



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

## Annual Report 2002

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Members of the Policy Group

Members of the Ethical Guidelines Working Group

Members of the Steering Committee of 'The Book of Solidarity' project

Members of the Editorial Committee of 'The Book of Solidarity' project

Members of the Preparatory Working Group for the International Labor Conference

## Preface

We are pleased to present the third annual report of the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), which contains an overview of our work in 2002.

The PICUM initiative was launched in 1998 but its office in Brussels only opened in November 2000. By then several Dutch and Belgian foundations had provided us with the necessary funds for employing a full-time coordinator and beginning office work.

During the first year of activity foundations in other countries in Europe responded positively to our requests for funding and the European Commission accepted to co-finance an 18-month project. This enabled us to extend our staff to also include a researcher and a half-time administrative assistant. With this staff we were able to maintain a high level of output in 2002, prepare further project proposals and take on board several other urgent issues.

PICUM aims at protecting the human rights of undocumented migrants. It encourages NGOs that provide support to these migrants in their countries, so that they can do their work effectively. PICUM also monitors social and political developments in this field, particularly on the European level, and it makes its expertise in this field available for public authorities, institutions and civil society in general. In fact, we wish to draw public attention to the social exclusion of this category of migrants which, in turn, leads to their marginalization in society. The continuous increase of undocumented migrants in our countries makes this issue ever more dramatic.

At the beginning of 2002 PICUM became an officially recognized association. It now has a diversified membership in a number of European countries. However, further extension is necessary for PICUM to become a truly European platform.

We are thankful for the subsidy we are receiving from the European Commission for our Book of Solidarity project. We also want to express our appreciation for the donations received from various foundations and institutions in Europe.

Given the need for an organization such as PICUM we trust that our initiative will continue to get the interest and support it requires. We are grateful to all those who have given us their confidence until now.

March 2003

On behalf of the PICUM Executive Committee

Pieter Muller, Chairman.

## **1. Mission**

In 2002, PICUM continued its mission of promoting basic social rights of undocumented migrants. At the General Assembly in October 2002, it was decided to slightly adapt the mission statement, based on a context analysis. The following is the mission statement as adopted in October 2002.

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants aims at promoting respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants in Europe.

PICUM considers the following international treaties and conventions as basic values:

Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (UNCRMW), International Covenant on Economical, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR), International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), European Social Charter, UN Convention on the Protection of Refugees, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICARD).

The social rights of citizens as expressed in the constitutions of the national states involved will also be taken into account.

### **Aim**

In 2002, the PICUM secretariat developed a context analysis as a basis for a Long Range Plan for 2003 – 2005. This context analysis, covering issues such as the most important policy areas on the European agenda, the situation of undocumented migrants in different countries in Europe, the priorities of foundations and other funders, etc., was presented to and adopted by the General Assembly in October. On the basis of the context analysis the policy group will develop a long range plan. The long range plan should be adopted at the general assembly in 2003.

This process will result in new aims and objectives, which will be available on the PICUM website. The aims and objectives presented below are those that are handled until the long range plan is finalized.

1) To promote respect for basic social rights (such as the right to health care, the right to shelter, the right to education and training, the right to a minimum income, the right to family life, the right to moral and physical integrity, the right to legal aid, the right to organize and the right to fair labor conditions) of undocumented migrants.

2) To promote the regularization of undocumented migrants.

3) To promote respect for human rights and humane treatment during the process of involuntary return of undocumented migrants.

## **Objectives**

PICUM seeks to achieve this aim by:

1. Gathering information on law and practice regarding social rights, detention and deportation of undocumented migrants, and the possibilities of regularization of their residence.
2. Developing a center of expertise in these fields with a view to providing the members of PICUM and other interested parties with expertise, advice and support.
3. Strengthening networking between organizations dealing with undocumented migrants in Europe.
4. Formulating recommendations for improving the legal and social position of these migrants, in accordance with the national constitutions and international treaties. These recommendations are to be presented to the relevant authorities, to other organizations and to the public at large.

