

# European Movement International

## Work Plan 2010

(as adopted by the Board on December 12, 2009)

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# 1 Introduction

The European Movement International (EMI) is an international organisation, gathering National Councils and International Associations that share the aim of an evermore united Europe, based on the principles of democracy, human rights and civic participation. The work developed by the EMI therefore aims to involve European citizens in the construction and further development of Europe and takes place all over the continent and in the neighbouring regions.

In line with the aims and objectives drawn by the Strategic Plan 2010-2012, the EMI Work Plan for 2010 will include three different kinds of actions and activities: statutory activities (Federal Assembly, Members' Council and Board meetings); networking and capacity-building activities; and content-based and/or project-oriented activities.

In order to succeed in achieving its aims, the EMI will focus its efforts in 2010 on enlarging and strengthening its membership, thus increasing its support base and its ability to reach out to more citizens throughout all civil society sectors across Europe.

In order to support these efforts, the EMI will also invest in its communication strategy, its tools and output, be it within the network (see EMI Internal Communications Strategy, in annex<sup>1</sup>) or between the network and the external environment. Therefore, in 2010 the EMI will seek to strike a balance between, on the one hand, actions targeting the general public and the promotion of participatory democracy at all levels (especially involving the National Councils, e.g. "9 May celebrations") and, on the other hand, actions aiming to activate cooperation between civil society organizations and the promotion of civil dialogue at the European level. Bridging the gap between the European institutions and European citizens, through an enhanced communication strategy that involves civil society (and particularly the EMI network) as an interface between the two, will therefore be the main orientation guideline for the EMI's work in the coming years.

This is particularly important in the aftermath of the European elections and their outcome in terms of voters' turnout, but even more when we take into consideration the new perspectives for civil dialogue that the implementation of the new Treaty of Lisbon will bring. This is also in line with the objectives set by the European Commission itself regarding further involvement of civil society organisations in enhancing the transparency and quality of the consultation processes, and raising public awareness of European issues and policy debates.

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<sup>1</sup> Document available to Board members only

## **2 Statutory Activities**

In 2010, the EMI will convene one meeting of its Federal Assembly, one meeting of its Members' Council and three meetings of its Board.

### **2.1 Federal Assembly**

The 2010 meeting of the Federal Assembly (FA) will take place in Madrid, on the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, on 18-19 June. It will gather around 100 participants, including delegates coming from all over Europe in representation of the Member Organisations of the EMI, the Board members, staff and external guests. Apart from the statutory procedures, the FA will also be the occasion for exchanges with the Spanish Government on the achievements of the Presidency and a joint reflection on "The Future of Europe", with Mr Felipe González, Chair of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe.

### **2.2 Members' Council**

The 2010 meeting of the Members' Council (MC) will take place in Brussels, on the occasion of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, on 3-4 December. It will gather around 100 participants, including delegates coming from all over Europe in representation of the Member Organisations of the EMI, the Board members, staff and external guests. Apart from the statutory procedures, the MC will also be the occasion for exchanges with the Belgian Government on the achievements of the Presidency and a joint reflection on "Social Europe and European Economic Governance", with Mr John Monks, Secretary General of the European Trade Unions Confederation, and Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg and President of the Euro Group.

### **2.3 Board**

The EMI Board will meet three times in 2010, always in Brussels: 28 January, 20 May and 16 September. The Board meetings are to be attended by the 21 Board members and supported by a few staff members.

### **3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities**

The EMI Network is currently made up of a total of 67 Member Organisations, including 42 National Councils and 25 International Associations. Among these MO, not all are at the same development stage. Amongst the National Councils, for instance, there are some which are still in a preparatory phase, but even among the ones that are already established and have been formally recognised by the EMI as full members, there are huge differences in terms of structure, availability of resources and delivering capacities. In 2010, the EMI will develop several activities aimed at attracting new members (especially International Associations) and strengthening the already existing ones (especially National Councils).

These activities will include some specific events (see below) but will also be based on a continued effort to establish and develop contacts with civil society partners and activists, with the aim of identifying common interests and fields for mutually beneficial co-operation. The EMI can and should become, once again, the aggregating pole of European-minded civil society, be it at the European or national levels and, in order to do so, it needs to build upon its reputation but also improve its credibility as a space for dialogue, exchange and co-operation.

The further development of communication tools, both internal and external, is crucial for a successful networking action, but also for transferring knowledge which is useful for capacity-building. Regarding this topic, the Internal Communications Strategy will function as a guideline for action.

Concerning the aim of enlarging the network by attracting new members, efforts will mainly focus on Brussels, where the EMI will convene a series of small briefing/de-briefing events on several, diverse topics related to the EMI's work which can also be of interest to other associations that are not members of the network yet. These meetings will bring together representatives of the European institutions (Parliament, Commission and Council) and of civil society organisations, and will be used as a tool for developing new, fresh ideas for Europe, and also to set a best practice on what the role of civil society in the context of representative democracy could be. Important issues such as the status of European associations, the follow-up to "Plan D" and the important issues related to communicating with citizens, and the perspectives open by the Lisbon Treaty on civil dialogue, are some examples of topics for these meetings.

