



# EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



Brussels, 17 March 2009

## RECOMMENDATION

### of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly

tabled, on behalf of the Committee on Women's Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean countries,

by Ms. SALAH Afifa, Chairwoman,

on the following topics:

#### **- Women, Development, Peace and Security in the Mediterranean:**

Rapporteurs:

- Ms. Iratxe GARCIA PEREZ, Member of the European Parliament
- Ms. Fatima CHELOUCHE, Member of the National Popular Assembly of Algeria

#### **- Women, Education, Training and Employment:**

Rapporteurs:

- Baroness Emma NICHOLSON OF WINTERBOURNE, Member of the European Parliament
- Ms Samira CHAOUECHI, Member of the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies

The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly,

- having regard to the United Nations Convention of 18 December 1979 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),
- having regard to the Vienna Declaration of 25 June 1993, on the promotion and protection of Human Rights,
- having regard to the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995, the Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted in Beijing as well as the subsequent outcome documents adopted at the United Nations Beijing +5 and Beijing +10 Special Sessions on further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted respectively on 9 June 2000 and on 11 March 2005,
- having regard to the Barcelona Declaration of 1995 and to the Five Year Work Programme agreed upon during the 10th Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona in 2005
- having regard to the conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on “Strengthening the Role of Women in Society”, held on 14-15 November 2006 in Istanbul, and to the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers' agreement to work within a common framework of action to strengthen women’s role in political, civil, social, economic and cultural spheres, as well as to fight against discrimination,
- having regard to the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in September 1994, the Programme of Action adopted in Cairo, as well as the subsequent outcome documents adopted in 1999 at the UN Cairo+5 special session on further actions to implement the Programme for Action,
- having regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in September 2000, and in particular the MDG on promoting gender equality and empowering women as a prerequisite for overcoming hunger, poverty and disease, reaching equality at all levels of education and in all areas of work, equal control over resources and equal representation in public and political life,
- having regard to the International Conference on Development Funding held in Monterrey in March 2002, and to the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in September 2002,
- having regard to the Rome Declaration on Harmonization, adopted on 25 February 2003 following the High Level Forum on Harmonization, and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, endorsed on 2 March 2005,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 806/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on promoting gender equality in development cooperation<sup>1</sup>;
- having regard to the Presidency Conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 16 and 17 December 2004, confirming the full commitment of the European Union to the MDGs and to policy coherence,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 143, 30.4.2004, p. 40.

- having regard to its resolutions of 12 April 2005 on the role of the European Union in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)<sup>2</sup> and of 20 June 2007 on the Millennium Development Goals – the midway point<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission on European Union Development Policy: ‘The European Consensus’ (The European Consensus on Development) signed on 20 December 2005<sup>4</sup> and the European consensus on Humanitarian Aid of December 2007<sup>5</sup>,
- having regard to the UN Development Programme report entitled "En Route to Equality" dating from 2006,
- having regard to the Conclusions of the General Affairs and External Relations Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, adopted on 14 May 2007 on "Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Development Cooperation",
- having regard to the Council Conclusions of 5 and 6 December 2007 on the review of the implementation by the Member States and the EU institutions of the Beijing Platform for Action and, in particular, the accompanying report drawn up by the Portuguese Presidency containing indicators on women and poverty;
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 13 March 2008 on gender equality and women’s empowerment in development cooperation (P6\_TA(2008)0103)
- having regard to the Millennium Development Goals report 2008 drafted by the United Nations, summarising progress towards the goals made in each of the regions,
- having regard to the resolution of the UN General Assembly, No. 3519 of 15 February 1975 concerning the participation of women in strengthening peace and security and the fight against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression and foreign occupation and all forms of foreign domination,
- having regard to the statement by the UN General Assembly in its resolution No. 3763 of 3 December 1982 on the participation of women in promoting peace and cooperation,
- having regard to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 adopted on 31 October 2000, on women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325 (2000)), in particular paragraph 1, which urges Member States "to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions [...]",
- having regard to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 adopted on 18 June 2008, on women and peace and security (S/RES 1820 (2008)), in particular paragraph 12, which

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<sup>2</sup> OJ C 33 E, 9.2.2006, p. 311.

