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## Chinese migration to Europe: challenges and opportunities

### Motion for a resolution

several Assembly members

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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Chinese migration to Europe has increased both in the scale and degree of professionalisation, in the range of origins, destinations and social backgrounds of the people involved, as well as the methods of entry and the types of activities pursued in Europe. An estimated 2.8 million Chinese reside in the Council of Europe member States today, with the largest populations in Russia, France, United Kingdom and Italy. Their numbers are growing rapidly, particularly in Southern and Central Europe.

China is a significant source country for irregular migrants in Europe, which is linked to the de facto acceptance of high numbers of unauthorised migrant workers and the existence of ample employment opportunities for them in the informal economy, and that regardless of the current economic recession. Chinese smuggling organisations are particularly sophisticated, making a multi-billion euro business out of it. Irregular migrants employed in the ethnic Chinese sectors (restaurants, sweatshops) or elsewhere are without any legal protection, often working under particularly exploitative conditions.

But there are also other important dimensions of Chinese migration to Europe. Not least, there has been remarkable growth in student migration, associated with the economic growth in China and more people being able to afford to pay their children to go to study abroad. Skilled labour migrants such as health workers are also growingly in demand in many countries in Europe. There is a danger that the benefits of this type of migration, for both Europe and China, may be overlooked in current policy approaches dominated by a focus on irregular migration.

Chinese migration remains little studied in Europe. The Parliamentary Assembly therefore considers that there is a need to look at these parallel dimensions and how governments should deal with the new challenges and opportunities of Chinese migration.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

DENDIAS Nikolaos, Greece, EPP/CD  
BILOZIR Oksana, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC  
CLUNE Deirdre, Ireland, EPP/CD  
CORLĂȚEAN Titus, Romania, SOC  
DARCHIASHVILI David, Georgia, EPP/CD  
DAVIES Don, Canada  
ERKAL KARA Tülin, Turkey, EPP/CD  
HAUPERT Norbert, Luxembourg, EPP/CD  
IWIŃSKI Tadeusz, Poland, SOC  
KYRIAKIDOU Athina, Cyprus, SOC  
MARIN Christine, France, EPP/CD  
MARQUET Bernard, Monaco, ALDE  
MAYER Edgar, Austria, EPP/CD  
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC  
NEGELE Gebhard, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD  
PAPADIMITRIOU Elsa, Greece, EPP/CD  
PFISTER Gerhard, Switzerland, EPP/CD  
ROUQUET René, France, SOC  
SHERIDAN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC  
SHERSHUN Mykola, Ukraine, ALDE  
TÜRKEŞ Tuğrul, Turkey, EDG  
VRETTOS Konstantinos, Greece, SOC

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EDG: European Democrat Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group