## **2. Structure**

### **Members**

Until December 2001, PICUM had only informal – but very effective – relationships with a number of NGOs in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom through their board or their staff members. On 13 December 2001, PICUM obtained legal status by registering as a vzw (vereniging zonder winstgevend doel – non profit organization) according to Belgian law.

As a legal body PICUM now is officially able to have members. According to its statutes (Art. 6) there are ordinary members (persons) and affiliated members (NGOs). In order to be flexible it was decided that PICUM should be run by ordinary members who have voting rights in general assembly meetings. However, the affiliated members have the right to:

- appoint a representative to the regular assembly meetings;
- be involved in the preparation of PICUM's long-range plans;
- vote on these plans in special assembly meetings when these plans are presented for adoption.

Since PICUM is still in the process of formalizing many of its contacts, this list should be seen as a random indication at the end of 2002. At that time PICUM had 30 ordinary members in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK, Switzerland, Sweden and Romania,

as well as representatives of international organizations. The 25 affiliated members are organizations from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, Austria and Italy.

A complete list of members is enclosed in the annex.

### **Secretariat**

The PICUM secretariat in Brussels is staffed by a full-time coordinator, Nele Verbruggen, and two new staff members, who joined PICUM on March 1<sup>st</sup>: Michele LeVoy, the researcher responsible for the Book of Solidarity Project, and Isabelle Mediavilla, the administrative assistant for this project. Their salaries are partly paid by the European Commission. The Book of Solidarity project runs until April 2003.

### **PICUM Assembly**

PICUM assembly meetings are held twice a year. On 8–9 March 2002 PICUM's first bi-annual general assembly took place in Oirschot (The Netherlands). Issues that were discussed included the second international experts seminar on health care for undocumented migrants, the progress of the Book of Solidarity project and the Ethical Guidelines (see below under 3.3). Several policy issues were discussed such as cooperation with trade unions on employment matters, the position of PICUM regarding return of undocumented migrants and the link between migration and development.

The second General Assembly took place on 11–12 October in Antwerp (Belgium). An extensive Context Analysis was presented, discussed and adopted. The proceedings of ongoing projects such as the Labor Project and the Book of Solidarity were presented. Furthermore the assembly adopted the ethical guidelines and a standpoint on regularization.

### **Executive Committee**

In the period between the bi-annual general assemblies, the Executive Committee (Excom) functions as the governing body. The Excom met four times in the 2002: on 30 January, on 10 April, on 12 July and on 19 November. In 2002, the following individuals were members of the EXCOM:

- Pieter Muller (Council of Churches in the Netherlands/chair)
- Didier Vanderslycke (Steunpunt Mensen Zonder Papier/ vice-chair/ treasurer)
- Dominique van Huystee (ASKV–SV)
- Hildegard Grosse (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Asyl in der Kirche)
- Ralf Rothenbusch (Pax Christi Deutschland)
- Myriam De Feyter (December 18)

These members are elected Excom members until the General Assembly meeting in 2004.

### 3. Organization

#### Administrative assistance

On 1 March, Isabelle Mediavilla joined the secretariat as the administrative assistant of the Book of Solidarity project. From that point onwards all of the administrative work and much of the bookkeeping went from the hands of the coordinator and the treasurer onto Isabelle's desk, which considerably professionalized and therefore sped up things. The assistance in the Book of Solidarity project in 2002 consisted of transcription of interviews, booking travel and accommodation, practical preparation for workshops, linguistic support during workshops, refunding expenses of participants at workshops, etc. Besides this project support the administrative assistant worked on establishing a database of all the PICUM contacts, and invited these contacts to become official members.

#### Extension of PICUM

Another issue in 2002 was the upcoming extension of our organization. Pieter Muller wrote a memorandum on some extension questions, such as the language to be used, the composition of the Excom, the organization of general assemblies, etc. This discussion paper was discussed at the general assembly in October, and will be further elaborated.

