



**Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean  
Declaration  
Lisbon, 1 April 2014**

**The Bureau of the PA-UfM**

1. Calls for Migrations to be the core issue of its agenda for the next year and highlights the role of Parliamentarians to that regard;
2. Recalls the latest incidents in Lampedusa, Ceuta, Melilla and in the Eastern Mediterranean and expresses regret for the tragic loss of the lives of migrants in the Mediterranean; remembers that each human being is unique and unrepeatable; expresses concern for the humanitarian situation and condition of detention and return of migrants in both sides of the frontiers;
3. Welcomes the efforts of the City of Ceuta - whose mayor agreed to be present in Lisbon to share his experience – as well as of other cities, such as Lampedusa and Tanger, to give political solution to the problems of migrants and refugees, requiring a multidisciplinary approach;
4. Underlines that Migrations call for the discourse of human rights and civilization, and stresses that life is the first value and must be protected everywhere, from the civil society to the institutions of the State;
5. Considers that the humanitarian condition and the respect for human rights of migrants and refugees is a priority issue and that the international community should take priority action in this regard;
6. Calls on the European Union, the League of Arab States, African Countries and the United Nations to coordinate their efforts and their strategies for a comprehensive migration policy;
7. Affirms the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and refugees, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, including non accompanied minors, and people in need of urgent medical assistance, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and by means of a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of the countries of origin, transit and destination in this task;
8. Calls on the European Council, when defining the strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning, post 2014, for the area of freedom, security and justice, to give special attention to the migration flows in the Euro Mediterranean Region, to the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in the region; to strengthen the global approach to migration and mobility in the Mediterranean, implementing, monitoring and creating more partnerships with Mediterranean States; to ensure a balanced and coherent approach between migration and asylum policies and other policy domains as economic,

demographic, employment and integration policies, and between the internal and external dimensions, in particular the Development Policy agenda, noting that cooperation on migration should also aim to increase avenues for legal migration to maximize the potential positive impacts of human mobility;

9. Highlights the disproportionate pressure migration puts on countries of the Mediterranean shore and advocates for a more even sharing of the burden of migration according to the principle of solidarity;

10. Expresses concern at the continued Syrian armed conflict and welcomes the United Nations Security Council Resolution approved last month to boost humanitarian aid access in Syria, demanding that all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, promptly allow rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for the UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, including across conflict lines and across borders; expresses recognition of the crucial role of countries receiving refugees such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, among others.

#### **The PA-UfM's commitment**

11. Proposes to dispatch a fact finding mission to Ceuta and Melilla to witness the humanitarian situation and report back to the PA-UfM;

12. Proposes to listen to the voices of citizens of the two margins of the Mediterranean, by inviting competent international and regional organizations, NGOs, foundations, academic and civil society to join the AP-UpM reflexion;

13. Decides that the II Meeting of Presidents of the Parliaments of the Union for the Mediterranean, in October 2014, and the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary session of the PA-UfM, in 2015, will dedicate part of their work to the migration and asylum policies in the Euro Mediterranean Region.