

# European Movement International

## Work Plan 2017

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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 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 (36) 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, civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities in the debates that affect Europe's challenges and the future of the European project.

Following the success of the membership policy in the past few years, in 2017 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 organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties, and local authorities 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, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities through the promotion of dialogue among all stakeholders 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 building a platform upon which civil society, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities and the different levels of government come together to debate and shape the direction of the European project.

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, and the priorities of the Maltese and Estonian presidencies. At the content level, Brexit and the refugee crisis will be at the top of EMI's agenda. Other topics such as the EU enlargement, the competitiveness of the single market and the EU institutional landscape will also retain all our attention. Since 2016, the EMI has started to organise its work around a triangle composed by communications, events and policy. The International Office plans to increase this focus and to further develop its work in these three areas. As usual, the EMI will 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.

## 2 Statutory Activities and other internal meetings

In 2017, 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 2017 meeting of the Federal Assembly (FA) will take place in **November 2017** in **Tallinn, Estonia**. It will gather around 100 delegates from all over Europe, representing the EMI Members, its Board, staff and external guests. Apart from the statutory procedures, which will include the election of a new EMI Board, the FA meeting will also be an occasion for exchanges with the Estonian Government on the achievements of the Presidency.

### 2.2 Members' Council

The 2017 meeting of the Members' Council (MC) will take place in **May 2017** in **Brussels, Belgium**. 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 2017 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.

### 2.4 National Councils meeting and International Associations meeting

As initiated in the last two year, the EMI International Office offers to revamp its annual Heads of Office meeting and to separate it into two gatherings:

- The International Associations meeting will gather representatives of our associative members and will take place in June 2017 in Brussels;
- The National Councils meeting will bring together representatives of our national sections from all over Europe and will take place in Brussels in October 2017.

### 3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

The EMI Network is currently composed by 78 Member Organisations, including 39 National Councils, 36 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 2017 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 International Office dedicates its work-power equally to all Members and, likewise, focuses both on political communication and political representation.

In 2017, the EMI will work to keep constant contact with its partners in civil society, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities 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, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities, 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 2017, 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, a new Members' newsletter was also introduced to allow for greater sharing and understanding of different member organisation's activities from across the network. In 2017, the EMI will continue to develop its newsletters as well as wider communication outreach. In the context of capacity-building and communication, specific services will be also offered to the Members in terms of information sharing, notably through daily news updates, weekly institutional calendars, bi-annual semester calendars, the coordination and updating of the EMI-wiki, and where necessary the dissemination of specific information on a certain topic.

In 2017 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, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities, the EMI briefings

allow for debates around new ideas for Europe and discussing the role of the aforementioned stakeholders 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.

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

## 4 Content-based activities: Communications, Events and Policy

The content-based activities will be developed on the basis of the EMI Strategic Priorities and in line with the key developments in EU. Since 2016, the EMI organises its work around a triangle composed by communications, events and policy. The International Office plans to increase this focus and to further develop its work in these three areas. Coordinated by the International Office, the three Political Committees, which operate in line with EMI Strategic Priorities, will be closely involved in the development of policy positions and inform the thinking of the EMI. 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.

In 2017, the EU agenda will be formed by the work programme of the European Commission, priorities of the European Council and the priorities of the Maltese and Estonian presidencies with their respective presidency-trios. Furthermore, it will be influenced by the (geo-political) context in which the EU is operating and developments in the area of security, migration and relations with neighbouring countries and strategic partners. The work of the EMI on the key topics in 2017 will build upon its previous work in 2016 and before, as many of the topics continue to be on the agenda. The EMI will focus on several key topics headed under each strategic priority, including:

### 4.1 More Democracy, Citizens' Rights and Freedom

#### **Brexit and the post-Brexit architecture**

The EMI will further develop its thinking on the conditions for a Brexit and the set-up of the EU27, in line with the institutional planning: the triggering of Article 50 on the withdrawal of the UK's EU membership in 2017, followed by official negotiations that will last up to two years. At the same time, the remaining 'EU27' will continue their discussions on the post-Brexit architecture of the EU, which will likely come to a conclusion at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Treaty on 25 March 2017. The European Parliament will also contribute to the debate in the form of two reports: 'Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty' and 'Possible evolutions of and adjustments to the current institutional set-up of the European Union'.

In line with the above institutional activities, the EMI will present its own policy proposals, continue with its series of debates (started in 2015) on Brexit and the EU's future, and use its events and communication tools to inform citizens and all involved stakeholders, and to enable them to input into the debate.

