



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF  
THE UNION FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN**



**Recommendation**

**Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture on the topics of:**

**“Immigration and integration: building a culture of peace by means of dialogue between new generations”**

- **Co-rapporteur Patrick Le Hyaric - European Parliament**
- **Co-rapporteur Abdelkarim Korichi - Algerian National Council**

**"Dialogue between cultures and religions: towards a Mediterranean charter of values"**

- **Rapporteur: Mr. Ioannis Kasoulides - European Parliament**

**"The Mediterranean heritage: the preservation of archaeological sites"**

- **Rapporteur: Mr. Kriton Arsenis – European Parliament**

## **The Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture:**

### **On immigration and integration: building a culture of peace by means of dialogue between new generations**

- having regard to the final statement of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean ministerial conference held in Marseille on 3–4 November 2008, in which ministers stated that 'the issue of migration should be an integral part of the regional partnership', and emphasised that 'promoting orderly-managed legal migration in the interest of all parties concerned, fighting illegal migration and fostering links between migration and development are issues of common interest',
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament of 4 December 2006 on Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (COM(2006)726 final), in which the Commission stated that 'mobility of persons is of the utmost importance also for all ENP partners',
- having regard to the conclusions adopted at the first Euro-Mediterranean ministerial conference on Migration held in the Algarve on 18 and 19 November 2007,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 10 May 2007 on Reforms in the Arab world: what strategy should the European Union adopt? (P6\_TA(2007)0179), in which it 'calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to encourage exchanges of students, teachers, academics and researchers between the EU and Arab countries and to facilitate those exchanges through an adapted and more flexible visa regime',
- having regard to The Stockholm Programme – An open and secure Europe serving and protecting the citizens (OJ 2010/C 115/01) as adopted by the European Council on 10 and 11 December 2009,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2009 entitled Multi-annual programme 2010-2014 regarding the area of freedom, security and justice (Stockholm programme) (P7\_TA(2009)0090), in which it 'considers that any comprehensive approach to immigration must take account of the "push factors" that lead people to leave their countries in the first place',
- having regard to the 11th meeting of the Africa-EU Joint Task Force held on 20–21 October 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, concerning the partnership on migration, mobility and employment,
- having regard to the statement approved by the representatives of the Member States at the European ministerial conference on integration on 3 and 4 November 2008, in which the ministers highlighted the fact that 'acts of racism and xenophobia should also be effectively fought against',

- having regard to the opinion of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (Jobs for Immigrants, Vol. 2), which states that mentoring is 'a highly cost-effective way of helping young people of immigrant background into employment, as well as building links between them and the business community',
  - having regard to the previous recommendations by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture, in particular the recommendation adopted in Amman on 14 March 2010,
- A. whereas the Mediterranean is a shared sea and the Mediterranean basin is an open geographical area where travel and trade have created a shared history and culture shaped by long-standing relations and constant migration between all the regions in the area,
  - B. whereas this shared history has created a melting pot of people and cultures, giving rise to a set of values, philosophies and beliefs in which cultural and religious dialogue are vital to mutual understanding,
  - C. whereas every integration process depends on dialogue between cultures and civilisations, and any break in this dialogue results in stigmatisation, isolation and exclusion for migrants and their descendants,
  - D. whereas the migratory flows have had a significant impact on the wealth and diversity of European culture, and successful integration of migrants is of mutual interest for migrants and for host countries,
  - E. whereas developments have occurred recently in a number of Mediterranean countries where the population has mobilised to demand democracy and respect for human rights and whereas these revolts are triggering significant population movements and creating humanitarian crises;
  - F. whereas slower population growth in the European Union will create an additional labour shortage and whereas the unprecedented shift in demographic growth trends in the Mediterranean basin to the benefit of Middle Eastern and North African countries represents a genuine social challenge for these countries,
  - G. whereas the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean are simultaneously faced with the task of managing migration flows out of their countries and with transit migration from Africa,
  - H. whereas Europe's labour needs could play a stabilising role in the countries of the South provided that this does not lead to a skills drain or capital flight, and whereas economic development that is no longer based on oppressive relationships but on a strong partnership is the key to tackling future challenges,
  - I. whereas migration issues transcend regional boundaries and require global, integrated, coordinated and balanced analysis, and whereas convening a summit of

Heads of Government of the countries of the Mediterranean area and of the EU would offer an opportunity to deal with migration issues at an appropriate level,