<sup>3</sup> Texts Adopted, P6\_TA(2007)0274.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 46, 24.2.2006, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> The Statement on the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid was approved by Council on 19 November and by the European Parliament on 29 November and was signed by the Presidents of the Commission, Council and European Parliament on 18 December 2007.

"encourages all parties to such talks to facilitate the equal and full participation of women at decision-making levels",

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 1 June 2006 on the situation of women in armed conflicts and their role in the reconstruction and democratic process in post-conflict countries (P6\_TA(2006)0245)
- having regard to the Brussels Call to Action to Address Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond (June 2006),
- having regard to the conclusions of the international conference: Women in conflict resolution, held in Ljubljana, June 21-22, 2008 in the Institutum Studiorum Humanitatis- Ljubljana Graduate School in Humanities,
- having regard to the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs, adopted by the World Conference on Education for All held in Jomtien, Thailand, on 5 - 9 March 1990
- having regard to the Arab Framework for Action to Ensure Basic Learning Needs in the Arab States in the Years 2000 - 2010, "Education for All in the Arab States: Renewing the Commitment", adopted by the Regional Conference on Education for All for the Arab States, held in Cairo on 24 - 27 January 2000,
- having regard to the Dakar Framework for Action "Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitments" adopted by the World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2000,
- having regard to the Convention adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation:
  - \* Convention n° 100 on "Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value" on 29 June 1951,
  - \* Convention n° 111 on " Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation" adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation on 25 June 1958,
  - \* Convention n° 117 on "Basic Aims and Standards of Social Policy " adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation on 22 June 1962,
  - \* and Convention n° 122 on "Employment Policy" adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation on 9 July 1964,
- having regard to the provisions of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) 1994 Part Time Work Convention, which requires countries to incorporate in their public procurement contracts a labour clause, including the issue of equal pay,
- having regard, complementary to the commitments mentioned above, to all the Euro-Mediterranean partners' shared international, regional and national obligations<sup>6</sup>, especially the constitutions which recognise the principle of non discrimination against women, and ensuring

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<sup>6</sup> Those include, inter alia:

The Treaty establishing the European Community (1957);

The European Consensus on Development (2006);

The National Constitutions of the partner countries which recognise the principle of non discrimination against women.

a privileged place to women in election lists,

- having regard the Istanbul Action Plan, set up following the conference held on 14 and 15 November 2006 in Istanbul, and aiming at strengthening the role of women in society;

## **WOMEN, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

- A. whereas the Vienna Declaration, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the UN World Conference on Human Rights, states that ‘The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights’,
- B. whereas the Beijing Platform for Action endorsed gender mainstreaming as an effective strategy to promote gender equality and stated that governments and other players "should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes, so that before decisions are taken an analysis is made of the effects on women and men respectively",
- C. whereas according to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify or abolish the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women,
- D. whereas the provision of micro-credits is an important tool to improve the status of women, especially those excluded from the formal economy, giving women a start-up possibility, encouraging female entrepreneurship, access to active participation in and continuing presence on the labour market, helping them to become economically independent and is therefore not only an issue of entrepreneurship and economic growth but also of personal fulfilment, social inclusion and a measure against poverty;
- E. whereas the European Consensus on Development identifies gender equality as a common principle, stating that "the EU will include a strong gender component in all its policies and practices in its relations with developing countries";
- Ebis. whereas women living in poverty are often prevented from the access to essential resources, such as credit, land and inheritance, their work is often not rewarded and is not taken into account, women who live in poverty have become more vulnerable because they do not have the same access to productive resources and control over their own work and their income than men;
- F. whereas many women are denied access to basic health care services, education at all levels, economic independence, careers and participation in decision-making processes, despite the fact that it has been proved that empowering women accelerates the meeting of all the other Millennium Development Goals in reducing poverty and improving demographic, social and economic indicators,

