



RECOMMENDATION

- **Prospects for young people in the Mediterranean today**
Rapporteurs: Mr Korichi (Algeria), Mr. Le Hyaric (EP)
 - **Migration, employment and integration**
Rapporteurs: Mr. Alzyoud (Jordan), Mr. Romeva i Rueda (EP)
 - **A Mediterranean Charter of Values and Intercultural Dialogue**
Rapporteur: Mr. Kasoulides (EP)
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Prospects for young people in the Mediterranean today

The Committee on improving quality of life, exchanges between civil societies and culture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean,

- A. whereas the Mediterranean is a shared sea and the Mediterranean basin is an open geographical area where travel, the exchange of ideas and trade have helped to create a shared history and culture;
- B. whereas the movements striving for democracy and justice known as the ‘Arab Spring’ are the best proof of the openness and receptiveness of Mediterranean peoples to the ideas circulating in this area and their awareness of the events occurring there; whereas these movements are proof that ideas of progress, social justice and emancipation of the people are just as alive in southern Mediterranean society as elsewhere and that they are being sought with determination, particularly by its young people;
- C. whereas the movements striving for democracy and justice known as the ‘Arab Spring’ have largely originated from young people in the Mediterranean area who are expressing their rejection of the economic and political organisation that is depriving them of future prospects;
- D. whereas European policy prior to the movements striving for democracy and justice known as the ‘Arab Spring’ was more concerned with issues of immigration and the stability of non-democratic regimes than supporting an unprecedented democratic movement in countries with which Europe has very strong historic and human links;
- E. having regard to the weaknesses of the policies implemented by certain European governments and the lack of solidarity with the populations concerned to support the reforms to be made in the Mediterranean countries in transition is out of step with the enthusiasm of the peoples of the European Union, and more specifically young people, for the demands of southern Mediterranean society;
- F. whereas major challenges are facing the southern Mediterranean countries: high dependence on certain sectors (raw materials, capital goods, tourism) which make these economies more vulnerable to the world’s economic climate, foreign investment often limited to subcontracting sectors with little added value, management of migratory flows resulting from transitional migration, lack of prospects for many educated young people faced with very high unemployment levels;
- G. whereas the poor progress recorded in the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education and Research Area falls short of the objectives laid down in the 2007 Cairo Declaration, and whereas it is necessary to strengthen the networks of Euro-Mediterranean higher education and research establishments, in particular by taking advantage of the Tempus et Erasmus Mundus programmes, in spite of specific initiatives such as the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) in 2008;
- H. whereas, in order to satisfy more effectively the aspirations of young people in the Euro-

Mediterranean area following the events occurring there from the end of 2010 measures should be taken to implement the previous recommendations by the Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, in particular that adopted at its 7th plenary session in Rome on 4 March 2011 on ‘Immigration and integration: building a culture of peace by means of a dialogue between new generations’;

A new look at movements for democracy and justice known as the Arab Spring

1. Welcomes and supports the popular movements and democratic demands expressed by the young people of the countries of the Mediterranean areas;
2. Welcomes the progress with elections in the southern Mediterranean countries, which are proof that a pluralist system can allow the political and social diversity of the countries concerned to express itself freely;
3. Points out that the movements for democracy and justice known as the Arab Spring were inspired by a large number of educated young people; noting that they are more or less absent from the corridors of economic and political power, and therefore call for the expectations of these young people and their refusal to be instrumentalised to be taken into account;
4. Points out that young Europeans and Arabs are aware of the profound injustice suffered by the Palestinian people; observes that the denial of a state to the Palestinian people runs counter to the idea of dignity which lies behind the objective sought by young Arabs and Europeans;
5. Expresses its support for and solidarity with the people, in particular young people, of Syria fighting at this moment for liberty and democracy in their country;
6. Points out that the aspirations of freedom, dignity, socio-economic fairness and political freedoms and the rejection of authoritarianism, justice, nepotism, corruption and clientelism are the same for Arab and European young people alike;
7. Points out that periods of major changes are subject to fits and starts and instability that can be used by retrograde forces for their own benefit; calls on the Union and its Member States, therefore, to support these changes, which are largely based on Arab youth, both economically and politically;
8. Asks the European Union to give priority to basic rights when considering its policies with its neighbours; asks for this priority principle to prevail when considering all agreements signed or future agreements to be signed by the European Union;
9. Calls for the building of a new type of economic partnership based on cooperation and exchanges on an equal footing between the countries of the northern and southern Mediterranean which could be based on a revitalised Mediterranean Union provided with the necessary financial resources;

