

RACCOMANDAZIONE

Carissimi amici,

Vi trasmetto qui sotto lo stralcio della raccomandazione approvata dall'ultima riunione dell'assemblea parlamentare per l'Unione per il Mediterraneo svoltasi a Rabat in Marocco questo fine settimana.

A Mediterranean Charter of Values and Intercultural Dialogue

The Committee on improving quality of life, exchanges between civil societies and culture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean,

- Whereas the shared history of the European Union and the Mediterranean basin gave rise to a set of values, philosophies and beliefs in which cultural and religious dialogue is vital to mutual understanding,- Whereas the promotion and defence of common values and shared principles amongst Euro-Mediterranean countries is key to building a favourable environment of peace and stability conducive to economic, social and cultural development and a stronger Euro-Mediterranean partnership;
 - Whereas the role of governments to promote common Euro-Mediterranean values and make sure they are respected is essential;
 - Whereas intercultural dialogue is understood as an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds;
 - Whereas the role of civil society is pivotal to facilitate intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region and enable a greater understanding and closeness between peoples across cultural, religious and national boundaries;
 - Whereas the historic events that have occurred in the Southern Mediterranean since the end of 2010 have provided unique opportunities for the people of those countries to express more freely their wish for true democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law and fundamental freedoms;
1. Welcomes the reform process underway in the Southern Mediterranean; is convinced that UfM (Union for the Mediterranean) countries should take full advantage of this push for democracy and reforms, as it is an appropriate time to establish a genuine partnership based on the promotion of shared values and principles;
 2. Strongly believes in this regard that a "Euro-Mediterranean Charter of Values" will represent a crucial step towards a strengthened Union for the Mediterranean based on peace, security and stability;
 3. Recalls its decision to draft a Euro-Mediterranean charter of values, as stated in the recommendation on "Dialogue between cultures and religions: towards a Mediterranean charter of values" approved on 4 March 2011 in Rome; commits itself to come up with a draft proposal by the end of 2012;
 4. Calls on a Euro-Mediterranean Convention composed of government representatives, national Parliaments, and the European Parliament to adopt a "Euro-Mediterranean charter of values" based on this draft proposal by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean;
 5. Invites the Heads of State and Government of the Union for the Mediterranean to hold a Ministerial conference to convene this Convention;
 6. Stresses that a Euro-Mediterranean charter of values should be based on a set of common principles, including :
 - protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech, assembly, conscience, religion or belief, association and the media, including unrestricted access to information, communication and internet (as access to the internet is a human right, as declared by the United Nations on 6 June 2011) and gender equality, - fight against discrimination and racism,
 - fair distribution of income, wealth and opportunities, social cohesion and sustainable development,
 - democratic stability, justice and the rule of law, fight against corruption and good governance,
 - non use of force and peaceful settlement of conflicts;
 7. Recalls in this connection that signatories of a Euro-Mediterranean Charter of Values should also undertake to promote the protection of religious minorities, fight discrimination and racism through adoption of adequate legislation and effective implementation mechanisms; underlines the importance of participation in commonly agreed Euro-Mediterranean programmes for civil society, law enforcement agents and other stakeholders as a way to put into practice the principles of the Charter of Values;
 8. Believes that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership must be based on concrete progress in these areas;
 9. Underlines the importance of promoting intercultural dialogue to ensure better knowledge of religions, beliefs and cultures, mutual understanding and respect among Euro-Mediterranean peoples;
 10. Considers cultural cooperation based on a genuine dialogue between cultures and including all sectors of society (cultural authorities, institutions, organisations and associations) to be essential;
 11. Believes that fostering participation in cultural programmes can benefit material and non-material development and stresses, therefore, the importance of programmes such as Media Mundus and of projects run under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean;
 12. Welcomes all non-governmental efforts and initiatives in the field of cultural dialogue ; in this respect, considers the Anna Lindh Foundation report on "Euro-Med Intercultural Trends 2010" and its recommendations to be important policy instruments for civil society stakeholders and public institutions wishing to see closer links between the two shores of the Mediterranean;
 13. Encourages EU institutions and national governments to support the organisation of seminars, conferences and training sessions of young political leaders for the promotion of common values and intercultural dialogue, as a concrete contribution to the building of a new area of peace, stability and freedom;
 14. Calls on all opinion leaders, including media, to promote the universal values of respect and tolerance;
 15. Believes that the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) provides a unique platform for strengthening cooperation in the area of higher education and student mobility with the Southern neighbours, at a time when it is of particularly vital importance to deepen relations with the Southern partnership countries, especially with their younger generations; underlines, in this respect, that the EMUNI's potential should be developed as much as possible;
 16. Welcomes the emphasis put on Education and Research in the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat's work programme and the identified priority of facilitating exchange programmes for students and for teachers among the universities; in this regard, calls on the European Commission to take over the European Parliament's proposal to establish a Euro-Mediterranean Erasmus programme;
 17. Instructs its Chair to forward this recommendation to the Co-Presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Secretary-General of the UfM Secretariat, the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the High Representative/Vice-President Catherine Ashton, the European Commission, the parliaments and governments of the member states of the Union for the Mediterranean, and the European Parliament.