- G. whereas it is crucial to provide financial and technical support to women's organisations in order to promote programmes for the most vulnerable members of the population, including migrant, internally displaced and refugee women, in particular the supply of equipment and appropriate technology for food processing and workload alleviation, the facilitation of women's access to land, and improving girls' access to and attendance at schools,
- H. whereas, in post-conflict countries undergoing processes of reconstruction and reintegration, institutional mechanisms and commitments to gender equality are effective first steps towards protecting and promoting women's rights; whereas the involvement of all relevant actors, such as governments and political representatives, NGOs, civil society groups and academics, as well as the direct participation of women's groups and networks, is the essential pre-condition for achieving shared and sustainable development,
- I. whereas so far, the tendency in the development debate has been to focus on women mainly as mothers, especially in areas linked to reproduction, such as population services, nutrition, education and child-related services, whereas women have been absent figures in other areas such as mainstream employment schemes and land reform programmes;
- J. whereas many people have not ready access to safe water, and they, especially women and girls, must spend much of their time scavenging for it; unsafe water and sanitation cause an estimated 80 per cent of all diseases in the developing world, women and girls tend to suffer the most as a result of the lack of water and other sanitation facilities;
- K. whereas in many cases violence against women in armed conflicts constitutes not only physical and/or sexual abuse but also a violation of their economic, social and cultural rights;
- L. whereas, everywhere in the world, women working for peace have used the associative network to build bridges between the warring parties and seek justice for those of their next of kin who have disappeared,
- M. whereas the presence of women at the negotiating table and in active roles in peaceful transitions constitute a necessary but insufficient step towards democracy and whereas such women therefore require support and accompaniment on this political journey,
- N. whereas women's participation in governance, whether in time of peace or war, continues to be limited, yet it remains a top priority and a critical element for achieving gender equality
- O. whereas the conflict escalated in the Mediterranean region and the logic of violence often chooses women as a target, the war on Gaza, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the bloody events in the Middle East, the rise of extremism and terrorism in all its forms and origins make this region a geopolitical area in which the challenges are crucial to peace and security,
- Obis. whereas the limited progress noticed since the establishment of Istanbul Action Plan as a result of the absence of a Plan with a precise calendar, making it difficult if not impossible, the following up and the evaluation of the commitments assumed or not by governments,
1. considers that globalization which has reduced distances and transferred the globe into an universal village should be the new face of world partnership and solidarity where prevail equality of opportunity, justice, security and stability,
  2. stresses that the Mediterranean countries have common cultural roots and their diversity is a

common area that should form a shield against war, racism, extremism and terrorism that threaten the region. The Mediterranean has always been a haven of peace and will remain a place of dialogue, encounters and exchanges between both shores,

3. stresses that there cannot be a peace, security and stability in the region as long as the situation will remain characterized by the expansion of the development gap between the two shores,
4. emphasizes the need for States to the Euro-Mediterranean for more coordination among themselves in the areas of economic, financial and cash so as to enhance their capacity to anticipate events and prevention of risks, and recommends the establishment of more cooperative relations and equal partnership and solidarity between the two shores of the Mediterranean, and calls to make the Mediterranean space, peace-building and development sustainable,
5. recommends the setting up of a code of conduct, in the form of an international convention under the auspices of the UN, in order to frame and control the working methods of the financial system and its instruments, and to prevent monetary inflation,
6. calls for greater support of the economic institutions that have an impact on investment, production, development, operation as well as for allowing to benefit from financial incentives and encouragements, and to provide the necessary liquidity to the banking institutions to finance small and medium-sized enterprises,
7. asks the member States of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly to support The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, The Cairo Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action , and UN Millennium Declaration;
8. supports projects aimed at strengthening elected female political leaders' skills in such areas as governance, parliamentary procedures, forming coalitions, developing national agendas that reflect women's needs and priorities, presentation and public speaking skills, media relations, development of effective campaigns, and pre-election strategies, etc. to improve their political effectiveness and ability to mainstream gender issues in political decision and policy making and to advance their know-how to promote leadership as well as increase the incidence of women running for office,
9. stresses that the participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels is a necessary condition for good governance and welcomes all kinds of support measures, such as incentives to meet quotas in election lists, support for women's movements and organisations, and the active promotion of women's rights in the Country Strategy Papers; reiterates the need to increase the role of women in political decision-making at all levels, to encourage the EMPA Member States to allocate an adequate proportion of 30 to 50% of women in electoral lists, and to ensure the full participation and involvement of women in all efforts for the promotion of peace and conflict resolution; furthermore, supports the recommendations of UNSCR 1325 (2000);
10. notes with anxiety that gender equality laws and practices (institutional, financial, human) are not fully guaranteed although there is a difference between countries;
11. calls on the members States of the Euro- Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly to fight against breaches to dignity and physical integrity of women at work and in society,
12. calls on the Member States of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly to take action in development

