

## PRESS RELEASE

### "For a new euromediterranean partnership"

The Euromed Non-Governmental Platform welcomes the revolution of the peoples of the south shore of Mediterranean for dignity, freedom, social justice and democracy. The platform calls for a vigorous European foreign policy that is consistent with the values and the universal human rights enshrined in its Treaties

Adopted on February 25th, 2011

The Non-Governmental Euromed Platform bringing together independent civil society organizations of the both shores of Mediterranean:

- Welcomes the courageous struggle, the peaceful but determined demonstration and popular uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. The winds of freedom and emancipation blowing the other countries of the South shore
- **Emphasizes the historical importance of the peaceful and massive popular movement which has begun in Tunisia against dictatorship and for the full respect for universal human rights and freedoms in the region.** The winds of freedom coming from Tunisia are spreading to riparian countries.
- Bows to the memory of dead and pays tribute to all those who sacrificed their lives to this end and firmly condemns censorship, intimidation, provocation and the bloody crackdown by security forces, leaving hundreds dead and thousands wounded in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and in the riparian countries.

**Given the progressing evolution of the current events that continue to accelerate, the Non Governmental Euromed Platform:**

- Expresses its solidarity with the mobilization of the democratic forces in the civil society and especially young people across the region and this for the satisfaction of all just and legitimate demands.
- **Calls with vigor at the end of dictatorship, repression, corruption, poverty, unemployment, construction of the rule of law and democratic states respectful of political pluralism and all liberties and universal human rights.**



**The Euromed Non-Governmental Platform urges the European Union, its institutions and its member states:**

- To respond to these democratic aspirations, to end the ambiguities and compromises that are seriously damaging the credibility of Europe in the eyes of its citizens as the rest of the world and in order to implement a coherent foreign policy, consistent with the fundamental rights and values instituted by its treaties.
- To actively support the democratic transition process and support on a priority basis, an independent civil society that is active in democratic change.
- Recalls that the primary purpose of the Union is to promote peace and its values including its relations with the rest of the world under the Treaty of Lisbon (see art. 2, 3§1, 3§5 TEU). The Union's action on the international scene is based on the principles that have governed its creation, development and enlargement that it aims to promote in the world: democracy, rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality, solidarity and respect for the principles of the UN Charter and the international law. (Art. 21§1 TEU).
- Stresses the urgent obligation binding on the Union, its institutions and its Member States in the development and implementation of its external action in all areas, to safeguard its values (...) of consolidate and support democracy, rule of law, human rights and principles of international law (...) (Art. 21 § 2 TEU) while ensuring the coherence of its policies (21 § 3 TUE).

**In this respect the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform:**

- Welcomes the European Parliament resolution of February 3rd, 2011 on the situation in Tunisia, which reveals the inability of the European Union to develop a truly coherent and effective foreign policy vis-à-vis its partners (...) and urges the EU to draw lessons from the Tunisian example and to revise its policy to support democracy and human rights by establishing a mechanism for the implementation of rights' clauses of the rights in all agreements with third countries; insists that the review of the Neighborhood Policy gives priority to the criteria of justice independence, respect of fundamental freedoms, pluralism, freedom of the press and the fight against corruption; and calls for a better coordination with other policies pursued by the Union with these countries (§ 13).
- Deplores the policy and institutional impasse caused by the Union for the Mediterranean having replaced the framework of multilateral cooperation within the Euromed Partnership by the



intergovernmental cooperation, and noted the revocation of the governments of partner countries in the South who were the pillars as Tunisia and Egypt.

- Invites the European Union, its institutions and its member states as well as their partners of the Southern Mediterranean to provide financial assistance and in practical terms in order to strengthen ties of cooperation, dialogue and pooling of interests of independent civil society stakeholders of both Mediterranean shores.

**The Euromed Non-Governmental Platform calls for a new Euro-Mediterranean Partnership that respects the aspirations of peoples to the full realization of the universal values and human rights.**

In this respect it reiterates to the European Union institutions and the Union for the Mediterranean, the recommendations of the Euromed Civil Forum in Alicante (May14-16<sup>th</sup>, 2010) to bring together 250 organizations of civil society in both the North and South Mediterranean:

Reaffirming the need for stronger Euro-Mediterranean partnership open to all countries that belong to this region.

Noting that:

*This partnership cannot rely solely on economic development projects, as important and innovative they are. It must rely on the same fundamental principle that those who led to the creation of the Barcelona process: the desire to share a common destiny, respect for the diversity of societies, values intangibility freedoms and principles that are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. (...)*

*The intervention of the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform with various official bodies should be formally recognized (...). Without the recognition of the independent civil society, the Euromed partnership will not allow people to be the first actors of their future.*

Asking:

- Ensuring to the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform financial and political means for an independent and autonomous functioning (...)

- Implement mechanisms to allow compliance by the States of the partnership to the commitments on human rights, democracy and good governance. States and institutions of the partnership should not encourage human rights and democracy's abusers.

*(see attached the full declaration of the Euromed Civil Forum 2010)*