



ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN



*Commission on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs
and Education*

AMENDMENTS 1 - 24

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

on the following themes:

- 1. Decentralisation, territorial, economic and social cohesion: coastal and inland regions**
- 2. Towards a comprehensive Euro-Mediterranean financial framework for the economic development of the region**

DECENTRALISATION, TERRITORIAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION: COASTAL AND INLAND REGIONS

Amendment 1

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 1 (a) (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

1 (a) (before Article 1) Requests that the Union for the Mediterranean contribute through its cooperation instruments to the consolidation of democracy and lasting stability in all the southern Mediterranean countries and calls for the strengthening of cooperation with Mediterranean partners (and civil society) who have chosen the road to democracy and who expect significant support, particularly financial support, from the European Union;

Amendment 2

Marie-Thérèse SANCHEZ-SCHMID (European Parliament)

Paragraph 2

Draft recommendation

Amendment

2. Underlines that the core objective of a Euro-Mediterranean territorial policy should be to create an area of democracy and shared prosperity combining social cohesion (through social, human and cultural cooperation) and economic growth so that UfM countries can trade, invest and grow in a sustainable way;

2. Underlines that the core objective of a Euro-Mediterranean territorial policy should be to create an area of democracy and shared prosperity combining social cohesion (through social, human and cultural cooperation), ***territorial cohesion*** and economic growth so that UfM countries can trade, invest and grow in a sustainable way;

Amendment 3

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 3 a (New)

3 a Underlines the important role played by local and regional authorities for promoting the development of SMEs, calls therefore on national authorities to reinforce the financial and administrative capacities of local and regional authorities.

Amendment 4

Frank Boogaerts (Belgium)

Paragraph 6 a

Draft recommendation

6. Points out that national strategies of territorial cohesion and EU-Mediterranean cooperation projects should promote an integrated approach to address the economic imbalances and disparities between regions that undermine the capacity of a country's economy as a whole, including:

- a. transport and infrastructure policies to tackle the problems of isolation and inaccessibility of inland regions as well as the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean integrated and multimodal transport network to help strengthen trade between the EU and Mediterranean partners and between partners themselves, as advocated by the recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean on 'Euro-Mediterranean transport networks' approved on 4 March 2011 in Rome,
(...)

Amendment

6. Points out that national strategies of territorial cohesion and EU-Mediterranean cooperation projects should promote an integrated approach to address the economic imbalances and disparities between regions that undermine the capacity of a country's economy as a whole, including:

- a. transport and infrastructure policies to tackle the problems of isolation and inaccessibility of inland regions as well as the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean integrated and multimodal transport network to help strengthen trade between the EU and Mediterranean partners and between partners themselves, as advocated by the recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean on 'Euro-Mediterranean transport networks' approved on 4 March 2011 in Rome; ***special attention should be paid to customs procedures, in particular simplification and harmonisation with EU customs policy and rules;***

(...)

Amendment 5

Marie-Thérèse SANCHEZ-SCHMID (European Parliament)

Paragraph 6b

Draft recommendation

6. Points out that national strategies of territorial cohesion and EU-Mediterranean cooperation projects should promote an integrated approach to address the economic imbalances and disparities between regions that undermine the capacity of a country's economy as a whole, including:

(...)

- b. pilot programmes supporting agriculture and rural development as well as pilot regional development programmes, drawing on the EU's extensive experience in these fields,

(...)

Amendment

6. Points out that national strategies of territorial cohesion and EU-Mediterranean cooperation projects should promote an integrated approach to address the economic imbalances and disparities between regions that undermine the capacity of a country's economy as a whole, including:

(...)

- b. pilot programmes supporting agriculture and rural development as well as pilot regional development programmes, drawing on the EU's extensive experience in these fields; ***calls for better coordination and greater synergy between programmes under the European Regional Development Fund at the EU's external borders and those under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument;***

(...)

Amendment 6

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 6 c

Draft recommendation

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(...)

c. sustainable urban development strategies including urban planning and improved energy efficiency in transport and habitat,

(...)