cooperation with concrete and measurable effects on the elimination of all forms of gender-based discrimination and the protection and promotion of women's human rights and gender relations (amending laws, institutions and existing patriarchal patterns, increasing budgetary resources and improving social and economic conditions for women);

13. remembers the importance of integrating gender issues into the development cooperation programmes in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women as the main instrument for enhancing human rights and combating poverty;
14. demands to put greater emphasis on gender equality in the distribution of benefits and outcomes across the range of development goals in the development strategies;
15. stresses the need to mainstream a gender perspective into peace research, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction and to ensure a gender component in field programmes;
16. stresses the need to complement the image of women as vulnerable victims with an image of women as a highly differentiated group of social actors, who possess valuable resources and capacities and who have their own agendas; women influence the course of events, and they must shape the development process; considers that women who have been victims of war, should no longer be seen only as war victims but rather as actors of stabilisation and conflict resolution; stresses that women in general can only fulfil this role once equally represented in political and economic decision-making;
17. underlines the real opportunities that sectors such as tourism, arts-craft and rural leisure activities can offer, activities which are in most cases managed by women and that represent an important factor for economic growth in many underdeveloped regions which have a great natural, cultural and/or historic interest;
18. emphasises the potential of micro-credit as a tool that development cooperation policies can use to promote the development of local communities and women's empowerment; calls for programmes offering guarantees in cases where the collateral provided by the borrower is not considered sufficient, in particular where the beneficiary is a woman affected by or at risk of social exclusion or poverty; demands to raise awareness of the potential of micro-credits through publicity and special campaigns addressed to young women and those afflicted by social and economic exclusion; stresses, in particular, the importance of publicising the possibilities of micro-credits in schools and vocational training centres and their use by non-governmental women's organisations and other bodies that work to link up graduates and school-leavers at all levels with the labour market;
19. calls to give more attention to projects undertaken by women on the southern shore and abolish bank, tax and administrative burdens,
20. calls on the Member States of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly to ensure coherence between development cooperation policy and other Community policies (such as trade policy and agriculture policy) in order to prevent adverse inter-policy interference, especially as regards measures designed to empower women;
21. deplores the fact that, despite that the consideration of the gender perspective in development cooperation is a principle underpinning the development policy of the EU, not enough has been done in practice, and most of the times they refer to gender as a cross-cutting area, without indicating any specific gender-related targets or activities; strongly calls for gender-specific