#### Information

- In 2002 only one PICUM newsletter was sent out, in April. This is very much to the regret of the secretariat staff that is unable to compose more newsletters due to time constraints. A solution will be examined for 2003, since this newsletter was very much appreciated by our network and other contacts.
- The PICUM website is still regularly updated, but not often enough to be a real action tool.
- PICUM has received information requests on European developments in the field of undocumented migration from journalists, students, researchers, other European NGOs and local organizations. Several researchers interviewed PICUM on European networking and European advocacy work.
- PICUM sent information on undocumented migrants in Europe to the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights within the framework of a questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of non-citizens.
- PICUM wrote a consultative paper for the Council of Europe (Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography) on Penalizing and Criminalizing Assistance Provided to Undocumented Migrants (May 2002). This resulted in references in the working document "Creation of a charter of intent on clandestine migration" (Doc. 9522, 15 July 2002)
- PICUM sent information on access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe to the Rapporteur on human rights in the European Union (Joke Swiebel).

## **Fundraising**

- In 2002, PICUM has been financially supported by four Dutch foundations (Haëlla Stichting, CORDAID, PIN and Stichting Liberty) by one Belgian foundation (Oever) and by the European Commission.
- Pieter Muller made several fundraising visits to foundations in Spain (including the Fundació Jaume Bofill in Barcelona), France (including the Fondation France Libertés in Paris), and Italy (including the Compagnia di San Paolo in Turin and the Fondazione Cariplo in Milano). Several of these foundations showed keen interest in supporting PICUM activities. In Germany there were contacts with the Freudenberg Stiftung in Weinheim, in the Netherlands with the Haëlla Stichting in The Hague, with Stichting Liberty in Dordrecht and with Cordaid in The Hague, and in Belgium with the Evens Stichting in Antwerp.
- In July a second project proposal was submitted to the European Commission within the Social Exclusion budget line, DG Employment and Social Affairs: The Right to Shelter for Undocumented Migrants. For the development of this project, cooperation with FEANTSA and several of its partner-organizations was established. This resulted in an invitation for PICUM to the International Conference on Immigration and Homelessness organized by FEANTSA (see below). The Commission did not give priority for funding this project.
- In November we submitted a project proposal to the Education and Culture DG entitled "A Documented Debate on an Undocumented Situation". The project aims to invite organizations to exchange information on the national level and to debate on European Migration Policy. The project enables organizations to network, to learn about European standpoints and decision making, and to take an active role in the decision making process. The European Commission will inform applicants within this budget line in March 2003.
- Several meetings with the King Baldwin Foundation resulted in funding for an international conference on undocumented migrant workers which will take place in May 2003. Additional fundraising for this conference resulted in positive answers from the Belgian trade union ACV and the Belgian Ministry of Social Affairs.

## **4. Projects**

### **Labor**

In 2002, PICUM took on the issue of employment of undocumented migrants. Several organizations in the PICUM network are often confronted with undocumented migrant workers with specific labor related questions and problems. It was decided to hold an international conference on this subject in May 2003. To organize this conference a small working group was set up, which gathered for the first time on 9 September in Brussels.



## **Ethical Guidelines**

PICUM established a small working group to draft a set of guidelines for social workers that provide assistance to undocumented migrants. Ethicists and field workers from Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium met on 20 February 2002 to discuss some ethical issues. Based on this discussion and on the results of a workshop held by PICUM in March 2002 on ethical questions when working with undocumented migrants, Frits Florin drafted a concept for such guidelines. The working group commented and amended these guidelines. This latest version was presented to the General Assembly on 11 and 12 October, and was adopted after discussion.

## **Book of Solidarity**

The 'Book of Solidarity' Project started in 2001, and aims at bringing to light the solidarity that is extended to undocumented migrants in Europe. It analyses the initiatives of citizens and civil organizations in a way that on the one hand gives a helping hand to further develop and deepen their working, and on the other hand makes it earn support and respect.

The first phase of the project, which covers Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and the UK, was finalized at the end of 2002. Several workshops were held to present the findings to the interviewees and to give them the possibility to comment on the draft version of Volume I of the 'Book of Solidarity'. Workshops took place in London (21 May), Bonn (24 May), Utrecht (29 May), Brussels (31 May) and Berlin (5 June).

The second phase, which covers Spain, Italy, and France, also began in 2002. Visits were made to these countries, and a draft version of Volume II was presented to the interviewees in national workshops. Workshops were held in Madrid (12 December), Rome (14 December) and Paris (16 December).