- J. whereas any comprehensive approach to immigration must take into account the factors that lead to forced migration and cause people to leave their countries in the first place, such as wars, foreign occupation, discrimination, climate change and lack of prospects,
- K. whereas every person has the right to leave their country,
- L. whereas a restrictive policy on residence permits is hindering the free movement of people throughout the Mediterranean region,
- M. whereas restrictive migration management policies on managing migration and the criminalisation of migrants are serving to encourage illegal immigration and the exploitation of migrants,
- N. whereas unequal treatment and exploitation of migrants are putting pressure on local workers, are exacerbating xenophobia, extremism, populism and racism – fuelled by ignorance and fear of the other – and are at odds with the values of tolerance common to all countries in the Mediterranean area,
- O. whereas according the same rights to migrant workers as to local workers recognises the contribution of migrants to the EU economy (labour, taxes, social contributions) and helps to reduce unfair competition, exploitation and social exclusion amongst workers from third countries,

### Migration

1. States its commitment to the concept of the Mediterranean as an open political, economic, cultural and social area, in keeping with its long history;
2. Takes the view that the establishment of a political, economic, cultural and social Euro-Mediterranean area must have as its objective the promotion of integration in a region with a unique and indispensable development potential for peace, stability and its economic growth;
3. Considers that political, economic and social cooperation with the countries of origin of immigrant workers is the best way to channel migratory flows;
4. Notes the uprisings in the Arab world are triggering new population movements and creating humanitarian crises to which solutions must be found; stresses in this connection the gravity of the exodus of the Libyan population towards Egypt and Tunisia and the movements of migrants heading for Italy on the island of Lampedusa;
5. Recalls that, in accordance with Article 19 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which is an integral and legally binding part of European law, no one may be removed, expelled or extradited to a State where there is a serious risk that he or she would be subjected to the death penalty, torture or other

inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment', and that 'collective expulsions are prohibited'; insists that all migration legislation must comply with this inalienable principle;

6. Condemns the criminalisation of migrants by means of legislation, and stresses that the effect of such policies is to force migrants to travel illegally and by increasingly dangerous routes;
7. Calls for the establishment of a common Euro-Mediterranean policy to manage South-North migratory flows which affect both the Northern African transit countries and the EU as a whole;
8. Reiterates that Frontex must comply with the 'non-refoulement' principle, and therefore calls for a supervisory framework for that Agency's activities that would guarantee protection for migrants and ensure that they know their rights;
9. Expects full respect for the fundamental rights of migrants who are returned to transit countries or countries of origin that have signed readmission agreements with the European Union or Member States;
10. Questions, therefore, the safeguards for the respect of fundamental rights of migrants contained in the policies of subcontracting migration control in transit countries and migrants' countries of origin;
11. Considers it necessary to strengthen partnership agreements in order to assist transit countries to step up their cooperation with European authorities or with Member States with regard to migration control and readmission;
12. Calls for the implementation of a Euro-Mediterranean visa policy for students and researchers in order to promote cultural, scientific and technological exchanges;

*North-South and South-South university exchanges*

13. Believes that greater mobility for students from both sides of the Mediterranean would foster greater cultural integration;
14. Calls on the EU, with the aim of bringing together the educational systems of the EU and the countries in the South of the Mediterranean, to strengthen Erasmus Mundus for the establishment of a genuine Euro-Mediterranean university exchange framework;
15. Stresses the importance of rapidly implementing the UfM's projects as part of North-South cooperation so as to allow students and teachers to circulate easily; refers in this connection to the importance of EMUNI and suggests that Mediterranean universities should use the Erasmus Mundus programme which has a very important student mobility dimension for the region, in particular for MA and PhD students;

### Protection of migrants

16. Calls for migrants to be guaranteed the right to adequate protection against exploitation; emphasises that in this regard a positive first step would be to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and invites Member States to sign and ratify this convention as soon as possible;
17. Calls for the process of laying down common criteria for a European Asylum System to be guided by principles consistent with the rights and dignity of those seeking protection;
18. Considers that a European policy on reception arrangements for refugees is an indispensable means of protecting refugees and of relieving the pressure on transit countries on both sides of the Mediterranean and preventing asylum seekers from turning to illegal migration;

