

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

**Minutes of the meeting of 11 April 2013**

### **European Parliament**

#### *Summary:*

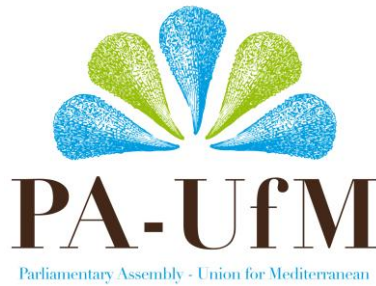
- The meeting was chaired for the first time by Khalid Chaouki (Italy, PD party), who had taken over from Gennaro Malgieri (Italy, PDL party) following the Italian elections of February 2013.
- The draft recommendation was adopted by consensus.

#### *Participants:*

- European Parliament (six MEPs): Malika Benarab-Attou (Committee Vice-Chair, Verts/ALE), Carmen Romero López (S&D), Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid (PPE), Guido Milana (S&D), Santiago Fisas Ayxela (PPE) and Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines (PPE).
- Southern Mediterranean countries (five): Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Palestine.
- EU national parliaments (six): France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Sweden.

#### *Details:*

The committee Chair, Khalid Chaouki, opened the meeting. He expressed his satisfaction at being appointed Chair of the committee, which was an important forum for dialogue and an ideal bridge between Europe and the Mediterranean. He then presented the meeting agenda and the minutes of the last meeting, held in Rome on 12 October 2012.



Once the agenda had been adopted and the minutes approved, he gave the floor to the representatives of the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, based in Vienna, which was planning a project for a Euro-Mediterranean Academy (EMA). The following spoke on the project: G. Borea and Abram Burg (on behalf of the Bruno Kreisky Forum), and Elvira Saint Geron, President of the Three Cultures Foundation established by the Moroccan Government and the Andalusian regional government in 1998 and in which both Israelis and Palestinians participated.

Once the project had been presented, a discussion ensued, in which the following MEPs and members of national parliaments spoke: Malika Benarab-Attou (EP), Guido Milana (EP), Deflesselles (France), Sadaoui (Algeria), Al Farra (Jordan), Alrwashdeh (Jordan), Engle (Sweden) and Abdel Azim (Egypt).

The committee then moved on to discuss the draft recommendation, as presented by the Chair. The amendments to the draft recommendation were presented by their tablers, discussed by the committee and put to the vote. All the amendments were adopted or incorporated into compromise amendments, all of which were adopted by consensus, except for amendment 18 concerning the project to establish an EMA, which was adopted with reservations noted from the committee Vice-Chair Malika Benarab-Attou.

Finally, owing to a divergence of views on the drawing up of a 'Mediterranean charter of values: culture, multiculturalism and interculturalism', the committee decided to refer the matter to the Bureau for a decision.

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