The Steering Committee met twice on 25 January and 12 July, to analyze the information obtained. The Editorial Committee also met twice on 5 April and 26 September, to discuss the developments.

The project coordinator and the project researcher also attended a meeting for all organizations and institutions funded by the budget line on social exclusion. This 'meeting of promoters' was organized by DG Employment and Social Affairs on 15 March.

## **5. Policy Development**

### **Policy group**

The Policy Group met three times in 2002: 11 February, 12 July, 18 November. The Policy Group in its current composition is responsible for monitoring the process of the Long Range Plan, and for developing standpoints on some of the most pressing and central issues. In 2002, the Policy Group developed standpoints on the following issues:

- PICUM Position Paper on Labor Migration.
- PICUM Standpoint on Regularization.
- Penalization and Criminalization of assistance.
- Return of Undocumented Migrants.
- Detention and Expulsion.

Regarding methodology, the Policy Group elaborated a procedure to be followed by the secretariat in policy matters, and wrote a paper on what it means to work with a social rights approach. The Policy Group also discussed root causes, asylum and better temporary worker programs. For these themes, it was decided that PICUM will only have standpoints, not practical recommendations.

A list of members of the policy group is included in the annex.

### **Political networking**

In 2002, PICUM established contacts with the DG Employment and Social Affairs.

### **Monitoring of European developments**

Monitoring of European developments was carried out through publication of the newsletter (see above), press releases, policy comments, a consultative paper and attendance and contribution at several conferences in Europe.

#### *Press Releases, Comments, Consultative Papers*

- A press release on “Violation of church asylum” was issued on 9 March, after the police force of Bern (Switzerland) broke the church asylum in the Johannes Kirche, where more than 20 undocumented migrants found sanctuary.
- Comments on the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a Common Policy on Illegal Immigration (COM (2001) 671 final), April 2002.
- A Consultative paper for the Council of Europe (Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography) entitled “Penalizing and Criminalizing Assistance Provided to Undocumented Migrants” was issued in May, upon request of Mr. Wilkinson, the Rapporteur of the Charter of Intent on Clandestine Migration (see above).
- PICUM reacted on the Summit of Sevilla with a statement entitled “Fighting Illegal Migration: the Gap Between Politics and Reality” in June 2002.

- PICUM commented on the “Green Paper on a Community Return Policy on Illegal Residents” (presented by the European Commission) in July 2002.
- PICUM commented on the adoption of the ‘framework decision on strengthening the penal framework to prevent the facilitation of unauthorized entry, transit and residence’ in December 2002.

#### *Participation in conferences and seminars*

- ENAR, “A Common EU Immigration Policy – Dream or reality?” 1–2 February, Brussels.
- European Civic Forum, “Creation of a research network on migration, living conditions and the precarious statutes of migrant workers in Europe, in agriculture in particular”, 16 February, Geneva. (Attended by Myriam De Feyter)
- Dutch Council of Churches, 'Op weg naar Den Haag' (On the way to The Hague), national meeting of church-oriented groups protesting against government policies regarding asylum and irregular migrants, 13 April, The Hague
- Public hearing of the Rapporteur on human rights in the European Union (Joke Swiebel) organized by the Civil Liberties Committee on 17 April, Brussels.
- CCME Working Group on Monitoring European Migration and Asylum Policies (Baarn, Netherlands, 19–21 April 2002). Contribution: Undocumented Migrants and Irregular Migration, Trafficking and Smuggling. (Pieter Muller)
- City of Wolfsburg (Germany), “Illegality and Human Rights”, on 8 May 2002, Wolfsburg. (Attended by Rian Ederveen)
- ETUC, Meeting of Working Group on Migrants and Ethnic Minorities, 8 May 2002. Contribution: Access to health care for undocumented migrants.
- European Civic Forum, “European meeting on Regularization”, 17 –19 May, Bern (CH). (Attended by Michele LeVoy and Nele Verbruggen)
- IFHHRO (International Federation for Health and Human Rights Organizations), Annual Meeting, 24–26 May 2002 in Soesterberg, Netherlands. (Attended by Gisela Penteker)
- Platform Migranten Zonder Verblijfsvergunning (Platform Migrants Without Residence Permit), 6 June, Utrecht. Contribution: The Summit of Sevilla.
- European Commission, “Hearing on a Community Return Policy on Illegal Residents”, 16 July, Brussels.
- PRO ASYL, “The Long Way to European Legislation on Asylum”, 13 – 15 September 2002 (Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll). Contribution: “Illegalization & residence permits in the EU”.
- European Parliament and the Council of Europe, “Joint Meeting and Round Table on “Irregular Migration”, 3 October, Brussels.
- Pax Christi International, Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and European Affairs meeting, 18–20 October, Antwerp (Belgium). Contribution: The Work of PICUM.
- CCME, conference on Irregular Migration, a challenge to European Migration and Asylum Policies, 1 November 2002, Athens (conference preceding CCME General Assembly on Aegina Island, Greece, 1–3 November 2002). Contribution: Basic Social Rights for Undocumented Migrants in Europe (Pieter Muller)
- FEANTSA in cooperation with BAGW, Immigration and Homelessness – European Conference, Berlin – 8 November 2002. Contribution: Social work with illegal immigrants.