A Mediterranean area of free movement for Euro-Mediterranean young people

10. Calls therefore for a review of the migratory policy of the European Union with its neighbours in view of the historic changes brought about by the movements striving for democracy and justice known as the Arab Spring and for the promotion of partnerships that encourage human exchanges, the sharing of knowledge and freedom of movement;
11. Calls for the creation of a more flexible visa policy for students, apprentices, teachers and researchers and family visits, compliance with the directives on family reunification and the establishing of uniform criteria for opening up access channels for worker migration that respect the rights of both migrant and local workers; stresses the positive effect of ensuring that migrants established in the EU maintain strong ties with their countries of origin in terms of Euro-Mediterranean cultural dialogue;
12. Calls for the adoption of a joint text governing the rights of migrant workers in the European Union and granting them full equality regarding pay, working conditions, access to social protection and access to public services including social housing;
13. Asks Member States to favour access to housing for young Europeans and young people from third countries by putting in place a mechanism of securities and guarantees to be met by local or national authorities;
14. Welcomes access to the world of work in the form of volunteering and vocational training for young people from Europe or third countries, while pointing out that training must never replace a job and must be subject to strict rules with regard to working hours and pay;
15. Is concerned about the extremely precarious nature of work for young people and migrants and the many forms it can take (part-time work, temporary work, casual labour etc.); points out that these people are among the most vulnerable with limited resources and savings; is in favour of specific policies to tackle unemployment for all young people, whether Europeans or migrants;

A common higher education area for Euro-Mediterranean young people

16. Points out that free public education for all must be a priority for all the countries round the Mediterranean, since the Mediterranean must remain the shared area it has always been; calls for much more ambitious university professional and cultural exchange programmes taking account of fresh developments within civil society;
17. Calls for the potential of existing programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus) to be developed by significantly increasing their financial resources but also by providing mechanisms to ensure the quality and comparability of higher education in particular that delivered by these programmes and, by supporting cooperation between universities and facilitating the mobility of students, teachers and researchers between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean and between the southern Mediterranean countries themselves; points out that an independent means-tested system for the allocation of bursaries would allow the scope and diversity of such programmes to be increased;
18. Considers it essential to promote the visibility, understanding and accessibility of the Erasmus Mundus programme for students, especially in universities of the southern

Mediterranean, in order to extend this programme beyond the circle of an initiated elite and strengthen the participation and diversity of the students from the southern Mediterranean in this programme, in particular by opening up the initial university stages to students and not just masters and doctorates; calls for measures to promote exchanges by heightening the profile of the southern Mediterranean universities;

19. Calls for measures to be taken in a second stage for the establishment of a genuine Euro-Mediterranean cross-training and exchange system with three axes: higher education, professional training and cultural exchanges, as well as the right to work; calls on the Commission accordingly to adopt the proposal of the European Parliament for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Erasmus (student exchange) and Leonardo da Vinci (vocational training) programme;
20. Recommends that the synergies between the different education, research and cultural programmes in the Mediterranean region be actively encouraged; recommends to this end the development of distance learning programmes that open the door to closer cooperation;
21. Recommends, independently of their participation in present or future exchange programmes, an increase in the possibilities of granting visas to students, teachers and researchers for an effective exchange of ideas and knowledge;