### Employment and residence conditions

19. Emphasises the importance of completely equal treatment for local and migrant workers: equal employment conditions (wages, working hours, demands of the job, occupational health, redundancy, union representation, working conditions), equal social protection and equal access to public services and public sector jobs, in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
20. Stresses that any differences in treatment, especially in the workplace, can create imbalances that can have a negative effect on the job market, on working conditions for migrants and on the perception of immigration amongst local workers;
21. Calls on the EU Member States to make a concerted effort to combat all types of discrimination suffered by migrants;
22. Believes that it would be easier to combat the exploitation and exclusion of migrants and undeclared work if migrants with work obtained a residence permit, which would assist their integration;
23. Recalls that the right to respect for private and family life as laid down in Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights applies to everyone, including migrants; respects the policy of applying the Family Reunification Directive;

### Integration

24. Encourages a two-way policy which does not make immigrants solely responsible for their own integration, but divides this responsibility equally between immigrants and their host countries;
25. Encourages the EU to include in its policies support for the national policies for the integration of immigrants

26. Calls on the EU Member States and regional and local authorities to adopt policies promoting integration by measures of inclusion based on the principles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, learning the language, familiarisation with the host country's institutions and participation in civic life, and emphasises that recognising the right of long-term residents to vote in local elections, on a reciprocal basis, is an important first step towards involving migrants in the daily life of the host country;
27. Calls on the EU Member States and the countries of the Mediterranean area to ensure that the International Convention on the Rights of the Child is enforced, regardless of whether children come from inside or outside the EU;
28. Calls on the EU Member States to fulfil their obligation to provide schooling for all children without exception and to strive to prevent children from dropping out of school;
29. Invites the countries of the Mediterranean area and of the European Union to remedy their ignorance about the other side of the Mediterranean by incorporating the history of the Mediterranean area and of migration into school curricula, by encouraging the making of documentaries about European and Mediterranean countries and by making cultural exchange visas easier to acquire;
30. Calls on the European Union to take an active role in promoting dialogue between cultures and civilisations in order to bring people closer and encourage integration and to promote programmes for the integration of citizens residing in the EU, providing a greater access to EU funds to civil society groups working on projects that promote the integration of migrants;
31. Calls on the EU Member States to make a concerted effort to incorporate social integration strategies into urban policies;
32. Emphasises the importance of the geographical integration of vulnerable groups into the urban fabric, local public services and housing programmes;

*Combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination*

33. Strongly condemns any form of discrimination or stigmatisation on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social situation, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status, as set out in Article 14 of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights;
34. Condemns the political exploitation of fear of the other, and the acceptance as normal of any populist discourse that stigmatises certain categories or groups of people according to their social or geographical origin, their membership of a religious community or their association with such a community;
35. Calls for coordination between the European institutions and Member States to combat discrimination and exclusion;

36. Calls for decisive action to combat violence against migrant women, who suffer twofold discrimination on the grounds of sex and background;
37. Calls for immigrant workers' countries of origin to grant reciprocal treatment to European workers travelling and residing in them;



## **On dialogue between cultures and religions: towards a Mediterranean charter of values**

- having regard to the 1995 Barcelona Declaration stipulating that "a greater understanding among the major religions present in the Euro-Mediterranean region will facilitate greater mutual tolerance and cooperation",
  - having regard to the draft report on the motion for a European Parliament resolution on the cultural dimensions of the EU's external actions (2010/216(INI)),
  - having regard to the adopted conclusions of the third Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Culture, held in Athens on 29-30 May 2008,
  - having regard to the previous recommendations tabled on behalf of the Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Society and Culture at the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly plenary sessions, in particular the ones adopted at the Plenary in Brussels, 16 March 2009,
  - having regard to the third EMUNI General Assembly, 27 November 2010, where 140 Universities from 32 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean were represented,
  - having regard to the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean adopted on 9 November 2010 in Malta,
  - having regard to the publication of *The Anna Lindh Report - Euro-Med Intercultural Trends 2010*,
  - having regard to the international human rights conventions anchored in the signed and ratified International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- A. whereas the promotion and defence of common values amongst the Euro-Mediterranean countries is the means to foster the Euro-Mediterranean partnership,
- B. whereas the advancement and the safeguarding of common values need continuous efforts for improving understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions,
- C. whereas the spontaneous widespread demonstrations that are taking place in some partner countries of the Southern shore show the desire of the people in the region for the shared common values of democracy, freedom of expression and assembly and respect for human rights
- D. whereas the sharing of common Euro-Mediterranean values is a fundamental step for the creation of a favourable environment of peace and stability, enabling economic, social and cultural development,