- Evangelische Akademie and Diakonisches Werk, “Human Beings Amongst Us: Irregular Migration in Europe and their Implications”, 22 to 24 November, Berlin. Contribution: Undocumented Migrants in the EU – An Overview.
- International Center for Migration and Health, “NGO Forum for Health. Partnering to make health a reality: promoting equity and justice in health care”, 27 November, Geneva, Switzerland. (attended by Dominique van Huijstee)
- Stichting Kreveld, “Asylum and migration: a progressive challenge”, 30 November, Belgium. Contribution: “Illegale migratie en illegaal verblijf als uitdaging voor de welvaartstaat” (Illegal Migration and Illegal Stay as a challenge for the Welfare State).
- Meetings, NGO Platform Brussels, every three months.

## 6. Evaluation

This annual report gives us an opportunity, as we have done before, to evaluate our work and consider and compare our results with the targets set out in our Action Plan for 2002.

### Thematic work

1. The ‘Book of Solidarity’ project has been our ‘core business’ for the entire year. As it was the first project we had ever presented to the European Commission we made the common beginners’ mistake of underestimating the work it would entail and the time required to complete it. Apart from one earlier, smaller attempt to make a Europe-wide inventory of the work done by NGOs that provide assistance to undocumented migrants, this field has never been covered by any research team, nor has there been an analysis of organizations’ work in a societal and legal context. In addition, European Commission funding came in later than expected, so the hiring of staff was delayed while the project period had already started. Luckily this period could be extended by three months (until April 2003). The first volume dealing with solidarity in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and the U.K. was published in December 2002.  
The ‘Book of Solidarity’ project has enabled us to obtain a mass of information on practice and problems on the grassroots level, to get better views on the migration phenomenon, and to establish relationships with numerous NGOs active in the field in ten European countries, with university institutions, experts, public authorities and many others.
2. In our Action Plan for 2002 we had envisaged to hold workshops for representatives of NGOs that give support to undocumented migrants in order to deepen their insight in the possibilities of engaging civil society and public institutions. The ‘Book of Solidarity’ project has given us an opportunity to do so in seven countries. Three more countries (Sweden, Denmark, and Austria) will be covered in spring 2003. However, there is a need for follow-up seminars. For this reason we have submitted a further project proposal to the European Commission, which hopefully will be accepted for co-funding in 2003.