A set of common rights for Euro-Mediterranean young people

22. Points out that a substantial number of migrants arriving in the European Union for professional or family reasons are young and require monitoring and guidance to assist their integration; urges the Member States of the European Union for this purpose to set up an effective and free language teaching scheme, along with services to make them aware of their rights and of the institutions of the host country and to assist them in their day-to-day lives; calls for there to be no discrimination against long-term residents as regards the granting of citizenship and supports the right of young migrants to participate in elections;
23. Points out the essential importance of the assistance of monitoring organisations for women and young women from third countries who are exposed to two-fold discrimination based on sex and origin;
24. Stresses the importance of the role played by women in events taking place in the southern Mediterranean; points out that the demands for dignity and freedom have a particular importance for their emancipation and that women must never be forgotten in the democratic and electoral processes and regarding participation in the decision-making bodies that are being created; welcomes measures increasing their representation on decision-making bodies, for example in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco where a significant number of women have seats in the elected assemblies;
25. Supports the right of all women, and young women in particular, from both shores of the Mediterranean, to be free to determine their own future, to work, to a professional career and to freedom of choice in society and the family;

26. Firmly condemns any discrimination and stigmatisation as formulated in Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights; denounces the political instrumentalisation of the fear of others and also any generalisation of a populist discourse stigmatising certain categories or groups of people according to their social or geographical origins, their membership of a religious community or affiliation thereto; calls for the creation of a European agency responsible for combating discrimination and exclusion available to any resident on Community soil and endowed with monitoring powers; proposes that the Member States and the EU's Mediterranean partners to set up such agencies in their respective countries;
27. Calls for the formulation of a Euro-Mediterranean convention on human rights and fundamental freedoms in the image of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; proposes that this Euro-Mediterranean convention could serve as a legal basis for appealing against any decision not in keeping with its spirit;
28. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Co-Presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Secretary-General of the UfM Secretariat, the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the High-Representative/Vice-President Catherine Ashton, the European Commission, the parliaments and the governments of the Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Parliament.

Migration, employment and integration

The Committee on improving quality of life, exchanges between civil societies and culture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean,

- Whereas the mobility is a key component of the new neighbourhood strategy and the EU revised policy in response to the movements striving for democracy and justice known as the Arab Spring should fully support the democratisation process by providing not only humanitarian support but also assistance for political, social, economic and cultural reforms;
- Whereas political, social and economic instability, lack of security, political repression and authoritarian regimes are the major driving forces behind migration, depriving affected communities of viable local prospects and income and, hence, of the right to choose whether to migrate or not, putting their lives at constant risk and leaving them with migration as their only option; whereas climate change and environmental degradation are becoming an increasingly common cause of migration;
- Whereas migration has contributed to the exchange of ideas, but has also entailed challenges in terms of the integration of immigrants into host societies, thus giving rise to both the cultural and economic enrichment of the whole Euro-Mediterranean region and issues of social inclusion and adaptation;

- Whereas slower population growth in the European Union will create shortages in the labour market while demographic trends in the Southern Mediterranean is a challenge for the region as a whole,
 - Whereas, in the context of an enhanced Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, co-operation on Migration policy between Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) countries should be given fresh impetus after the historic events that have occurred in the Southern Mediterranean since the end of 2010,
 - Whereas the effects of the economic and financial crisis have come on top of the existing political and social challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region, particularly in relation to the problem of unemployment;
 - Whereas it is in the common interest of Southern Mediterranean countries and the EU to bring down unemployment rates in the region and to offer its people, particularly young people, hope for the future while at the same time mitigating the brain-drain in the migrants' countries,
 - Whereas no EU Member State has ratified the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to date; whereas this Convention is the most broadly-based international legal framework for the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families and gives States guidance as to the approach to be adopted to ensure that migrants' rights are respected when policies relating to the migration of labour are drawn up and implemented;
 - Whereas a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to migration management can enhance respect for the dignity of all migrants who can potentially contribute to meeting labour needs in countries of transit and destination and boost development in countries of origin;
1. Reaffirms that the Euro-Mediterranean partnership aims to bring the two shores of the Mediterranean closer together with a view to establishing an area of peace, democracy, security and prosperity;
 2. Recalls, in this context, that mobility and people-to-people contacts are fundamental to promoting mutual understanding and economic development, as they are indispensable for trade as for exchanging ideas, spreading innovation and tackling employment and social issues;
 3. Calls for the development of instruments to establish a common Euro-Mediterranean immigration policy with a view to promoting economic and social progress and employment in transit countries and countries of origin and destination, and to enhance social cohesion by improving the integration of migrants, as proposed by its recommendation on "Immigration and integration : building a culture of peace by means of dialogue between generations" approved on 4 March 2011 in Rome;
 4. Takes the view that it is essential, as part of a coherent long-term strategy, to analyse the deep-rooted causes of migration flows in order to bring more appropriate responses in relation to the right to mobility;

