Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 2673 (2026)[1]

The role of diasporas and migrants in developing social cohesion and democratic engagement

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Diasporas are inherent, valuable parts of European societies. When properly supported, empowered and integrated, diasporas actively contribute to economic development, help build more cohesive societies and foster democratic engagement. They also play a crucial role in the integration of newly arrived migrants, acting as bridge-builders between communities, institutions and countries.

2. The Parliamentary Assembly has consistently reaffirmed the importance of addressing diaspora issues, most notably in Resolution 2388 (2021) "For a European policy on diasporas", which called for the development and implementation of comprehensive diaspora engagement policies across Europe. This is a commitment which must be refreshed regularly in order to focus on the needs of rising generations.

3. In particular, young people within diaspora communities are particularly well placed to contribute to social cohesion and democratic engagement. As multilingual, multicultural Europeans, young diaspora members have a great potential for innovation, renewal of democratic life and inter-cultural mediation.

4. The Assembly also highlights the importance of organised diaspora groups, including faith-based communities. These communities, often extending their reach beyond their spiritual and religious activities, function as multidimensional hubs providing language courses, social services, legal guidance and psychosocial care while fostering networks of trust, solidarity and belonging for newly arrived migrants and established communities alike.

5. Diaspora members often face structural obstacles that hamper their full contribution to their host societies.

6. The Assembly recognises that the development of the full potential of diasporas requires their proper integration as active partners in society. Integration must be understood as a reciprocal and structural process requiring both openness and active participation from local communities and diasporic groups.

7. The Assembly commends the Council of Europe and its member States for the plethora of State-led programmes and policies that have been established throughout Europe to support and integrate diaspora communities, particularly the good practices developed through the Intercultural Cities Programme. The Assembly stresses the distinct advantage for all such programmes and policies to be co-created and co-owned with the communities who are meant to benefit from them. This means engaging both local communities and diaspora representatives in the design, implementation and evaluation of such initiatives not only as beneficiaries, but also as partners.

8. The Assembly recalls the need, as stated in the Reykjavik Declaration, adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (16-17 May 2023), to ensure a full, equal and meaningful participation in political and public life for all without discrimination. This should include diasporas. It also welcomes the Secretary General's initiative for a New Democratic Pact for Europe. This recognises the

1. *Assembly debate* on 29 September 2026 (31st sitting) (see Doc. 16476, report of the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation, rapporteur: Lord Leslie Griffiths). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 29 September 2026 (31st sitting).
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need to protect democracy by advancing equality, combating all forms of discrimination and ensuring the full participation and representation of marginalised groups, including diasporic groups, in democratic life. The future and legitimacy of European democracy depend on involving everyone, including diasporas and migrants, in democratic processes. In that regard, a special effort is needed to bridge the gap between elected representatives and diaspora members.

9. Stressing the importance of meaningfully involving diasporas in policy making affecting them, and recalling Resolution 2388 (2021), the Assembly invites member States of the Council of Europe to:

9.1. systematically consult diaspora groups in the planning and development of programmes and policies which concern them and ensure that their contributions are not only heard, but acted upon;

9.2. involve diaspora members and organisations in the implementation of such programmes and policies not only as beneficiaries, but also as equal partners;

9.3. ensure that the perspectives of diaspora groups are heard and acted upon in the monitoring and evaluation of such programmes and policies.

10. Without prejudice to the restrictions on political rights for foreigners permitted under the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5), and taking into account Resolution 2525 (2024) "The theme of migration and asylum in election campaigns and its consequences on the reception of migrants and their rights", the Assembly believes that it is crucial to promote the political participation of diaspora members (including their formal participation) in order to preserve European democratic representativity and legitimacy. To this end, the Assembly invites member States to:

10.1. ratify, if they have not already done so, the Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at the Local Level (ETS No. 144) and align national electoral legislation accordingly;

10.2. promote the political participation of diaspora members and empower those eligible to vote and stand for election;

10.3. explore the feasibility of expanding the right of certain categories of diaspora members to vote and to stand for office in national elections.

11. Recognising that political engagement goes beyond standing for office and voting in elections, the Assembly believes that it is necessary to engage diasporas in decision making through other participative and deliberative mechanisms so that they can fully participate in public life. The Assembly therefore recommends that member States:

11.1. provide civic education and democratic literacy training to diaspora members as part of integration policies and programmes;

11.2. develop mentorship programmes linking young people, including diaspora members, with elected representatives in order to bring diaspora youth closer to politics and to allow elected officials to understand and take into account their perspective;

11.3. promote properly funded and representative foreigners' consultative councils at both local and national levels, with the purpose of establishing a structured dialogue between authorities and diaspora groups;

11.4. provide stable, structural funding to diaspora-based organisations so that they can meaningfully engage in long-term policy-making processes.

12. The Assembly should spearhead the efforts of the Council of Europe to support the existing work of the Advisory Council on Youth on this matter. Given the potential of diaspora representatives to enrich political debate and inform decision making in matters affecting them, the Assembly should consider:

12.1. conducting at least one exchange of views at committee or sub-committee or network level with representatives of migrant or diaspora groups in the preparation of each report concerning their integration or their political, social and cultural rights;

12.2. developing a mentorship programme linking young diaspora members with Assembly members in order to bring the Assembly closer to young diaspora members and to get Assembly members in touch with their perspective.

13. Finally, the Assembly calls on its own members, in their capacity as both national lawmakers and members of the Assembly, to act at European and domestic levels to promote the relevant Council of Europe instruments, standards and expertise, as well as to align national legislation and practice with the recommendations set out in this resolution.