Mediterranean cooperation projects should promote an integrated approach to address the economic imbalances and disparities between regions that undermine the capacity of a country's economy as a whole, including:

(...)

c. sustainable urban development strategies including urban planning, **renewables** and improved energy efficiency in transport and habitat,

(...)

Amendment 7

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 6c a (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

6c a (New)

climate change, with a particular emphasis on the issue of desertification;

Amendment 8

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 6d a (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

6d a. the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Mediterranean;

Amendment 9

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 6e a (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

6e a. cultural heritage, notably in terms of

the role of young people in the preservation and promotion of local cultural heritage;

Amendment 10

Marie-Thérèse SANCHEZ-SCHMID (European Parliament)

Paragraph 8

Draft recommendation

8. Invites the Union for the Mediterranean to better integrate the territorial dimension of EU-Mediterranean relations in its priorities and asks its Secrétariat, in collaboration with the European Commission and other institutions (e.g. the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), to exchange best-practices within the region, for instance through a Euro-Mediterranean web portal or a database on territorial cohesion;

Amendment

8. Invites the Union for the Mediterranean to better integrate the territorial dimension of EU-Mediterranean relations in its priorities and asks its Secrétariat, in collaboration with the European Commission and other institutions (e.g. the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), *to better coordinate UfM initiatives with existing European programmes and* to exchange best-practices within the region, for instance through a Euro-Mediterranean web portal or a database on territorial cohesion;

Amendment 11

Marie-Thérèse SANCHEZ-SCHMID (European Parliament)

Paragraph 9

Draft recommendation

9. Urges UfM countries to acknowledge that territorial cohesion policies entail a more decentralised process and a regionalisation of national policies taking into account the role of regions in ensuring the success of social and economic reforms;

Amendment

9. Urges UfM countries to acknowledge that territorial cohesion policies entail a more decentralised process and a regionalisation of national policies taking into account the role of regions in ensuring the success of social and economic reforms; ***underlines in particular the importance of the Cross-Border***

Cooperation (CBC) component of the Neighbourhood Policy, which facilitates this decentralised partnership cooperation between local and regional authorities around the Mediterranean, and considers that the 5 % share allocated to CBC programmes in the new programming period should be reinforced.

Amendment 12

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 9a (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

9 a. Calls for the mobilisation and empowerment of all levels of society so that decentralisation can contribute to the development of all territories in a democratic manner, by involving populations in the management of their own affairs, to improve relations between the state and citizens and to provide a boost to economic, social and territorial cohesion;

**TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN
FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION**

Amendment 13

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (European Parliament)

Recital A

Draft recommendation

Amendment

A. Whereas the comprehensive Euro-Mediterranean financial framework for the economic development of the region should be viewed as the sum of the bilateral and multilateral and public and private organisations, structures and

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mechanisms involved in financing economic development and supporting investment, and whereas its aim is simultaneously to strive to combat poverty, illiteracy and unemployment in order to improve living conditions, develop public services, build infrastructures, in particular water, transport and energy infrastructures, support entrepreneurship and involve civil society,

mechanisms involved in financing economic development and supporting investment, and whereas its aim is simultaneously to strive to combat poverty, illiteracy and unemployment in order to improve living conditions ***and job performance***, develop public services, build infrastructures, in particular water, transport and energy infrastructures, support entrepreneurship and involve civil society,

Amendment 14

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (European Parliament)

Recital A a (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

A a. Whereas the European Union has increased the level of funds allocated to the Mediterranean partner countries to incorporate the needs arising from the Arab Spring and the consequences of the economic crisis;

Amendment 15

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (European Parliament)

Recital B

Draft recommendation

Amendment

B. Whereas the current financial, economic and social crisis is a global crisis, which has considerably weakened the economies of the Euro-Mediterranean region, has highlighted the need for greater solidarity and cooperation in order to provide a comprehensive and effective response able to ease the impact of this crisis and to achieve sustainable economic growth benefiting everyone; whereas to this end urgent action is needed to address the limitations and weaknesses of the existing fiscal framework, which involves relatively

