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PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY – UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE – UNION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للاتحاد من اجل المتوسط

Committee on Women's Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Countries

Strasbourg (European Parliament)

13 February 2019

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RECOMMENDATION

on

**"The role of women in facing security challenges
in the Euro-Mediterranean region:
terrorism and illegal immigration"**

Chairwoman of the Committee: Ms. Leila CHETTAOUI (Tunisia)

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The Committee on Women's Rights
of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean:

1. Calls on the governments of the Euro-Mediterranean countries to put an end to economic policies based on the exploitation of the southern countries and which lead millions of people to live in poverty and misery; agrees that the European Union's foreign policy and neighborhood policy should be reformed so as to contribute to the sustainable political and economic development of the countries of origin of migration; Calls on the Union For the Mediterranean Member States to promote real development cooperation policies to achieve development based on solidarity and the needs of people and to assume a shared responsibility for tackling all the root causes of tension and insecurity in the region, such as armed conflict, wars and occupation, as well as the rise of violence, extremism and terrorism in all its forms and origins, inequalities, poverty, unemployment, and lack of economic opportunities, especially for young people and women;
2. Considers that women should no longer be seen only as victims of wars and conflicts, but rather as protagonists in the consolidation of security and peace in the Euro-Mediterranean area, Underlines also the need to avoid a glorified view of women in this context, because women can also be sympathizers, inciters and perpetrators of terrorist actions, just as key stakeholders in their prevention or in the domain of security; recognizes the role of women organizations which already contribute, in different ways, to the fight against violent extremism for instance through activities for consolidation of peace, promotion of social resilience and cohesion just as protection of women rights;

3. Calls on governments to ensure the effective participation of women in the efforts to counter instability in the region, including appointments to decision-making positions and quotas in relevant consultative and oversight bodies, and involvement in conflict prevention, mediation and peace-building;
4. Stresses the need for defensive and preventive measures to combat the phenomenon of terrorism and radicalization through the promotion of women's capabilities and their active and equal participation in public and private spheres, that fosters stable and resilient communities, through social cohesion and the promotion of tolerance and the acceptance of gender equality and universal human rights, to enable the building of a stable and peaceful society;
5. Calls to integrate women in drafting, implementation, follow-up and assessment of the whole of policies, laws, procedures, programs and practices relative to peace, security and fight against violent extremism, as terrorism has particular impacts and repercussions on fundamental rights of women and girls especially as far as their health, education and participation to public life are concerned, in addition to the fact they are often targeted directly by terrorist groups; notes with deep worry that actions of sexual and sexist violence are notoriously part of the strategic goals and ideology of some terrorist groups that employ these actions against women as a terrorist tactics and a tool destined to increase their power by encouraging their activities' financing;

6. Stresses that the respect for fundamental rights and civil liberties is an essential element of an effective counter-terrorism policy; considers that cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean states in matters of security should be conducted in full respect of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and respect for their sovereignty, for human rights and international law;
7. Recognizes that funding of UfM projects should be prioritized for training and skills-building programmes for women's organizations in fields such as countering violent extremism and terrorism, promoting education, and peace-building. Special effort should be made to make training available for women-led grassroots and/or organizations outside of urban centers;
8. Rejects the link between migration and terrorism, as well as the criminalization discourse of migrants and refugees; Stresses that migration should be a choice not a necessity, and calls upon States Parties to develop a new strategy for the movement of persons that includes the safe and legal access for asylum seekers and the use of humanitarian visas.
9. Invites UfM member states to view migrants as an economic potential and not as an element of insecurity, and to take an approach that takes into account the needs of women at all stages of migration; Calls for enhanced cooperation with the United Nations actors and Member States, in full respect of international law, including the research and rescue operations at the sea, and the principle of non-refoulement;

10. Calls on the Euro-Mediterranean countries to take meaningful and coordinated action to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks, and put an end to the impunity of human trafficking, to protect migrants, particularly women, from violence, discrimination, sexual exploitation and forced labor;
11. Denounces the increase of restrictions with regard to persons' freedom of movement, the reinforcement of borders' surveillance just as wall building at borders with European Union, so as to prevent migrants and asylum-seekers from crossing them; asks members' states of the Union for the Mediterranean to deploy migrants' integration policies and measures especially in the fields of education, employment, health care and accommodation, and this by means of exchange of good practices between members' states and financial support in favor of members' states that need it the most;
12. Urges the countries of the European Union to implement effective measures to welcome and integrate migrant women, whether or not their status is regular, who now represent the majority of those migrating to the EU for an increasing variety of reasons (economic immigration, asylum, family reunification);
13. Calls on the governments to collect gender-related data on immigration in the Euro-Mediterranean region and to arrange for the analysis of that data by the competent institutes in order to highlight further the particular needs and problems of women immigrants, especially in terms of health and workers' rights, and the most appropriate methods of integrating them into the societies of the host countries.