5. Recalls that well-managed legal migration brings benefits to EU countries through their economic contribution of migrants and to third countries through remittances sent to their countries of origin; furthermore, stresses the importance of supporting initiatives designed to promote the involvement of migrants in development and training projects in their countries of origin and of destination;
6. Stresses that given the importance of "South-South" migration, notably transit migration from Africa, the issue under consideration ("Migration, employment and integration") should not be seen only through a "North-South" prism; believes in this context that most of the following recommendations shall be endorsed and implemented by all UfM countries; calls in this regard on all UfM countries and EU countries to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
7. Stresses that labour mobility is an area where the EU and its neighbours can complement each other, as the EU's workforce is ageing and labour shortages will develop in specific areas while EU's southern neighbours have well-educated, young and talented workers who can fill these gaps;
8. Considers that support for politically unstable and economically weaker states, as a likely source of irregular migration and security, should always include, in addition to budgetary relief and support and strategies to establish or consolidate stability, direct investment and market-access strategies, rural development and food security strategies, Millenium Development Goals (MDG) support, job-creation policies, infrastructure development, support for SMEs, microcredit facilities and strategies geared to promoting democratisation and good governance, social inclusion, the empowerment of women and minority or disadvantaged groups and ethnic and religious tolerance;
9. Welcomes the Communication from the European Commission on a "Dialogue for migration, mobility and security with the Southern Mediterranean countries" (COM (2011) 292 final, 24.052011); recalls in this context that the Mobility partnerships proposed therein should not be steered primarily by security concerns;
10. Strongly supports the "partnership with societies" approach and thus calls on the Commission and the Vice-President/High Representative together with UfM countries to develop mechanisms to ensure its full application, in particular by setting up a mechanism involving civil society in the definition of objectives and benchmarks and in the implementation and monitoring of all agreements with partners, by maintaining a transparent dialogue on Justice and Home affairs matters with democratically elected authorities and national parliaments, and by enhancing the parliamentary democratic scrutiny of all mechanisms, dialogues and agreements on migration;
11. Advocates the adoption of a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for Mobility which should provide the conditions for the right to free movement between the two shores of the Mediterranean; with this end in view, calls on UfM to set up a structured dialogue between EU institutions and third country authorities in order to develop a win-win approach to mobility, including :

- progress on visa rules to be made more flexible and easier with a view to moving

gradually towards a satisfactory mobility of people,

- making greater use of the opportunities offered by the EU Visa Code,

- evaluation of the existing mobility partnerships, focusing in particular on the effects of the interdependence between development aid, security, regular migration and irregular migration as defined in the Global Approach to Migration;

- circular migration as a two-way tool to (1) promote the continuing and fluid mobility of persons for the benefit of both sides, (2) proposing measures aimed at facilitating well-managed legal migration opportunities and (3) accommodating a larger number of people while avoiding the permanent or long-term separation of families;