- targets and activities to be included in future strategies;
22. calls upon the international community to double efforts to give the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, including the right to establish their independent state, and to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace for the benefit of all peoples of the region on the basis of international conventions,
  23. welcomes the resistance of Palestinian women victims of war particularly in the Gaza Strip, calls for the immediate lifting of the siege in all its forms in the region and calls for the need to provide renewed support by developing an integrated program for its own benefit and accelerating the pace of the project from its economic and social development; and recalls that the attacks against civilians are serious violation of International Law;
  24. calls on the Member States of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly to increase efforts aimed at implementing UNSCR 1325 (2000), which calls for an increased participation of women at all decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes;
  25. calls on the assessment and follow-up of the implementation of United Nations Resolutions in the Euro-Mediterranean countries,
  26. calls on involving women in conflicts' settlement processes between states during negotiations (agreements and the follow-up of their implementation); calls for the equal representation of women in all fields of the scheduled peace negotiations to solve the conflict between Palestine and Israel, and urge to set up the means to allow women to contribute formally and integrally to the efforts for the resolution of the Middle East conflict, for instance setting up an International Committee of Women;
  27. welcomes the various initiatives to create gender-specific early warning and conflict surveillance indicators, e.g. those taken in the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Council of Europe, the Swiss Foundation for Peace, International Alert and the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response;
  28. stresses the importance of NGOs and women's organisations in identifying women's problems and in finding adequate solutions, in developing the democratic processes and stability in the region; encourages the work of these NGOs and suggests the sharing of best practice in the field of gender equality among the countries concerned, as well as with European NGO networks;
  29. stresses that in post-conflict situations, women's peace movements and women's organisations should receive pedagogical, political, financial and legal support, so as to bring about a democratic society respectful of women's rights as well as gender equality in constitutional, legislative and policy reforms;
  30. recommends to react by means of severe international sanctions against harms and violations of Human Rights and crimes committed against women and children during armed conflicts,
  31. recommends the condemnation and appeal to the International Criminal (ICT) Tribunal for aggressions and Crimes Committed against women in Gaza as far as the acts of December 2008 and January 2009 are concerned,
  32. demands that women who are victims of ill-treatment and violence during conflicts be able to lodge complaints with international courts under conditions compatible with their dignity and

under the protection of those courts against physical assault and trauma owing to their being questioned in situations which display insensitivity to trauma; demands that in such cases the women concerned obtain redress in both civil and criminal terms, and that assistance programmes be implemented to help them achieve economic, social and psychological reinsertion; stresses that rape has been used as a weapon of war and that this phenomenon needs to be addressed through support programmes for victims.

32bis. requests that during the conference for the evaluation phase of Istanbul Action Plan scheduled in 2009, the States partners commit themselves to revive the Istanbul Action Plan as a veritable political tool, with an indicator able to measure the progress realized in terms of objectives and achievements including financial resources, which they undertake to conduct periodic and systematic evaluations, in addition to their regular involvement in organizations of civil societies.

## **WOMEN, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT:**

- A. whereas education is a fundamental right and the key to sustainable development and peace and stability within and among the countries,
  - B. whereas the Vienna Declaration, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the UN World Conference on Human Rights, states that ‘The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights’,
  - C. whereas education and training systems should provide equal opportunities for women and men,
  - D. whereas incorporating the gender equality dimension into education and training policies is crucial to the success of the Millennium Development Goals, one objective of which is to eliminate gender disparity at all levels by 2015,
  - E. whereas many women are denied access to education at all levels, economic independence, careers and participation in decision-making processes, despite the fact that it has been proved that empowering women accelerates the meeting of all the other Millennium Development Goals in reducing poverty and improving demographic, social and economic indicators,
1. notes that, although there is world wide awareness on the importance of educating females for political, social and economic development, girls and women have not sufficiently benefited from the allocated resources, and calls on the Governments to fulfil their commitments for implementing integrated strategies to improve equitable access to quality education and promote changes in attitudes, values and practices, in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All objectives;
  2. stresses the necessity of settling equality principle in enjoying modern and developed education between both men and women, and calls the states members to work to provide all

the facilities that are able to promote human resources on the basis of gender equality in education, training and employment,

