



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



**Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the
Governments of the Member States on the strengthening of
integration policies in the European Union by promoting unity in
diversity**

*2807th JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 12 and 13 June 2007*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

**"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES**

Recalling previous European Council Conclusions, with special focus on the Thessaloniki European Council Conclusions of June 2003 and the Brussels European Council Conclusions on 4/5 November 2004 on The Hague Programme, which emphasized the importance of integration in the context of a comprehensive European migration policy,

Recalling the Council Conclusions on Integration of third-country nationals of October 2002 where the Council encouraged the establishment of National Contact Points on Integration (NCPI),

Recalling the Common Basic Principles (CBP) for Immigrant Integration Policy in the European Union adopted by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on 19 November 2004,

P R E S S

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Recalling the Communication from the Commission on a Common Agenda for Integration: Framework for the Integration of third-country nationals in the European Union, adopted in September 2005,

Recalling the Conclusions adopted by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on a Common Agenda for Integration of 1 December 2005,

Recalling that a general approach has been reached for the adoption of a Council Decision establishing the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for the period of 2007-2013 as part of the General Programme “Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows”,

Recalling the European Conference on active participation of ethnic minority youth in society held in Copenhagen in September 2006 and the Conference on Integrating Cities: European Policies, local practices held in Rotterdam in October 2006,

Recalling the outcome of the exchange of views and experiences in the Informal Meeting of the EU Integration Ministers held in Potsdam in May 2007 to further strengthen the integration policies in the European Union by promoting unity in diversity,

Recalling the Report of the European Parliament on strategies and means for the integration of immigrants in the European Union of May 2006, the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on Immigration in the EU and integration policies: cooperation between regional and local governments and civil society organizations of September 2006 and the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions of May 2006 on the Communication of the Commission on a Common Agenda for Integration, (among other activities developed at Community level on integration by the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions).

AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

1. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States stress the need to promote a global and coherent approach to integration policies, migrant flow management, development and co-operation with the countries of origin. They recognize the complementary linkage between immigration and integration.
2. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States recognize that integration is a dynamic two-way process involving both immigrants and the host society, with responsibilities for both sides, which should be underpinned by an agreed value system. Involving the host society in this process is one of the major challenges to the achievement of successful integration policies and long-term social cohesion. All individuals must assume responsibility in this integration process – as well as state institutions, political parties, media, businesses and civil society. Migrants who aim to stay permanently or for the long term should make a deliberate effort to integrate, in particular learning the language of their host society, and understanding the basic values of the European Union.

They further recognize the role of local stakeholders, including in particular, the role of local government and cities in designing and implementing integration programmes, given that integration takes place primarily at a local level.

3. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States emphasize the need to continue to strengthen the integration policies of Member States with a view to managing diverse societies, counteracting all forms of discrimination and intolerance, maintaining social cohesion and ensuring that immigrants are able to reach their full potential and are able to participate to the fullest extent possible in the social, economic, cultural and civic life of the relevant Member State.
4. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States welcome the initiatives taken, in the period since the adoption of the Common Basic Principles (CBP), to facilitate the exchange of experience as well as the opportunity provided by the Informal Meeting of EU Integration Ministers held in Potsdam on 10-11 May 2007 to review at a political level the scope for further action directed to strengthening the European framework for integration and the integration policies of the Member States, by promoting unity in diversity.
5. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States also welcome the publication by the Commission, in all official languages, of the second edition of the Handbook on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners and request the Commission to ensure that the editions be continued and it be disseminated widely throughout the Member States.
6. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States emphasize the continuing importance of the CBP as the basis of the European approach to integration and the need for the CBP to continue to guide the activities of the National Contact Points (NCPI) on integration. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States recognize the need to further strengthen the role of the NCPI network.
7. The Council invites Member States to make maximum use of the possibilities created by the Integration Fund to promote integration policies and shared experience.
8. The Council invites the Commission to continue to support the activities of the NCPI network and to consider ways to redesign the Annual Report on Immigration and Integration in order to make it an up-to-date instrument for the comparative analysis of new developments in integration policy in the Member States and in due course to present a new concept for the Annual Report.
9. The Council invites the NCPI, supported by the Commission, to consider approaches to integration that involve the society as a whole, including in particular to:

- explore and clarify the various conceptions of and approaches to ideas of participation and the various conceptions of citizenship under discussion, taking into account the relevant EC acquis that relate to the integration of immigrants and Member States' Constitutional and legal systems as well as exchange views and experiences on naturalisation systems applied by Member States;
 - examine the added value of developing common European modules for migrant integration as a full project in the light of experience at national levels with introduction and language courses, the involvement of the host society, promoting the participation of immigrants in local life and various other aspects of the integration process;
 - analyze measures that can be targeted at the host society in order to improve the public image of migration and to enhance the capacity of public institutions and the media to reflect in a balanced way and manage migration-related diversity in society;
 - explore how integration programmes and policies can contribute to the prevention of social alienation and radicalization;
 - promote the development of common indicators and indexes that could be used by Member States on a voluntary basis in order to assess integration policy outcomes.
10. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States recognize that intercultural dialogue has become an important instrument in fostering the successful integration of citizens of different origin, culture and religion in Europe and in counteracting racism and extremism. The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, taking account of developments in the context of the forthcoming Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008, invite Member States to begin a regular exchange of experience gained in their recent efforts to establish such dialogue.

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States further welcome the initiative of Germany to convene the first two expert meetings for this purpose and with a view to the preparation, in consultation with the NCPI, of a report for the Ministerial Conference in 2008, which should include proposals for the establishment of a flexible procedure capable of reacting to intercultural problems or conflicts with a potential cross-border dimension.

11. The Council invites incoming Presidencies and the Commission to proactively develop the Common Agenda for Integration and to promote the principles set out in paragraph 1. The Commission is further invited to report in particular to the above Ministerial Conference on Integration on the results of the tasks assigned to the NCPI network, as described in point 9 of these Conclusions. This report should be the starting point for discussion on future priorities."
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