B. Whereas the current financial, economic and social crisis is a global crisis, which has considerably weakened the economies ***and the societies*** of the Euro-Mediterranean region, has highlighted the need for greater solidarity and cooperation in order to provide a comprehensive and effective response able to ease the impact of this crisis and to achieve sustainable economic growth benefiting everyone; whereas to this end urgent action is needed to address the limitations and weaknesses of the existing fiscal framework, which

small amounts of resources, which are inequitably distributed, inadequately followed up and insufficiently channelled towards SMEs-SMIs,

involves relatively small amounts of resources, which are inequitably distributed, inadequately followed up and insufficiently channelled towards SMEs-SMIs *and job creation*,

Amendment 16

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (European Parliament)

Recital C (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

C. Whereas the European Investment Bank (EIB) can, in addition to the amount of EUR 4 billion made available before the Arab Spring, henceforth allocate additional loans up to EUR 1 billion to the Euro-Mediterranean region and whereas the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is set to extend its geographical coverage in order to include the southern neighbourhood and to provide up to EUR 2.5 billion annually for public and private sector investment to support the creation and expansion of enterprises and the funding of infrastructures;

Amendment 17

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 1a (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

I a. Notes that the economic and financial crisis has had a severe impact on citizens, economic actors and local and regional authorities in all countries and therefore considers it essential to implement job creation measures, to deepen Euro-Mediterranean trade relations and promote innovation and social cohesion; recalls in this context that these priorities are related to the local markets and opportunities offered by the territories of

the Mediterranean region.

Amendment 18

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (European Parliament)

Paragraph 2 a a (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

2 a a. Calls for a study of all the conditions and prospects for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Investment Bank

Amendment 19

Inés Ayala Sender (European Parliament)

Paragraph 2 a b (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

2 a b. Encourages the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Investment Bank, aimed at supporting the countries on the southern shore in their reform efforts, which should provide specific financing to support decentralisation and local and regional governments.

Amendment 20

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (European Parliament)

Paragraph 3

Draft recommendation

Amendment

3. Regrets the fact that the Euro-Mediterranean region suffers from a lack of investor confidence; recalls that restoring confidence can only be achieved by improving the economic and legal environment through major structural reforms aimed at strengthening the private sector and making the region more attractive; welcomes in this connection the

3. Regrets the fact that the Euro-Mediterranean region suffers from a lack of investor confidence; recalls that restoring confidence can only be achieved by improving the economic and legal environment through major structural reforms, ***ensuring good governance, transparency and the enforcement of legislation*** aimed at strengthening the

support given by the European Union and members of the G8 to the Arab Spring, particularly through the Deauville Partnership, which is intended as long-term support for the process of political and economic transition on the southern shore of the Mediterranean; calls, nevertheless, for clarification about the nature and objectives of the Deauville Partnership; emphasises the importance of confidence-building by pushing ahead with concrete structural projects, such as those of the Union for the Mediterranean, so as to create a positive dynamic; welcomes the projects already under way in this area; regrets, however, the slow pace of their operational implementation, in particular of the Mediterranean business development initiative; welcomes also the very positive action taken by the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP), aimed for more than a decade at supporting the development of the private sector in the Maghreb and the Mashrek; calls on the EIB to maintain adequate volumes of loans and equity investments in this sector to meet the main requirements for creating new jobs, through support for microfinance and SMEs and the funding of infrastructure; calls also for active promotion by the EIB of its projects, including in the form of public-private partnerships, with other international – and also regional – development and financing institutions, and the Gulf countries; may help to plug these funding gaps and support the Deauville Partnership in practical terms; also welcomes the extension of the activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to the southern shore of the Mediterranean; calls more generally for measures to build up the capacities of all stakeholders in the economic development of the region;