12. Urges the European Commission to ensure that any readmission agreement signed by the EU and its Member States fully respects human rights and the principle of 'non-refoulement' and does not put at risk any persons in need of international protection and calls on the EU to make every effort to facilitate the development of an accessible, fair and protective EU asylum system; calls on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to implement the recommendations made in the Commission's evaluation of the EU readmission agreements which has been issued on 23 February 2011;
13. Stresses in this respect that youth and student mobility should be treated as a priority to help combat youth unemployment both in the Southern Mediterranean and in Europe and facilitate integration in their respective labour markets; emphasises the need to enhance synergies between "Youth on the Move" programmes and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP);
14. Stresses that the EU should increase cooperation in the field of academic education and vocational training, immediately broadening and increasing scholarship programmes and mobility of students, graduates, teachers and academics by promoting exchanges between higher education and training institutions, along with public-private partnerships in the field of research ; considers it essential to develop more flexible, accelerated procedures for issuing visas to participants in such programmes;
15. Emphasises the need to advance the work on mutual recognition of qualifications and education systems with ENP partner countries, especially on the approximation of Higher Education Diplomas and standards to the European Higher Education Area; stresses the strong need for a structured information policy towards the citizens of the ENP partners concerning the possibility of participation in EU programmes;
16. Calls on the European Commission to take over the European Parliament's proposal to establish a Euro-Mediterranean Erasmus programme (students' exchange) and a Euro-Mediterranean Leonardo-da-Vinci programme (vocational training);
17. Calls on the EU to enhance the accessibility and channelling of EU funds into projects aimed at informing migrants of their rights and responsibilities and at protecting their rights, with particular reference to the rights of unaccompanied minors, women and other vulnerable groups; asks the European Commission therefore to provide the

European Parliament with a detailed report on the use of EU funds earmarked for neighbouring countries, including under the Commission's thematic programme for cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum;

18. Calls on the EU to implement the Directives on third country seasonal workers and intra-corporate transferees to enhance mobility to the EU;
19. Invites UfM countries to engage in a mutually beneficial process of opening of their labour markets; invites them to include provisions on the free movement of services in free trade agreements within the region;
20. Calls on the UfM to make further efforts with regard to the development and democratisation of countries of origin and to promote the rule of law, in order to tackle the problems associated with migration at their root;
21. Encourages the establishment of migration information and management centres in order to help third countries of origin or transit to define a migration policy in response to the concerns of potential migrants and returning migrants, offer guidance on legal immigration, job opportunities and living conditions in countries of destination, and help with job training for would-be migrants; stresses at the same time that this support should not aim at preventing would-be migrants from achieving their projects in compliance with the right to leave one's country;
22. Calls on UfM countries to make a concerted effort to combat all types of discrimination suffered by migrants; emphasises the importance of completely equal treatment for local and migrant workers, including equal employment conditions (wages, working hours, demands of the job, occupational health, redundancy, union representation, working conditions, trade union rights) in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, equal social protection and equal access to public services and public sector jobs;
23. Instructs its Chair to forward this recommendation to the Co-Presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Secretary-General of the UfM Secretariat, the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the High Representative/Vice-President Catherine Ashton, the European Commission, the parliaments and governments of the member states of the Union for the Mediterranean, and the European Parliament.

A Mediterranean Charter of Values and Intercultural Dialogue

The Committee on improving quality of life, exchanges between civil societies and culture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean,

- Whereas the shared history of the European Union and the Mediterranean basin gave rise to a set of values, philosophies and beliefs in which cultural and religious dialogue is vital to mutual understanding,

