gap between citizens and the European institutions. The use of a common visual identity and materials will also help the EMI to increase the European dimension of the events and to give more

visibility to the celebrations. Moreover, in an effort to strengthen the network, several meetings (physical and/or via Skype) will be organised prior to the celebrations to build up a common strategy of action and exchange material and good practices.

5.2.2. Revitalising the "Woman of Europe" Award

The EMI continues its actions to revitalise its 'Woman of Europe Award' internal network, adding a European dimension to discussions on enhancing the role of women in European integration. Building on the mapping of internal and external interested actors and first discussions on the project in 2015, an internal network of former Award winners and other interested members will be established. Within this internal network, the aims and structure of the platform will be discussed. Based on this, a meeting will be organised at the European level. As a next step, the EMI will reach out to actors outside the EMI network.