- E. whereas the role of the political authorities to promote, to respect and to facilitate agreement on common Euro-Mediterranean values is essential,
- F. whereas the essential role of the civil society is to facilitate the process of developing the Euro-Mediterranean relations and to enable a greater understanding and closeness between peoples across cultural, religious and national frontiers,
1. Strongly believes that the promotion of an "Euro-Mediterranean Charter of Values" will represent a crucial step for the foundation of a new and stronger Union for the Mediterranean;
  2. Believes that the joining together on common and shared values will be the groundwork for setting new and ambitious goals grounded on a concept of "political, economic and social cohesion" for the entire Euro-Mediterranean region;
  3. Considers that a new Union for the Mediterranean founded on shared values would serve for the creation of a favourable environment of peace and stability, enabling economic, social and cultural development;
  4. Decides to draft a Charter for Euro-Mediterranean Values, as a contribution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean;
  5. Urges a wide debate among the political leaders of the Euro-Mediterranean region and the setting up of an Euro-Mediterranean Convention with a view to putting up a "Euro-Mediterranean Charter of Values";
  6. Considers that Euro-Mediterranean could aim to become a fundamental and influent region with durable economic, social and cultural development as long as it is founded on the promotion of universal values of peace, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, the protection of the human being and its fundamental freedoms, tolerance, sustainable economic development; these can be shared by different cultures, while recognising the specificities of each of them;
  7. Welcomes all non-governmental efforts and initiatives in the field of cultural dialogue which pursue the above-mentioned objectives and, in this respect, confirms its support for the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures.
  8. Encourages the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform for its actions to promote an environment of tolerance and mutual understanding,
  9. Encourages and supports the organisation of seminars, conferences and training sessions of young political leaders for the promotion of common values, as a concrete contribution to the building of a new area of peace and freedom;
  10. Underlines the importance of translation as a means to develop the cultural exchange and mutual understanding and calls on Member States of the Union for

the Mediterranean (UfM) to encourage the publication and distribution of works as projects to be financed by the UfM.

11. Encourages all opinion leaders, including media, to honour their responsibility in their role as opinion shaper, by promoting universal values of defence, respect and tolerance of cultural differences.
12. Welcomes the efforts of EMUNI, all governments, universities and research institutions in expanding the educational networks as well as intensifying cooperation among stakeholders across the Mediterranean.
13. 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. Asks the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat to present a detailed program of activities for 2011.

### **On the Mediterranean heritage: the preservation of archaeological sites**

- having regard to the previous recommendations of the Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture, in particular the specific recommendations tabled during the Amman 2010 plenary on the issue of Euro-Mediterranean culture, education and common history,
- having regard to the agreed conclusions of the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Tourism, 2 and 3 April 2008,
- having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 10 April 2008 on *A European agenda for culture in a globalising world* (P6\_TA(2008)0124),
- having regard to the adopted recommendation of the workshop *Heritage Economics and Conservation Funding* in Damascus 6-8 June 2010, hosted by the Syrian Ministry of Culture in association with Euromed Heritage IV,
- having regard to the Euromed Heritage IV workshop on *Management of Heritage Places and Artefacts*, hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 17-19 May 2010,
- having regard to the resolution of the European parliament of 16 December 2010 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Union action for the European Heritage Label (P7\_TA(2010)0486)

having regard to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (The World Heritage Convention)

having regard to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

- having regard to the European Landscape Convention
- having regard to the European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage
- having regard to the ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage
- having regard to the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM)

having regard to the report on “Predicting and managing the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage” from UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre

- A. whereas 240 or approximately 25 % of all archaeological sites classified by UNESCO are to be found in and around the Mediterranean basin,