- Whereas the promotion and defence of common values and shared principles amongst Euro-Mediterranean countries is key to building a favourable environment of peace and stability conducive to economic, social and cultural development and a stronger Euro-Mediterranean partnership;
 - Whereas the role of governments to promote common Euro-Mediterranean values and make sure they are respected is essential;
 - Whereas intercultural dialogue is understood as an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds;
 - Whereas the role of civil society is pivotal to facilitate intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region and enable a greater understanding and closeness between peoples across cultural, religious and national boundaries;
 - Whereas the historic events that have occurred in the Southern Mediterranean since the end of 2010 have provided unique opportunities for the people of those countries to express more freely their wish for true democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law and fundamental freedoms;
1. Welcomes the reform process underway in the Southern Mediterranean; is convinced that UfM (Union for the Mediterranean) countries should take full advantage of this push for democracy and reforms, as it is an appropriate time to establish a genuine partnership based on the promotion of shared values and principles;
 2. Strongly believes in this regard that a "Euro-Mediterranean Charter of Values" will represent a crucial step towards a strengthened Union for the Mediterranean based on peace, security and stability;
 3. Recalls its decision to draft a Euro-Mediterranean charter of values, as stated in the recommendation on "Dialogue between cultures and religions: towards a Mediterranean charter of values" approved on 4 March 2011 in Rome; commits itself to come up with a draft proposal by the end of 2012;
 4. Calls on a Euro-Mediterranean Convention composed of government representatives, national Parliaments, and the European Parliament to adopt a "Euro-Mediterranean charter of values" based on this draft proposal by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean;
 5. Invites the Heads of State and Government of the Union for the Mediterranean to hold a Ministerial conference to convene this Convention;
 6. Stresses that a Euro-Mediterranean charter of values should be based on a set of common principles, including :
 - protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech, assembly, conscience, religion or belief, association and the media, including unrestricted access to information, communication and internet (as access to the internet is a human right, as declared by the United Nations on 6 June 2011) and gender equality,

- fight against discrimination and racism,
 - fair distribution of income, wealth and opportunities, social cohesion and sustainable development,
 - democratic stability, justice and the rule of law, fight against corruption and good governance,
 - non use of force and peaceful settlement of conflicts;
7. Recalls in this connection that signatories of a Euro-Mediterranean Charter of Values should also undertake to promote the protection of religious minorities, fight discrimination and racism through adoption of adequate legislation and effective implementation mechanisms; underlines the importance of participation in commonly agreed Euro-Mediterranean programmes for civil society, law enforcement agents and other stakeholders as a way to put into practice the principles of the Charter of Values;
 8. Believes that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership must be based on concrete progress in these areas;
 9. Underlines the importance of promoting intercultural dialogue to ensure better knowledge of religions, beliefs and cultures, mutual understanding and respect among Euro-Mediterranean peoples;
 10. Considers cultural cooperation based on a genuine dialogue between cultures and including all sectors of society (cultural authorities, institutions, organisations and associations) to be essential;
 11. Believes that fostering participation in cultural programmes can benefit material and non-material development and stresses, therefore, the importance of programmes such as Media Mundus and of projects run under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean;
 12. Welcomes all non-governmental efforts and initiatives in the field of cultural dialogue ; in this respect, considers the Anna Lindh Foundation report on "Euro-Med Intercultural Trends 2010" and its recommendations to be important policy instruments for civil society stakeholders and public institutions wishing to see closer links between the two shores of the Mediterranean;
 13. Encourages EU institutions and national governments to support the organisation of seminars, conferences and training sessions of young political leaders for the promotion of common values and intercultural dialogue, as a concrete contribution to the building of a new area of peace, stability and freedom;
 14. Calls on all opinion leaders, including media, to promote the universal values of respect and tolerance;
 15. Believes that the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) provides a unique platform for strengthening cooperation in the area of higher education and student mobility with the Southern neighbours, at a time when it is of particularly vital importance to deepen relations with the Southern partnership countries, especially

with their younger generations; underlines, in this respect, that the EMUNI's potential should be developed as much as possible;

16. Welcomes the emphasis put on Education and Research in the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat's work programme and the identified priority of facilitating exchange programmes for students and for teachers among the universities; in this regard, calls on the European Commission to take over the European Parliament's proposal to establish a Euro-Mediterranean Erasmus programme;
17. Instructs its Chair to forward this recommendation to the Co-Presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Secretary-General of the UfM Secretariat, the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the High Representative/Vice-President Catherine Ashton, the European Commission, the parliaments and governments of the member states of the Union for the Mediterranean, and the European Parliament.
