

Final Declaration of the Second Summit of Speakers

We, the Speakers of the Parliaments of the countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), meeting in Lisbon, on 11 May 2015, to discuss the human dimension of the theme of *Immigration, Asylum and Human Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Region*, agree to issue the following recommendations to the European Union institutions and the Union for the Mediterranean Heads of State and Government and ask for:

- 1.** Respect for human dignity as regards migration as a traditional phenomenon between the two shores of the Mediterranean. More humanitarian channels towards Mediterranean countries of arrival to help immigrants in emergency situations. **1.1.** More humanitarian visas for people in need of international protection in compliance with international humanitarian law. **1.2.** Larger resettlement quotas for all EU countries. **1.3.** Increased support for the countries of origin and transit to face up to the deep causes of migration. **1.4.** Increased cooperation between the different nations to guarantee the readmission and quick return, in dignified conditions, of migrants who cannot legally reside in the countries in which they are currently living.
- 2.** Information centres in countries of origin, transit and destination to be established to provide information to and guide migrants on their rights and obligations.
- 3.** An enhanced EU search and rescue operation in the Mediterranean in cooperation with the Mediterranean countries from the southern shore. **3.1.** Protection of fundamental rights as a priority of Frontex in its joint operations. **3.2.** Creation of mechanisms for private operators, in particular the merchant navy, to encourage their assistance in rescue operations at sea. **3.3.** Effective solidarity and special support provided to countries from both shores of the Mediterranean facing the largest number of arrivals and/or asylum applications, taking into account a more systemic and geographically comprehensive approach.
- 4.** The establishment of a shared and standardised database to better link the management of asylum applications and a pilot programme of resettlement operations between the EU, Mediterranean countries of immigration, transit countries, UNHCR, IOM and other key international organisations. **4.1.** Police and

judicial cooperation among UfM partner countries to fight against human trafficking and smuggling with respect for human rights and avoiding collateral effects.

5. A common European policy for legal migration, with new legal entry channels to the EU, that takes into account the job market situation in each country. **5.1.** Simplified family reunification procedures. **5.2.** Greater flexibility in working visa procedures. **5.3.** Increased public awareness about scholarships for students, researchers, and teachers. **5.4.** Public-private partnerships to adapt mobility to temporary labour needs. **5.5.** Encourage more cooperation between PA-UfM Member States in order to promote the establishment of a new migration regulation system.
6. Guaranteed portability of social security benefits for migrant workers, to facilitate a sustained return (circular migration), i.e. so that migrants are not discouraged from returning to their places of origin for fear of losing guarantees.
7. A reduction in the transfer cost of migrants' remittances to contribute to the development and the quality of life of families who remain in countries of origin.
8. European countries must study how to deal with the refugee crisis including the possibility of receiving more refugees from conflict areas, with equitable burden sharing, within a legal framework on which all Member States have agreed based on the principle of solidarity. **8.1.** In particular, more flexibility from EU Member States in the use of the discretionary clauses of the Dublin Regulation concerning the State responsible for determining asylum requests. **8.2.** "Dublin Units" to be given adequate resources.
9. Maximise the benefits of immigration by successful integration. The development of asylum systems in countries outside the EU, according to their national immigration and asylum laws and in coordination with PA-UfM Member States. **9.1.** A swift assessment of claims for international protection *in situ*. **9.2.** Assistance to be deployed for countries receiving Syrian refugees, such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and others.
10. Coherent development and migration policies built on root causes, including regional conflicts which call for a regional response. **10.1.** Strengthen the financing of the European external financing instruments. **10.2.** Make those policies more flexible, taking into account the complex nature of migration flows in the countries from both shores of the Mediterranean. **10.3.** Recognise the concept of '*mixed migration*' and differentiate between refugees, economic migrants, asylum seekers,

forced migrants and others. **10.4.** Establish a regular calendar of meetings between UfM leaders and their counterparts from the main countries of origin in coordination with the Secretary-General of the UfM. **10.5.** A permanent and strategic relation between public powers and social organisations in a framework of shared responsibility.

Lisbon, 11 May 2015