On the other hand, and with regard to the strengthening of the EMI network, several actions aimed at promoting the exchange of best practices and mentoring between and among the National Councils will be implemented. This project will facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources across the EMI network and will be based on the establishment of twinning schemes which will allow less experienced NCs to learn and benefit from the more developed ones. This will hopefully be developed thanks to the support of the European Commission, through the Call for Proposals EACEA 15/2009 (Innovative Actions).

Concurrently to this mobility scheme, the EMI will reactivate its Training Academy and will develop training actions addressed to two priority target groups: Board Members and Professional Staff. The first training session will be dedicated to the crucial issue of Communication.

In 2010 the EMI Training Academy will organise at least two other activities:

### ***3.1 Training week in Brussels in Partnership with the Region of Sardinia (Italy)***

The Region of Sardinia asked the EMI Training Academy to develop a special training session about the EU Institutions and the EU Programmes and opportunities for young people, for a group of university students from that Italian region. The students will be selected through an open call taking into consideration their language skills, social background and academic results. The selected students will have to write a report on their week in Brussels and organize an information session in their faculties, allowing by this means the multiplying effect of their participation to fully materialize.

### ***3.2 Training week - Summer School***

The EMI Training Academy Summer school will consist of the same programme as referred above, but in this case addressed to a multi-national group of students coming from all the EU Member States and, eventually, some candidate and/or neighbourhood States.

The students will be selected by the EM National Councils in co-operation with regional partners and/or universities, through an open call and on the basis of their academic performance and socio-economic background. They will be invited to come to Brussels for a two-week training session, aiming to introduce them to the EU policies and the different opportunities available for them. These students will then act as EM Ambassadors in their universities and regions.

Last but not least, and in order to promote a good and fluid communication between the Member Organisations and the EMI Board and Secretariat, regular contacts with the International Associations (especially with the ones based in Brussels) and visits to the countries will be established and conducted by Board and/or Secretariat Members.

## **4 Content-based and/or Project-oriented activities**

Most of the content-based activities will be developed by, or at least originate from the work of the three Political Committees established by the 2009 Federal Assembly: *the Future of Europe*; *the EU and its Neighbours*; and *Citizens' Europe and European Identity*. These Political Committees will meet in the fringes of the Statutory Meetings, and are open to all the Member Organisations. The work of these internal working structures will be organized along the lines set by the Handbook for Policy Coordinators (in annex<sup>2</sup>). Whenever possible, the Political Committees will cooperate and/or initiate projects which are relevant to more than one of them. The best example of such projects is the one related to Europe Day, a truly transversal project aimed at bringing the citizens closer to the rich history and the bright future of the European project.

### ***4.1 EMI Transnational Activities, open to all our members***

#### **4.1.1 9 May– Europe Day 2010: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Schuman Declaration**

“Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a *de facto* solidarity. The coming together of the nations of Europe requires the elimination of the age-old opposition of France and Germany. Any action taken must in the first place concern these two countries. With this aim in view, the French Government proposes that action be taken immediately on one limited but decisive point. It proposes that Franco-German production of coal and steel as a whole be placed under a common High Authority, within the framework of an organization open to the participation of the other countries of Europe. The pooling of coal and steel production should immediately provide for the setting up of common foundations for economic development as a first step in the federation of Europe, and will change the destinies of those regions which have long been devoted to the manufacture of munitions of war, of which they have been the most constant victims.”

On 9 May 2010, Europe will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. For the last eight years, the European Movement International in co-operation with its Member Organizations and with the support of the European Commission, has organized the celebrations of this important date across Europe, by developing a wide range of activities involving many citizens all over the continent. Next year, and in order to properly celebrate this important anniversary, the EMI plans to bring the celebrations to even more citizens, organizing, in co-operation with its Member Organisations and with the support of many local, national and European partners, an even wider range of activities, with a special focus on festive actions at the local level involving massive numbers of citizens, and addressing especially the youngest amongst them through, namely, a campaign based on the use of the new information and communication technologies.

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<sup>2</sup> Document available to Board members only

## ***4.2 EMI Political Committee on The Future of Europe***

Chair: Jo Leinen

### **4.2.1 EP Elections 2014**

The voters' turnout in the elections to the European Parliament in June 2009 has been very low, the debates that took place in most countries were focused on national issues, more populist and euro-sceptic forces gained seats in the EP. Against this background, the EMI will focus its work on the elaboration of a new concept for European Elections by studying different possibilities and coming up with concrete, innovative proposals. In order to do so, the EMI will organise hearings and workshops with experts and other interested people, open to all its Member Organizations and some partners, both from the institutions and the civil society sector.

### **4.2.2 Future of the EU**

During the Federal Assembly of June 2010, the EMI will dedicate a special session to hear the report made under the presidency of Mr Felipe Gonzales and will debate with him the role that the EMI should play in it.