3. Monitoring European policy developments with regard to undocumented migrants has been a further major task of our staff in 2002. Within her limitations of time, it has been successfully carried out by our coordinator, but the field is very broad and developments are fast. There is a serious need for more active monitoring and networking in this field. For instance, the interpretation and national implementation of the recently adopted EU regulation on penalizing assistance to irregular migrants requires careful scrutiny.
4. Our plan to hold training sessions for social workers from various countries, providing training in legal, political and practical matters regarding undocumented migrants, was revised in the course of the year. It was felt that there was a need for in-depth discussions on ethical questions for social workers when dealing with undocumented migrants. These discussions were held in a working group and as well as in a workshop – see Chapter 3.3. of this report – and resulted in a solid set of guidelines adopted by the PICUM Assembly in October.
5. Another issue mentioned in the Action Plan for 2002 was cooperation with trade unions in view of the protection of the rights of undocumented migrant workers. At the October 2002 General Assembly, it was decided to start a project on the theme of protection while involving both trade unions and employers' organizations. We consider this as one of our current major projects.
6. Much to our regret we have not been able to hold a second seminar on access to health care for undocumented migrants in France, Spain and Italy. This was originally planned to be held in Paris in March or November 2002. We had to give priority to our core activity – the 'Book of Solidarity' project – and funding for this seminar could not be obtained in time.
7. Although not mentioned in the Action Plan, we realized that the issue of shelter for undocumented migrants was becoming a major problem in many European countries. The project proposal we drafted in view of making an inventory concerning this issue provided us with an opportunity to link up with 12 other NGOs involved in this issue. It was a setback indeed when the European Commission did not give the proposal a priority rating, but considering the need for such a project, we decided to put it on our own priority list for 2003.
8. In our newly established Policy Group several other themes and issues were discussed and developed into 'standpoints' without going into the depth of the matter. Such standpoints were then submitted to our General Assembly which amended, then adopted these papers. We believe that this is a fruitful way of dealing with themes that cannot be treated as fully-fledged projects.
9. We believe that the bottom-up approach of the various issues – based on the grass roots experience of our members – is and should remain an essential characteristic of our work.

10. Lastly, a very important novelty has been the beginning of a strategic planning process, the development of a three-year Long Term Plan for PICUM. In this process the Policy Group is the initiator, the general assembly is the decisive organ, but is involved in the earlier deliberations as well. In October these deliberations were based on a context analysis prepared by the secretariat and considered the aims and objectives of PICUM as formulated in its Mission Statement. As such, all of our members can influence the direction in which PICUM will go and the priorities it will maintain.

*Conclusion: PICUM's work has become more mature in 2002, primarily through the 'Book of Solidarity' project. The discussions on Ethical Guidelines have had an inspiring effect on our members. Monitoring activities have suffered due to lack of time. The strategic planning process may indeed have a positive impact on the consistency of our work. The choice to start working on labor issues was important and will probably play an important role in defining our future projects and partners.*

### **Organisational work**

- a. The first campaign for members – which could only start in early 2002 when PICUM had obtained a legal structure – has resulted in a considerable but rather diversified list of both ordinary and affiliated members. There is a need for more organized campaigning, especially in southern and northern European countries. We aim at the involvement of ordinary members willing to dedicate their knowledge and energy, while we need NGOs as affiliated members for their representativity. In no way do we expect any substantial income from their annual fees – we shall be dependent on contributions by sponsors and, in the future, on income based on our expertise.
- b. As indicated before we have been able to extend our network to other relevant NGOs as well as to university institutes and scientists in many European countries in the framework of the 'Book of Solidarity' project. Our network continues to grow.
- c. Due to lack of time of staff and board members, we have been less successful in developing network relationships with EU and national politicians and authorities. As monitoring policy developments is one of our first priorities, more staff time and energy will have to be devoted to this work and there is a need for board members who are able and willing to support it.
- d. The organization of our thematic work has been very much improved by the creation of a Policy Group consisting of both board members and experts who can consider the issues that are relevant for PICUM and that should obtain priority. However, the budgeting side of this work requires the support of an experienced budget manager.
- e. The consequences of the extension of PICUM towards southern and northern European countries have so far only been discussed at the October General Assembly, but decisions – for instance concerning the composition of both the Executive Committee (Excom) and of the Policy Group, the frequency and length of Assembly meetings, etc. –

will have to be taken in 2003. These changes will necessarily have an impact on the way PICUM will operate in the future.

- f. Written communication has been less developed than we had expected. The fact that only one newsletter could be produced in 2002 has only partly been 'corrected' by keeping the PICUM website [www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org) up to date. Again, lack of staff time has been the cause of this weakness.

On the other hand, our board and, in particular, staff members have been invited as guest speakers on many occasions, which has been useful both in view of the spreading of knowledge and experience as well as for establishing relationships with other NGOs, institutions, etc.