#### **EU Governance**

Several issues that the EMI has worked on in 2016 and before will continue to occupy the agenda of the EU. This includes the **Rule of Law**, with follow-up to both the Article 7 procedure triggered for Poland and the European Parliament report on An EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights. It also includes follow-up to the new inter-institutional agreement and **transparency** register proposed in autumn 2016 by the European Commission, as well as a general focus on transparency in decision-making and increased **participation** of civil society, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, and other stakeholders. The discussions on

the Electoral reform report with the Council and the setup of the **2019 elections** will also warrant the attention of the EMI, in particular to with regard to the Spitzenkandidaten process and youth participation, which can be increased through more civic education and the lowering of the voting age to 16. Finally, the discussions in the Council and Parliament and implementation of the plans on **e-Democracy** and e-Governance and the report on **EU Citizenship** adopted by the Council in December 2016 are on the agenda.

Building on previous events and Policy Positions, the EMI will take forward the work on these issues through further developing its position, influencing the legislative process, and communicating with the public through our events and communication tools. Extra focus will be given to actions before and around the 2019 elections, in cooperation with other civil society organisations. The work under this header will focus on reconnecting the European Project with its citizens and improving the EU democratic and participatory governance.

### **Migration, integration, and freedom of movement**

2017 will see the continuation of the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration, including the Blue Card Directive, review of the Dublin regulation, a permanent relocation mechanism and a common list with safe countries of origin. It will also see the completion of the 'Back to Schengen roadmap' and full implementation of a European Border and Coast Guard. While finalising the European Agenda on migration, the issue of integration will take centre-stage. At the same time, the freedom of movement remains an important issue not in the least with regard to Schengen enlargement and the Labour Mobility Package including the revision of the posted workers directive.

Following on the previous communication- and policy work in the field of migration, the EMI will continue to express its viewpoints on the matter, and further develop its thinking and actions on the issue of integration. Building upon its Schengen Policy Position, Schengen and labour mobility will become one of the focus points in policy-, communication- and events work.

## **4.2 Jobs, Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth**

### **EMU and Own Resources**

Like 2016, 2017 will be characterised by in-depth discussions about the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and the introduction of genuine own resources. The report of the High Level Group on Own Resources will be presented at the end of 2016. The first stage of the Five President's Report, including the completion of the Banking Union and Capital Markets Union, will finish in June 2017. At the same time, a high level expert group will present a white paper on the second stage of EMU completion in the spring of 2017. Own resources will also feature in discussions on the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework, enhanced cooperation on the Financial Transaction Tax, a common unemployment insurance, and the European Parliament report on a budgetary capacity.

In the context of these in-depth discussions, the EMI will continue its efforts to influence the debate and decision making on the completion of the EMU and introduction of own resources, using its



previously developed Policy Positions, advocacy strategies and communication tools. It will also continue its series of public debates on both issues which started in 2016.

### **European Pillar of Social Rights**

A key focus of the European Commission in 2017 will be the so-called Social Pillar, which has been announced already in 2015, and led to an extensive public consultation in 2016. In 2017, more detailed plans will be announced and fed into the decision-making process. The EMI will take the opportunity to develop its thinking on the Social dimension of the EMU, and develop activities and communication around the subject when appropriate.

### **The (Digital) Single Market, Youth and Skills**

With the final proposals on the Digital Single Market put forward by the end of 2016, 2017 will see the continued legislative process and implementation of agreed measures, including the issues of geo-blocking and copy right. The European Fund for Strategic Investments (or 'Juncker Plan') will also continue to run throughout 2017, as will the actions foreseen under the Single Market Strategy. On the side of (youth) employment, several initiative are of key interest in 2017: the New Skills Agenda for Europe; the European Pact for Youth; and the continued implementation of the Youth Guarantee and programmes on lifelong learning.

Building upon the previous meetings and discussions throughout 2015 and 2016, the Political Committee will continue to focus on these issues and organise meetings with the institutions, become an active supporter of the various initiatives, and develop its thinking.

### **Energy and Climate**

Several proposals in the context of both the Energy Union Strategy and Circular Economy Package are foreseen for 2017, while the work on previous proposals, like those on waste or the energy efficiency, will also continue. The Commission will also continue to ensure that the agreements made under the Paris Agreement (COP21) will be reflected in its 2030 Energy Strategy. Furthermore, the Parliament advocates the development of a climate and energy diplomacy strategy in 2017, and energy security continues to play an important role in the current geopolitical context. As energy and climate play a role in most EMI Policy Positions, the EMI will continue to monitor developments, and where appropriate, develop actions or positions around key issues.