- B. whereas archaeological sites, including their historical landscapes, are indispensable components both of local and transborder identity, fostering integration and greater social cohesion in wider regions and local communities,
- C. whereas archaeological heritage is a comparative advantage for the development of tourism and a prerequisite for its long-term sustainability,
- D. whereas archaeological heritage is a non-renewable resource which places great responsibility on the current generation to preserve heritage sites,
- E. whereas monuments, archaeological sites and their historic landscapes are often threatened by uncontrolled development, extreme urbanisation, neglect, armed conflict and war,
- F. whereas large scale infrastructures, such as river diversions, dams, ports, highways and mining projects often threaten the integrity of archaeological sites and their landscapes,
- G. whereas the looting of archaeological sites and the growing illicit trade in antiquities cause an immense loss to our historical patrimony,
- H. whereas some of the most important archaeological treasures of the Mediterranean have been expatriated,
- I. whereas atmospheric pollution is a major deteriorating agent causing corrosion of materials in archaeological sites, especially those located in and around urban areas,
- J. whereas climate change is an anthropogenic phenomenon that increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather conditions and leads to the gradual increase of the sea level, threatening continental, coastal and underwater archaeological sites,
- K. whereas forest fires, desertification and soil degradation threaten archaeological sites and their landscapes,
- L. whereas the natural enhancement of local ecosystem resilience is the most cost-efficient measure for climate change adaptation and mitigation,
- M. whereas flora and fauna biodiversity of the archaeological sites, is indispensable and of high historical significance
- N. whereas integrated management, education and promotion of cultural heritage could serve as an instrument for intensifying the economic, cultural and political exchanges of the two shores of the Mediterranean basin,
- 1. Calls on the EU and the Mediterranean countries, regions and local authorities to undertake continued investments in archaeological research and the integrated restoration and conservation of archaeological sites, as also to increase the material resources for preventive archaeology, with the aim of preserving our

culturally rich landscapes and archaeological sites that are to be inherited by future generations,

2. Calls on the Mediterranean countries to take concrete measures for the protection and restoration of the landscape surrounding archaeological sites as a matter of urgency,
3. To this end calls on the Mediterranean countries as a matter of urgency, to develop, improve and reinforce the implementation of land use strategies, integrated plans and programmes controlling urbanization in all historical landscapes,
4. Calls for a more sensitive approach, within the scope of preventive archaeology, when planning large scale infrastructures, seeking all possible alternatives to preserve the integrity and authenticity of archaeological sites and their landscapes,
5. Emphasises the urgent need for financial support to strategies aiming at the protection and recording of underwater archaeological sites in the Mediterranean,
6. Calls on the Mediterranean countries to take every necessary measure to naturally enhance ecosystem resilience around archaeological sites and ensure that actions taken in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation do not have adverse effects on archaeological sites and their historical landscapes,
7. Calls for the implementation of policies targeting air pollution, the enhancement of anti-pollution actions and control measures and the monitoring of the pollutant's concentrations near archaeological sites,
8. Calls for the implementation of risk-management policies in archaeological sites and their surrounding landscape
9. Urges the Mediterranean countries to strengthen legislation and enhance action to control the illicit antiquities market, stop the looting of cultural monuments and preserve our shared past,
10. Calls for the return of antiquities to the archaeological sites and site museums of origin. To this end, asks for the reunification of the Parthenon marbles;
11. Encourages the promotion of the Mediterranean archaeological heritage by developing and disseminating best practices with respect to ecotourism, and the financial support of sustainable tourism projects, which enjoy the active participation of local communities;
12. Emphasizes that the promotion of the rural environment presupposes an approach which prioritizes rural tourism and microcredit ; rural tourism has the potential to develop the rural environment, while microcredit is a useful means of achieving that objective ; rural tourism thus implies the creation of wealth and job creating activities, alongside traditional agricultural activity ;

13. Calls for the promotion of partnerships to develop tourism and the exploitation of archaeological sites, by optimising risks and benefits in a way which is attractive to the parties concerned ;
14. Emphasises the need to develop initiatives that highlight the symbolic value of sites which have played a significant role in the interaction of people around the Mediterranean;
15. Welcomes the ongoing projects that aim at promoting sustainable tourism and strategies of territorial planning through the valorisation of the Roman Empire archaeological sites,
16. Emphasises the need for similar projects focusing on promoting sustainable tourism around archaeological sites relating to the Greek, the Phoenician, the Arab, the Byzantine and other cultures along the Mediterranean coasts, as such projects can foster cooperation between Mediterranean countries on a cultural level;
17. Emphasises the need for elaborate and transnational programmes that develop national skills and technical expertise and that provide training for professionals in the area of heritage;
18. Stresses the importance of the digitization and documentation of the Mediterranean cultural heritage. To this end, calls on the Mediterranean countries to create a publicly accessible database of all Mediterranean archaeological sites;

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Instructs its President to forward this Recommendation to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission, the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for Culture, Education and the Environment in preparation for future ministerial meetings, the General Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and the appropriate institutions of the member countries of the UfM.