3. observes the continued existence of differences in schooling rates between girls and boys in many Mediterranean countries, and calls for action to reduce these differences by providing for mandatory and free education for girls in order to ensure a minimum rate of their education,
4. calls on the Governments of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners to reinforce the necessary legal and practical measures for the implementation of the Five Year Work Programme adopted at the 10th Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona in 2005, and in particular for expanding illiteracy eradication and adult education programmes across society with special focus on females, and improving education opportunities for girls and women, as a basic right, including vocational education and training and access to information technology and e-learning;
5. recommends the necessity of reviewing educational methods that provide a stereotyped image of women to contribute to the upbringing on the basis of equal intellectual qualifications for both women and men,
6. calls on the member States to prepare literacy programs, viewed the high rates of illiteracy within women in the southern Mediterranean countries,
7. stresses the necessity of adopting an approach of gender when adopting the national plans and budgets for women education and training,
8. stresses the necessity of paying more attention to the rural women through the adoption of Mediterranean plans in order to integrate them into development process, in compatibility with the article 14 of the United Nations convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women,
9. calls on the governments of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners to provide the appropriate financial conditions for education of the rural girls that has material difficulties, including infrastructure, transportation and education expenses,
10. stresses the need of giving a privileged importance to vocational training and retraining of women in professional sectors to which they belong,
11. calls the States to the necessity of adopting rehabilitation programs for girls dropping out of school and their integration in the economic life, in front of the negative consequences of early disruption of girls out of school, and the difficulties resulting by this phenomenon in terms of women's involvement in training and employment systems,
12. recommends the implementation of equality rules when it comes to jobs' remuneration,
13. stresses the importance of the recognition by the States concluding the Barcelona Declaration, of the key role played by women in achieving development, and calls for measures in order to ameliorate the qualitative aspect of job exercised by women through enhancing the efforts to allow women to obtain and control modern technologies,
14. deplores the fact that educational systems discourage women from entering traditionally male-dominated fields of employment and vocational training, but welcomes measures promoting gender equality and urges Governments to launch programmes aimed at giving women the

most diversified professional guidance possible and subsequent assistance on the employment market;

15. calls on the Euro-Mediterranean partners to increase significantly funding devoted to education in the Mediterranean region through EU assistance and Mediterranean partners' national plans and raise education as a priority sector within the ENPI, while taking particular account of those groups of people who are most disadvantaged, in particular women, especially those in rural areas;
16. welcomes the results realized through the financial assistance of the European countries to the Southern Mediterranean countries in the framework of the Euro - Mediterranean cooperation, and recommends the continuation of the implementation of the financing Facilities "MEDA-1" and "MEDA 2", and reforms in education, training and employment,
17. recommends to support the right of women with higher scientific qualification to assume advanced positions in her professional domain equally with men,
18. recommends the necessity to provide the facilities that take women specificities into considerations that they can conciliate between their functional and familial obligations,
19. notes with anxiety that the world is witnessing negative effects by the financial crisis and its deep impact on fragile economy countries and the harm done to women caused by these difficulties after their demobilization from their jobs, and stresses the importance of establishing mechanisms of solidarity between States to deal, in order to achieve a just and sustainable development between the northern and southern Mediterranean countries,
20. recognises that employment is a fundamental right for guaranteeing the decent living, and recommends to go in for financing mechanisms through direct micro-credits for the purpose to support private initiative and the creation of jobs and the creation of the banking institutions to facilitate investment and the Euro – Mediterranean partnership,
21. calls upon the need to involve the private sector to support the efforts of States in employment, with regard to the reduction of public sector capacity in the Mediterranean countries to provide centers of employment for women, the Committee,
22. notes that access to an affordable and sustainable basic healthcare system is a fundamental building block of human economic, social and personal development and an essential precursor to the growth of a good quality education system for all; underlines, therefore, the importance of reinforcing preventative health education, education and training as fundamental aspects of promoting equality between women and men;
23. welcomes the important role of the components of civil society to intervene in terms of women's employment, and recommends to strengthen the activities of non-governmental programs in women employment,
24. calls on the state members to work for reducing the feminization of certain professions and sectors which are the framework for exploitation of female labour with weak salaries compared to men,
25. welcomes the success achieved by the Mediterranean women in some sectors, and recommends to encourage the establishment of networks of women acting in the same sector in order to exchange experiences,

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26. instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Speakers of Parliaments members to the Barcelona Process, to the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference, to the European Commission, to the Governments of the countries members to the Barcelona Process as well as to the institutions concerned.