



# PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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

### RECOMMENDATION

#### Education and Mobility, Radio/TV Broadcasting and Press and Innovative Approaches to Culture

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

1. welcomes the fact that education and research are among the fundamental goals of the Union for the Mediterranean, which is willing to be active in promoting the mobility of students, university teachers and researchers and has therefore approved and "labelled" the implementation of several concrete projects in this area, relying for example on the activities of: the Euro-Mediterranean University in Slovenia (EMUNI); the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes in Morocco, in the area of innovation and scientific research – of which it recalls the essential role as a major centre of excellence to enhance human capital in the region; the *Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes* of Paris, focusing on agriculture, rural development and food security; Isamed, exploiting synergies between universities and the world of business so as to help graduates find employment; and Uninettuno, which is developing projects in North Africa;
2. noting, however, that the mobility of teachers and students from the southern shores of the Mediterranean is often hampered by bureaucratic problems relating to entry visas, urges the Heads of State and Government of UfM countries to promote at EU level a more humane and fair visa policy that is appropriate for students, teachers and researchers, in order to make the twinning and exchange programmes between Mediterranean universities more effective;
3. in line with last year's recommendation, calls on the UfM to further the use of university exchanges under the Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus Plus programmes and foster funding allocated thereto so as to facilitate and

increase the mobility of researchers and students; underlines the importance of language-learning and multilingualism to encourage mobility and mutual understanding; invites the UfM to adopt a genuine Euro-Mediterranean strategy on multilingualism;

4. urges the UfM to strongly support the implementation of audiovisual projects in the Euro-Mediterranean area to promote the concrete production and circulation of cinematographic works and documentaries, and encourage the co-production of the same, in order to strengthen dialogue between peoples that is needed now more than ever before; invites the UfM to activate innovative financial instruments in partnership with the EIB, the EBRD and the financial instruments of the Union, so as to free potential in cultural and creative sectors (e.g. cinema, music, design, fashion, etc.) that can provide a broad base for growth, social inclusion and employment;
5. calls upon the UfM to support the launch of the project "NISSA TV", a television channel dedicated to Euro-Mediterranean women, whose head office will be based, symbolically, in Tunisia and its administrative office in Brussels, and which will set up offices in major capitals of the Euro-Mediterranean region, hoping that this project will enrich the media landscape in the region, respecting the specificities of peoples and their cultural identity; to this end it mandates the UfM to seek the necessary funding from the EU, UfM member countries and public and private partners.
6. to this end, calls on the UfM to support the accession of Mediterranean countries to "Eurimages", a Council of Europe fund supporting European cinema that promotes film co-production and serves as an effective factor for integrating the cultural and audiovisual systems of participating states in view of the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE on 11 December 2013 to open Eurimages to third (non-European) countries; in particular, the UfM should ensure that the participation of Mediterranean countries be facilitated, within the framework of the eligibility criteria for accessing the fund, which are currently being established by the Council of Europe;
7. expresses satisfaction for the establishment of centres for joint training, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Film and Audiovisual Centre set up in Morocco in 2003 thanks to an agreement with Cinecittà Holding, Istituto Luce and the Lazio Region, for the training of operators in the film industry. This project has already made possible several co-production works but, owing to a lack of funding, it is at risk of closure; hopes that other similar centres will be created in the future and invites the UfM to consider the possibility of funding existing centres and more widely co-productions through the Euromed Audiovisual programme, whose continuation is deemed desirable;

8. invites the UfM to foster on a priority basis projects similar to Terramed+, Jousour, Med-Mem, which were implemented by COPEAM, thanks to co-financing from the European Union (in the framework of the Euromed Audiovisual III and Euromed Heritage IV programmes), in partnership with several countries of the area on both the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, and to promote a wide distribution of cultural and audiovisual heritage in the region;
9. proposes, in this regard, the launch of a competition for young Mediterranean film directors for the making of a short film on Europe and the countries of the southern rim that would translate into visual images the common cultural roots and shared values and hopes that unite young people from both sides, depicting a territorial and at the same time a cultural reality, and narrating a story which is at once European and Mediterranean;
10. invites the UfM also to promote the exchange of experience among press agencies, along the lines of what has already been achieved by "Ansamed", which has hosted in its editorial offices journalists from the countries of the southern shore to take part in training projects (...) with a view to generating constant synergy between journalists and agencies in the region thus setting in motion a press system that is efficient, independent and accessible in the interest of everyone;
11. reminds the UfM of the importance of organising seminars on the specificity and richness of Mediterranean culture gathering experts, historians, and scholars of languages and civilisations, to have an exchange on different approaches to Mediterranean history so as to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and favour the emergence of a Mediterranean awareness.

### **Report on the activity of the Committee**

The Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture met in Rome on 15 November 2013. Its work led to the putting forward of several concrete proposals for enhancing the exchange of views and deepening mutual understanding and thereby helping to stimulate economic development in the region. In its work, the Committee focused on the following topics:

- Media, film making, television and art productions: the Mediterranean as a breeding ground for a culture of inclusion;
- Twinning between Mediterranean Universities: lessons learned and prospects of a growing partnership.