



**Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education
Minutes of the Meeting**

8 February 2014

Dead Sea-JORDAN

Executive Summary:

- Draft Agenda: Microfinance and its role in the Mediterranean and Financing of small and medium sized enterprises.
- The meeting was chaired by MP Ali ERCOŞKUN (Turkey).
- The recommendation for the General Assembly is assessed and adopted.

Participants:

- European Parliament members
- Southern Mediterranean countries
- European Union national parliaments
- Officials from the European Commission

Attended the meeting:

- The Chairman of the Committee: Mr. Ali ERCOSKUN, member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.
- The Vice -Chairwoman of the Committee: Ms. Ines Ayala SENDER, member of the European Parliament.
- The Vice -Chairman of the Committee: Mr. Ouadia BENABDELLAH, member of the Kingdom's parliament of Morocco.
- Members of the committee: Soraya RODRIGUEZ (Spain), Eduardo CABRITA (Portugal), Imre SOOAR (Estonia), Hakima FASLY (Morocco), Abderrahman OUCHENE (Morocco), Ulrik Nilsson (Sweden), Samu BEVK (Slovenia), Romdhame DOGHMANI(Tunisia), Chokri ARFAOUI (Tunisia), Jawad ALANANI(Jordan), Haitham AL-ABBADI (Jordan), Rodi KRATSA(E.P), Fisas SANTIAGO (E.P), Ondrej



BENESIK(Czech), Zuhair SANDUQA(Palestine), Maizia MANSOUV(Algeria), Nikolaus BERLAKOVICH(Austria), Harri JASKARI (Finland), Pouria AMIRSHAHI(France), Heinz-Joachim BARCHMANN (Germany), Dimitris DIMIRIADIS (EESC), Fatna El-K’HIEL (Morocco), Abdelaziz AZZABI(Morocco), Bedah MAHJOUB (Algeria), Abdelkader ZDERROUKI(Algeria), Abdelkader ZAHALI(Algeria), Silvio SCHEMBRI(Malta), Claubia DALL’AGNON (Lüksemburg)
-Observers: Abdulmagid ELMANSURI (Libya)

Details:

The Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean held its meeting on 8 February 2014 in Jordan. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ali ERCOŞKUN, Member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

The draft agenda of the meeting is adopted. Mr. Chairman, in his opening speech, thanked to his colleagues from Jordanian Parliament for hosting their hospitality. Minutes of the previous meeting that was held in İstanbul on 22 November 2013 is adopted by consensus. Announcements were made.

After the presentation of the recommendation by the Chair, adoption process of recommendation started. Members who offered amendments took the floor and explained the reasons for amendments. The amendments (21) on the draft recommendations were generally approved.

Ms. Ines Ayala SENDER, The Vice -Chairwoman of the Committee, member of the European Parliament emphasized the importance of the microenterprises especially for youth. The Economic Committee should give more importance to the the microenterprises that encourage the employment in order to improve the economic development.

Hakim BENCHAMACH, Parliamentarian from Morocco, suggested an amendment for paragraph 6, which is about to reducing the “interest rate” instead of reducing the “tax rate”.



Ulrik NILSSON, Parliamentarian from Sweden and Harri JASKARI, Parliamentarian from Finland expressed their support for paragraph 6 as long as there is change on it. They had supported to reduce the interest rate because of promoting an institutional framework for SMEs.

On the other hand, representatives from Jordan and Vice-chair Ayala Sender (EP) insisted not to change the recommendation; however, they said that new paragraph should be added after this paragraph about the interest rate.

After debates and expression of views on other amendments recommendation took its final form. Meeting is closed and recommendation is accepted for the plenary session.

Mr. ERCOŞKUN said that after the meeting of the Economic Committee's in Istanbul on 22 November 2013, he explained that the next meeting will be held in Barcelona. However, because of the time schedule of the General Assembly, this meeting could not be held. He explained the next meeting will be held in the month of April or May. Mr. ERCOŞKUN thanked to all participants of the meeting of the Economic Committee's in Jordan for their valuable contributions.