

PA-UfM



AP-UpM

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY – UNION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE – UNION POUR LA
MÉDITERRANÉE

الجمعية البرلمانية للاتحاد من اجل المتوسط

RECOMMENDATION

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

on:

“Enhancement of human mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region.”

“Effects of the terrorism on the economic, social and educational affairs on the PAUFM countries.”

The Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean,

1. Recognising that the Euro-Mediterranean region needs urgent stabilisation in order to fully enjoy its huge potential of human resources, skills, energy and cultures owing to its dynamic, increasing and diverse population which have historically been game changer assets in the progress and development of its communities;
2. Notes that a sustainable growth of the Euro-Mediterranean population will benefit UfM member countries in terms of employment, development, welfare, social justice and enterprises and substantially tackle poverty and inequalities;
3. Emphasizes the need for the increase of human mobility within the Euro-Mediterranean region so as to take advantage of its population's full potential through cooperation and joint action in the face of opportunities and challenges;
4. Recommends a closer coordination between different levels of governance (local, national and international), including public and private stakeholders, such as civil society organisations, immigrant associations and NGOs, affording the UfM an effective role as a platform for dialogue and a forum for finding joint solutions, to enhance the mobility and growth within the Mediterranean region;
5. Points out that a strict visa system needs to be effectively enforced comprising both competent regulatory measures for migratory movements, control and surveillance and licensed requirements regarding human mobility in order to favour safe and controlled opportunities in the region, however avoiding any disproportionate obstacles for human mobility;
6. Bearing in mind the security aspect of the issue, underlining however the eventual interest in the increase of human mobility which will further contribute to the spirit of cooperation and welfare of the Euro-Mediterranean region and bring an added value to the existing ties between their people in different fields, such as trade, science, culture, arts, health, education, labour market, security, participation, housing, religious tolerance, fighting discrimination, racism and xenophobia;
7. Reminds the UpM member states that the process of making it easier to obtain visas goes in tandem with the signing of readmission agreements and that the creation of an environment conducive to the rapprochement of societies and cultures is fully conceivable only in a secure space based on equitable sharing of responsibilities, particularly in the fight against illegal immigration and in the protection of borders;
8. States that these processes should be considered as an important component of a common and comprehensive migration policy of the Euro-Mediterranean region to be developed in collaboration with relevant national and regional, private and public, stakeholders as well as civil society actors, especially immigrant organizations and NGOs;

9. Reminds the urgent need for address the root causes of destabilisation, displacement and irregular migration which has become the primary agenda item of the international community with the rise of migratory flows especially during summer 2015 in the Mediterranean as another component of a common and comprehensive migration policy;
10. Urges the UfM member countries to cooperate and find ways aimed at preventing loss of lives at sea, crushing migrant smuggling networks and human trafficking and replacing illegal migration with legal migration; establishing joint operations, counter intelligence cooperation and provision of logistics and equipment from all UfM states would avert human trafficking organisations and save lives at sea; encourages the member countries of the UfM to develop sustainable policing and judicial cooperation in order to fight more effectively against these phenomena;
11. Calls upon the UfM member countries to join forces in order to raise awareness not only between potential irregular migrants by drawing attention to the risk of dangerous journeys;
12. Invites the international community to express solidarity with the most affected countries from irregular migration and underlines the importance of sharing responsibilities between northern and the southern shore of the Mediterranean and the necessity of a global and multidimensional approach through the reinforcement of sustainable development programs in disadvantaged regions with a strong migration potential so as to fight, in a preventive manner, against this phenomenon and the problem of despair among young people, which forms the breeding ground of extremism and terrorism;
13. Puts forward the necessity and urgency to bring up to the agenda of the international community the swift allocation of financial and development assistance to the origin and transit countries for irregular migration and the launch of genuine resettlement schemes and programmes;
14. Underlines the need to address the push factors behind irregular migration and to increase development and humanitarian aid to the countries of origin, by giving priority to the conflict-affected areas, such as Syria and to improve humanitarian conditions inside Syria, which would allow for the local population and refugees to live in safer areas;
15. Highlights the importance of open legal migration channels as the most humanitarian tool in the fight against irregular migration; underlines necessary cooperation amongst UfM countries to establish a visa system towards implementing controlled legal migration channels comprising a comprehensive approach inclusive of mobility opportunities and security in the region;
16. Utterly condemns the heinous terrorist attacks perpetrated by different groups in various member countries, as well as in other cities around the World;

17. Stresses the need for the UfM countries to find a European strategy for growth and employment in tourism sector and encourage the will to find collectively tourism potentials to find opportunities for cooperation, investment and trade and tourism promotion; Common areas of cooperation should lead to the convergence of interests between the parties;
18. Expresses its concern over the increasing security threat posed by terrorism to the Mediterranean basin. Underlines the need to develop the Mediterranean societies and to assist the social stability in the area;
19. Highlights the dramatic consequences of these terrorist attacks, including loss of innocent lives, injured and traumatized people, as well as growing unrest, mistrust and fear that risk destabilizing societies, and not least, their negative economic impacts primarily on the tourism industries of the member countries;
20. Reiterates that terrorism should be condemned and countered in all forms and manifestations; that terrorism should not be affiliated with any system of belief, sect, ethnicity, geography or nationality;
21. Strongly rejects in particular, attempts and claims that terrorists act in the name of Islam, or they represent Muslims and Islam; pointing out to the fact that most of their victims are Muslims who have been killed, terrorised, abused and massacred by these terrorist groups;
22. Calls on political leaders and opinion makers to avoid making stigmatising generalisations that portray whole groups of the population as responsible for the acts of certain individuals or groups;
23. Acknowledges the role of education in protecting citizens from the propaganda of the violent extremist and terrorist groups; as well as in building immune in our societies and developing counter narratives against violent extremist ideologies;
24. Agrees that democracies have the fundamental right to defend themselves against terrorist groups, while ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law; underlining that countering terrorism and protecting human rights and freedoms are not contradictory but complementary;
25. Urges member states to do their utmost in order to eradicate the breeding grounds for terrorism and religious fanaticism, especially by means of education, social policies and an inclusive society including but not limited to adopting concrete measures aimed at preventing and fighting radicalisation particularly in schools, disadvantaged neighbourhoods, prisons, the Internet and social media;
26. Acknowledging that a number of factors such as unemployment, socioeconomic inequalities, denial of participation in the political system, feeling alienated from the society all play a role in the radicalization process of young people; urges member states to pay proper attention to the problems of youth and to devise programmes reaching out to these vulnerable segments of society;

27. Calls on the member states to devise proper strategies and programmes in the field of education with the aim of introducing values of tolerance, mutual understanding, and respect for differences to the school children and young people; to review their national curricula with this understanding;
28. Advises member states to develop specific programmes for teachers and those working in the field of education that would provide those professionals with the necessary tools to recognize the early signals of radicalization in students and to intervene properly in such cases;
29. Recognises that the fight against inequality as a cornerstone to reduce the existing gap between the countries in the region concerning socioeconomic differences, education, energy, welfare and employment amongst others, requires of the effort of all the UfM members; underlines in this sense the important role of the promotion of the new technologies.

2015-2016 Activity Report

Over the 2015 and 2016 working period, the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education held two meetings on 10 February 2016 in İstanbul and 28 May 2016 in Tangier.

In this period, the Committee focused on the following issues:

“Enhancement of human mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region.”

“Effects of the terrorism on the economic, social and educational affairs on the PAUFM countries.”