private sector, *the opening up of public procurement* and making the region more attractive; welcomes in this connection the support given by the European Union and members of the G8 to the Arab Spring, particularly through the Deauville Partnership, which is intended as long-term support for the process of political and economic transition on the southern shore of the Mediterranean; calls, nevertheless, for clarification about the nature and objectives of the Deauville Partnership; emphasises the importance of confidence-building by pushing ahead with concrete structural projects, such as those of the Union for the Mediterranean, so as to create a positive dynamic; welcomes the projects already under way in this area; regrets, however, the slow pace of their operational implementation, in particular of the Mediterranean business development initiative; welcomes also the very positive action taken by the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP), aimed for more than a decade at supporting the development of the private sector in the Maghreb and the Mashrek; calls on the EIB to maintain adequate volumes of loans and equity investments in this sector to meet the main requirements for creating new jobs, through support for microfinance and SMEs and the funding of infrastructure; calls also for active promotion by the EIB of its projects, including in the form of public-private partnerships, with other international – and also regional – development and financing institutions, and the Gulf countries; may help to plug these funding gaps and support the Deauville Partnership in practical terms; also welcomes the extension of the activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to the southern shore of the Mediterranean; calls more generally for measures to build up the capacities of all stakeholders in the economic development of the region;

Amendment 21

Ali Ercoşkun (Turkey)

Paragraph 3

Draft recommendation

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Amendment 22

Frank Boogaerts (Belgium)

Paragraph 4

Draft recommendation

4. Calls for the optimisation and sharing of existing economic development structures and instruments in the region, as a prerequisite for the establishment of a relevant and effective financial framework; takes the view that greater complementarity is needed between bilateral and multilateral funding; stresses that the region's economic fabric consists mainly of SMEs-SMIs and that micro-credit seems to be the most appropriate form of funding; calls in this connection for the supply of and access to microcredit to be extended; supports the development of funding and projects based on public-private partnerships; believes that economic development funding must:

- be secured against the risks inherent in lending activities;
- benefit from a reduction in red tape so as to facilitate deployment;
- meet priorities and targets set in advance;
- be granted if eligibility criteria are met, in particular
a commitment to reforms to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, *and the*

Amendment

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involvement of civil society;
- respect the principles of co-responsibility, co-management and co-ownership;
- be monitored as regards the use to which it is put;
- serve the needs and meet the expectations the population;

focus on women's rights, ending discrimination and a free civil society;
- respect the principles of co-responsibility, co-management and co-ownership;
- be monitored as regards the use to which it is put;
- serve the needs and meet the expectations the population;

Amendment 23

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (European Parliament)

Paragraph 4

Draft recommendation

4. Calls for the optimisation and sharing of existing economic development structures and instruments in the region, as a prerequisite for the establishment of a relevant and effective financial framework; takes the view that greater complementarity is needed between bilateral and multilateral funding; stresses that the region's economic fabric consists mainly of SMEs-SMIs and that micro-credit seems to be the most appropriate form of funding; calls in this connection for the supply of and access to microcredit to be extended; supports the development of funding and projects based on public-private partnerships; believes that economic development funding must:

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- benefit from a reduction in red tape so as to facilitate deployment;
- meet priorities and targets set in advance;
- be granted if eligibility criteria are met, in particular a commitment to reforms to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, and the involvement of civil society;
- respect the principles of co-responsibility,

Amendment

4. Calls for the optimisation and sharing of existing economic development structures and instruments in the region, as a prerequisite for the establishment of a relevant and effective financial framework; takes the view that greater complementarity is needed between bilateral and multilateral funding; stresses that the region's economic fabric consists mainly of SMEs-SMIs and that micro-credit seems to be the most appropriate form of funding; calls in this connection for the supply of and access to microcredit to be extended; supports the development of funding and projects based on public-private partnerships; believes that economic development funding must:

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- be granted if eligibility criteria are met, in particular a commitment to reforms to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, and the involvement of civil society;

co-management and co-ownership;
- be monitored as regards the use to which it is put;
- serve the needs and meet the expectations the population;

- respect the principles of co-responsibility, co-management and co-ownership;
- be monitored as regards the use to which it is put;
- serve the needs and meet the expectations the population;

To this end, the roles played by Parliaments and civil society are critical.

Amendment 24

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (European Parliament)

Paragraph 4 a (New)

Draft recommendation

Amendment

4 a. Calls for initiatives from both sides of the Mediterranean aimed at exploiting the potential of men and women, without discrimination, promoting education and vocational training that matches the demands of modern markets, thus promoting exchanges, the sharing of abilities as well as the mobility of students, workers and entrepreneurs;