Our plan to establish an international committee of recommendation has not yet gotten off the ground.

- g. Lastly, fundraising in 2002 has only partly been successful. In spite of our efforts we have not been able to establish sponsorship relations in Germany, France and Spain as yet. On the other hand, several foundations in Belgium and The Netherlands that supported us before have been helpful again, another important Belgian foundation has opened its doors to us, and two Italian funds have joined its approach. However, more efforts in a variety of countries are needed in order to guarantee a solid future for PICUM and its staff. Meanwhile valid project proposals should be formulated for co-funding by the European Commission and the possibility of exploiting our expertise should be further looked into.

*Conclusion: there is a great deal of flexibility in the way PICUM is adjusting its organizational structure to new realities such as the development of its project work and its extension towards other parts of the continent. On the other hand, the providing of regular income has been a problem which requires a broader and perhaps more innovative approach.*

## 7. Prospects

In a context of increasing migration movements in the world and a restrictive approach by European and national authorities towards this phenomenon, the human rights of undocumented migrants tend to be violated and humanitarian considerations disregarded on a Europe-wide scale. There is a need for a well-organized European platform that is backed by numerous NGOs in many countries on this continent that defend the basic social rights of undocumented migrants on the national level. At the same time this platform should give support to these NGOs by providing them with relevant information and opportunities for exchange of experience. It should also monitor policy developments, develop innovative projects, preferably jointly with other organizations in the field, and speak out in public on the issue.

PICUM is responding to this need. After slightly more than two years, PICUM is now an organization that – mainly as a result of the hard work and competence of its secretariat – has acquired a certain status in Europe: a status of a knowledgeable and reliable partner in many networks and policymakers' circles. The prospects for this organization are good.

Membership has to increase, in particular in southern and northern European countries and eventually in central and eastern Europe as well. Its secretariat needs further expansion in order to meet the need of project development, networking, monitoring and advocacy. Its financial position has to be strengthened by further fundraising for long-term projects as well as by exploiting the expertise it has acquired. But PICUM's present position is valid and sound, and presents a good basis for further deploying its capabilities.

When working on the issue of undocumented migrants, building societal support and looking for sufficient funding is not self-evident these days. Yet with the support of so many people and organizations around us we feel confident that we can continue our work in a creative way. We would like to express our gratitude towards all the individuals and institutions that have been supporting us, and truly hope that in the future this support can be extended even further.



## ANNEX

### Ordinary members

- Paul Lansu – Pax Christi International
- Myriam De Feyter – December 18
- Patrick A. Taran – International Labour Office
- Jorge Rodriguez Gonzalez – Jesuit Refugee Service Europe
- Ellen Druyts– Medisch Steunpunt mensen zonder papieren (Belgium)
- Yves Bocklandt – Bond zonder Naam (Belgium)
- Didier Vanderslycke – Steunpunt Mensen Zonder Papieren (Belgium)
- Dimitry Neuckens– Vlaams Minderheden Centrum (Belgium)
- Gisela Penteker– IPPNW/Förderverein Niedersächsischer Flüchtlingsrat e.V. (Germany)
- Holk Stobbe, researcher (Germany)
- Eberhard Vorbrodt, general practitioner (Germany)
- Marita Etzel–Heidbüchel, activist (Germany)
- Margret Müller – Flüchtlingsrat Coesfeld (Germany)
- Wolfgang Müller – Flüchtlingsrat Coesfeld (Germany)
- Ute Hausmann – Fian (Germany)
- Hildegard Grosse – BAG Asyl in der kirche (Germany)
- Hans van Zon – Vuurdoop (The Netherlands)
- Frits Florin, former policy advisor at VluchtelingenWerk (The Netherlands)
- Connie Van Den Broeck – Vuurdoop (The Netherlands)
- Pieter Muller, PICUM chair (The Netherlands)
- Thanasis Apostolou, former member of Parliament (The Netherlands)
- Dominique van Huijstee – ASKV– Steunpunt Vluchtelingen (The Netherlands)
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- Pax Christi Deutschland (Germany)
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- Commissie Justitia et Pax Nederland (The Netherlands)
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