

COMMITTEE ON IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE, EXCHANGES BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETIES AND CULTURE

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2014

Summary:

- The meeting was chaired by Mr. Khalid Chaouki (Democratic Party).
- The resolution was adopted by consensus.

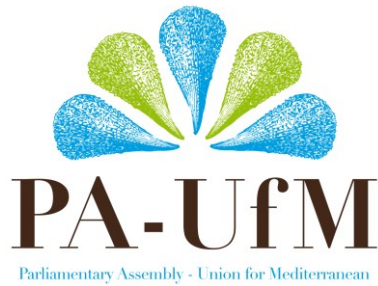
Participants:

- European Parliament (1 MP): Ms Benarab-Attou (Deputy Chair of the Committee – The Greens Group).
- Southern shore countries (7): Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey.
- EU national parliaments (13): Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Proceedings:

Mr Khalid Chaouki opened the meeting of the Committee. After welcoming the participants and thanking the Jordan rotating presidency for its hospitality, Mr Chaouki gave the floor to Ms Malika Benarab-Attou, European MP and Deputy Chair of the Committee. She underlined the importance of the issues under discussion during the meeting, notably the role of media in democratization processes. Afterwards, Mr. Walid El Khouri, Deputy Chair of the Committee, took the floor to recall that the work carried out by the Committee in its previous meeting would result in a shared text on topics of high importance in the Mediterranean context.

Mr Chaouki presented the agenda and submitted the minutes of the last meeting, held in Rome on 15 November 2013, for the Committee's approval. The Committee approved the minutes with some additions proposed by the delegations.



Mr Chaouki illustrated the contents of the draft recommendation aimed at launching initiatives to improve dialogue and intensify cultural cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean, building upon previous experiences that were successfully undertaken in the Mediterranean area. In this respect, Mr Chaouki informed the participants that the Barcelona Secretariat was ready to consider possible initiatives proposed by the Committee.

Then the Committee examined the amendments to the draft recommendation that were presented by the movers, discussed by the Committee and voted upon. All amendments were accepted or inserted in a compromise wording, and proposals were adopted by consensus.

After the adoption of the recommendation, Mr Chaouki gave the floor to Ms Benarab-Attou who proposed to organize a seminar on Mediterranean history and culture with the participation of experts and scholars.
