**Follow up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution
on new avenues for legal labour migration**

1. **Rapporteur:** Sylvie GUILLAUME (S&D / FR)
2. **Reference numbers:** 2020/2010 (INI) / A9-0143/2021 / P9\_TA-PROV(2021)0260
3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:** 20 May 2021
4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)
5. **Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The resolution assesses the current EU legislative framework on legal migration, and in particular on legal labour migration, and calls upon the Commission to improve and develop such framework. It also calls for strengthening cooperation with third countries and enhancing legal pathways.

The resolution regrets that the New Pact on Migration and Asylum does not include any specific proposals on legal labour migration, despite legal labour migration being indispensable for a comprehensive migration and asylum policy. Nevertheless, it acknowledges the assessment of the EU legal migration acquis conducted by the Commission in its 2019 fitness check, and welcomes the Skills and Talent package announced by the Commission in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, supporting the planned revision of the directives on long-term residents and on the single permit, and the development of an EU Talent Pool. Furthermore, the resolution calls the Commission to further develop the EU’s legislative framework, in particular by covering to a greater extent third-country nationals seeking work in low-skilled or medium-skilled employment; considering legislative action on home and domestic care workers; and developing EU-wide schemes to attract and facilitate the cross-border activities of self-employed people, entrepreneurs and start-ups - as well as younger third-country nationals through job seekers and training visas. The resolution also calls for strengthening relations with third countries on enhancing legal pathways, through regular summits between the EU and multiple third countries and through the development of balanced and transparent partnerships. Finally, in the medium term, the resolution states the EU must move away from a sectoral approach and adopt an immigration code setting out the broad rules governing entry and residence for all third country nationals seeking employment in the Union, harmonising the rights enjoyed by such third country nationals and their families.

1. **Response to the requests and overview of the action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

Legal migration is an essential component of the overall comprehensive approach set in the Commission’s New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The Commission is going to address many of the issues identified in the resolution. In particular, as foreseen in the Pact, in June 2021 the Commission launched the ‘Talent Partnerships’ initiative to strengthen relations with third countries on enhancing legal pathways. Also, as announced in the Pact, by the end of 2021 the Commission will present a ‘Skills and Talent package’, including: a revision of the Directive on long-term residents, a review of the Single Permit Directive, and options to develop an EU Talent Pool.

The Commission will present this package with a political Communication on legal labour migration, which is also going to assess and take into account the more forward-looking suggestions of the resolution.

Following the adoption of New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission relaunched the negotiations on the reform of the **EU Blue Card Directive** (**paragraph** **27**). On 17 May 2021, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political compromise on this reform, which will bring added value in terms of harmonisation, recognition of skills, simplification of procedures and improved intra-EU mobility. Following its formal adoption planned in September, the Commission will support the Member States in the correct transposition and effective implementation of the directive, to ensure it delivers in practice its added value.

The Commission will continue to simplify and further harmonise the current legal framework on legal migration (**paragraphs 11 and-12 of the resolution**), by presenting at the end of 2021 a ‘**Skills and Talent package**’, including a revision of the Directive on long-term residents to improve the rights and the intra-EU mobility of those migrants who are already well integrated in our societies, and a review of the Single Permit Directive, to make the procedure for the admission of low and medium skilled workers easier for employers and migration authorities. To prepare these legislative proposals, the Commission is carrying out an impact assessment, which will include an assessment of the inefficiencies in labour market tests and labour migration schemes (**paragraph 29**).

This ‘Skills and Talent package’ will also set the options to develop an **EU Talent Pool**, an EU-wide platform for international recruitment that would help matching the skills of migrant workers with the needs of the EU employers **(paragraph 19)**.

As indicated in the Pact, with a high-level Conference on 11 June 2021 the Commission also launched the initiative of **Talent Partnerships** to support mobility and migration schemes for labour and training purposes between interested EU Member States and key third countries, which could also provide partner countries with assistance for capacity-building in areas such as labour market or skills intelligence, vocational education and training, and diaspora mobilisation (**paragraphs 23-26**). Following the launch of the initiative, in the next months the Commission will hold operational discussions with interested Member States to design and implement a number of tailor-made Talent Partnerships with specific key countries and regions.

The Commission will continue to work closely with the European Parliament to improve the legal migration pathways. In its Communication accompanying the ‘Skills and Talent package’, the Commission will start assessing the legal and political feasibility of the more forward-looking requests of the resolution concerning self-employed people, entrepreneurs and start-ups, and job-seeker and training visas, as well as the development of an EU immigration code (**paragraphs 31-33**).