## **4.3 Europe in the World**

### **EU Foreign Affairs and Security**

Security will remain top of the agenda in 2017 in all its aspects: open and frozen conflicts at Europe's border, migration, energy security, counterterrorism, etc. The implementation of the new EU Global Strategy developed by Federica Mogherini will be a notable issue in 2017, as well as the continued implementation of the European Agenda on Security and Renewed Internal Security Strategy. The creation of a new Security portfolio, held by UK Commissioner Julian King, might give a new impetus to these policies.



In addition to the above, the discussion on a European army has been revived as a result of the Brexit vote. While the institutions will continue their work on the Defence Action Plan (Commission) and Defence Union Report (Parliament), increasing debates about the CSDP and CFSP will emerge in the post-Brexit deliberations on the future of the EU. Likewise, the debate about closer cooperation in the field of counterterrorism has taken centre-stage after the UK referendum. The EMI will engage with these debates from the start, advocate and further develop its position on security and European defence cooperation, and implement concerted action in the field of policy, events and communication in the context of these debates.

### **Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy**

Enlargement and the Neighbourhood Policy will remain an important topic in 2017, especially in light of the various crises in the EU's neighbourhood, increased tensions in the Western Balkans, and the difficult relationship with Turkey in terms of enlargement following the EU-Turkey Migration Deal. The ratification of the DCFTA with Ukraine following the Dutch referendum in 2016 and visa liberalisation for Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Turkey will warrant particular attention, as will the relationship with Russia and the continuation of sanctions.

Following the work on Enlargement in 2016, including the Belgrade Congress and new Policy Position on Enlargement, the EMI will continue to follow the developments on the issue, actively advocate its position, and develop additional activities where appropriate. The role of civil society organisations in enlargement will be a particular focus of the work of the EMI in 2017. With regard to the neighbourhood, the implementation of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy will be closely monitored.

### **Trade**

Notwithstanding the initial planning, TTIP will continue to dominate the trade agenda, as will the issue of transparency of Investor-State dispute settlement mechanisms. The decision on China's Market Economy Status will be final in December 2016 but its implementation might continue in 2017. Ratification of the CETA will most likely take place early 2017, while the work negotiation of other Free Trade Agreements will continue.

Building upon its extensive series of TTIP debates, the EMI will continue to follow the debate and organise further public debates and/or develop its policy and communication on the issue, if new developments occur.

## 5. Project-oriented Activities

### 5.1. 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 International Office 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 2017.

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.

#### 5.1.1. 9 May – Europe Day 2017

The European Movement International will, as every year, commemorate the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 2017. 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.

#### 5.1.2. The Women of Europe Awards

The EMI continues its work on the Women of Europe Awards, which was relaunched in 2015 and builds on the original Woman of Europe Award as well as the national awards of several of its National Councils. With the first Award ceremony organised in cooperation with the European Women's Lobby in 2016, a second edition is foreseen at the end of 2017. The Award focuses on highlighting and enhancing the role of women in European integration. Building on the work of the past two years, the possibility for an internal network of former Award winners and other interested members will be explored this year.

### 5.1.3 The Hague Convention 2018

To celebrate the anniversary of the The Hague Convention of 1948, another grand gathering is foreseen in 2018, which will bring together civil society, business, trade unions, academia, political parties (and movements), faith groups, sectoral interests, non-government organisations, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The purpose will be to gather all those stakeholders that are necessary to renew our Union and deliver the kind of roadmap that the original Hague Convention produced. The initiative will culminate in a big event in 2018, but preparations will continue throughout 2017. In 2017, it is also foreseen to hold National Conventions as a first step in engaging the national representatives of the abovementioned stakeholders, in discussions on specific policy areas that are central in the effort to address peoples concern, reconnect them with the European process and renew the direction the EU is taking.

### 5.1.4 Rome Treaty Anniversary 2017

In the context of the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaty, activities held in Rome in March 2017 are foreseen. These will bring together pro-Europeans to mark the anniversary and discuss the way forward for the EU and Europe. The International Office will support the work of European Movement members in this regard, in particular by reaching out to its Brussels stakeholders to engage them in the activities planned in Rome.