### **4.2.3 Social Europe and European Economic Governance**

At the occasion of the Members' Council meeting, the EMI will invite Mr John Monks, EMI Vice President and Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg and President of the Euro Group, to present their suggestions on how to ensure Europe's competitiveness in the global economy and social balance inside and between the EU Member States. The goal of the meeting will be to set up the EMI strategy in the social and economic fields for the years 2011 – 2014.

### **4.2.4 Local authorities and combating poverty and social exclusion**

In the first semester of 2010, the EMI, in partnership with the European Movement Slovenia and with the support of the City of Ljubljana, will organize a Congress targeting local and regional authorities from the EU Member States and candidate countries. In the context of the European Year of fighting poverty and social exclusion, the objective of this congress will be to analyse the situation in the cities and regions of the participating countries as regards this particular theme.

Successful local and regional policies in this field and lessons to be learned by the EU and the national authorities in order to improve effectiveness in fighting poverty - especially during the economic crisis – will be examined.

### ***4.3 EMI Political Committee on Citizens' Europe and European Identity***

Chair: Jessica Chamba

#### **4.3.1 Follow-up of EP Election 2009 to prepare the EP election 2014, January to June 2010**

In 2010, the EMI, together with its National councils, will examine the way in which the European election pro-vote campaign has been conducted, in terms of communication and content, in each of the Member States. We will particularly look at the actions developed by the institutions, the way political parties communicated with the voters, both in terms of the issues tackled and how the European dimension was conveyed.

The individual national analysis will be completed by the end of April, and will be followed by a comparative study resulting in a consolidated report. Based on this consolidated report, recommendations will be drafted on what should be done in terms of communications for the next European Elections in 2014. These will be presented at the occasion of the EMI Federal Assembly, in June 2010. They will then serve as a basis for the work developed by the Political Committee on The Future of Europe (see above).

#### **4.3.2 Europe in the media**

The analysis of the 2009 election campaign will also question the way European news are presented in national and local media. The difficulty to get proper European information in the different member countries of the EU is a very sensitive and recurrent issue that the EMI wishes to address on a global level.

A reflection meeting (or seminar) with journalists and media professionals could be organized in order to address this issue and propose some actions and solutions.

In 2010 the organisation will concentrate its efforts on building up the structure of the event and define the panel so that the seminar could be held in 2011.

#### **4.3.3 Europe at school**

Many Member Organisations of the EMI (be it National Councils or International Associations) organise civic activities in schools in order to explain to pupils what the EU is about, how it functions and what the opportunities for young people in Europe are (mobility, studies, projects...).

A first mapping of these existing activities and tools has already been established. For 2010, the EMI wishes to set up a platform to share good practices and educational material among members. Once set up, this platform would need to be presented and advertised in the EMI network at the occasion of an internal event.

#### **4.3.4 Statute of European Associations**

The European Movement International will contribute to bringing back to the political agenda the issue of the statute of European Associations. This is a particularly important topic for many civil society organisations operating at the European level, and the EMI can contribute to its development in two ways: firstly by working with other civil society organisations in developing a consensual proposal ; secondly by working with the European Parliament and the European Commission to bring the topic back to the institutional agenda and facilitate a breakthrough in this sensitive matter. In 2010, the efforts will be dedicated to the first part of the task.

#### ***4.4 EMI Political committee on The EU and its Neighbours***

Chair: Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb

##### **4.4.1 Fostering Civil Society in EU Candidate and neighbouring countries, by sharing good practices in EU Member states (Turkey, October 2010)**

Building up on the success of the Ljubljana Congress and the adoption of its final Declaration, the Turkish Grand National Assembly extended an invitation for the participants to come to Turkey in 2010 in order to further develop the reflections on these important topics and monitor the developments made since April 2009. Prior to the Congress itself, the EMI, in partnership with the national councils of the Black Sea region (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine) and with the support of DG Enlargement (Civil Societies Initiative Programme) and the EU representations in the above-mentioned countries, will organize a series of national workshops which will be used:

- to assess the achievements made, and what is still to be done in the short and long term;
- to select their national CSO representative who will serve as a hub between the recommendations made by the National CSOs gathered during the workshop and their implementation by the authorities.

The Congress in Turkey will be the occasion to promote the exchange of practices and ideas among civil society organizations and authorities from the region, and it will be organized by the EMI, in partnership with the European Movement Turkey and with the support of the Turkish Government, the City of Istanbul (or Izmir) and the EU Representation in Turkey.

##### **4.4.2 Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly**

The EMI and the Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation have developed a partnership aiming to set up an Assembly of the Citizens of the Mediterranean Sea. In February 2010, the EMI will organize a conference in Brussels to present the idea of the Assembly and to discuss it with the EU Institutions and with the civil society organizations working in the field of the Euro-Med relations.

Later in 2010 and in 2011, visits to the EU Member States and to the other Mediterranean countries will be organized by the EMI in order to present the Assembly at the national level and to set up, in co-operation with the EMI National Councils and partner organizations, the national chapters of the Assembly. This will hopefully lead to the establishment of EM-like organizations in the Mediterranean countries too; the visits may be followed by the organization of an Euro-Med Congress, following the

Algiers (2006) and Alicante (2009) congresses, specifically dedicated to this subject and planned to take place in 2012.