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

الجمعية البرلمانية للاتحاد من اجل المتوسط



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## **Declaration of the Summit of Presidents of the Parliaments of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean Union**

### **‘Employment, inclusive growth and sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean region’**

**Rome, 12 May 2017**

#### **Draft**

We, the Speakers of the Parliaments of the countries of the Union for the Mediterranean, meeting in Rome on 12 May 2017 in order to discuss the topic ‘Employment, inclusive growth and sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean region’,

Noting that the implementation of effective and durable strategies for employment and social cohesion in the Mediterranean countries is a decisive factor to ensure stability and security in the whole region and to counteract the social tensions and inequalities giving rise to radicalism, violence and lawlessness,

Endorsing the priorities and goals of *Europe 2020, A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*, and of the *Union for the Mediterranean action plan on employment*, which are intended to promote a more efficient and sustainable economy with a high rate of employment, promoting social and territorial cohesion,

Endorsing the actions set out in the Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Third Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour, held in Jordan on 26-27 September 2016,

Recalling the objectives set in the *Global Strategy for the EU’s Foreign and Security Policy*, and the *Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy*, in particular on economic

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modernisation and entrepreneurship, employment and employability: focus on youth, partnership for growth, migration and mobility,

Having regard to the *Sustainable Development Goals* and the decisions of the Marrakech Climate Change Conference of November 2016,

Recalling our first Summit of 7 April 2013 in Marseilles,

*Deem it necessary to:*

1. Promote incisive, consistent and shared employment policies, which account for one of the main priorities of the political space of the Union for the Mediterranean, particularly in South and East Mediterranean countries, which are marked by low rates of employment and high rates of unemployment especially among women and the young.
2. Support the UfM *Med4Jobs* programme, which is aimed at promoting a comprehensive regional approach to supporting employment in the region, particularly in the South and East, and with respect to young people and women, by matching the supply of and demand for jobs, strengthening entrepreneurial culture and promoting private sector projects.
3. Revive and support an adequate investment programme to facilitate convergence on telecommunications between both shores of the Mediterranean including by expanding infrastructural networks, particularly digital networks.
4. Promote comprehensive policies for environmental protection, including possibilities for renewable energies and creation of “green” jobs, and tackle climate change as an essential key to sustainable development and to the reduction of environmental risks in the region;
5. Provide for the reprioritisation in use of financial instruments in order to promote, support and expand women's entrepreneurship, particularly in the context of small and medium-sized enterprises, which has proved an important means of development, reduction of women's unemployment and economic growth.

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6. Invest in partnerships for youth and in the training of young people, especially in the new forms of knowledge and competence required by the digital economy, as a prerequisite for more sustained growth in the years to come.
7. Streamline the objectives for employment and decent work in all cooperation areas of the Union for the Mediterranean, including the ‘blue economy’, energy, industrial cooperation, research and innovation.
8. Enhance the implementation of the Political Declaration and Action Plan of the Valletta Summit of 11-12 November 2015. Take positive note of the efforts by the neighbouring countries in tackling the refugee crisis.
9. Encourage a different consideration of migration which, if soundly managed by means of appropriate integration and training policies, accounts for a factor of economic growth in host countries, in particular those affected by a shrinking and ageing population. To this end, it is important to promote wide-ranging information campaigns involving local government and schools in order to develop a welcoming culture, to promote involvement and prevent the emergence of racism and intolerance against diversity.
10. Strengthen participation in cultural and scientific cooperation programmes such as, Erasmus +, Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRISMA) or research projects on Mediterranean area funded under Horizon2020, in light of the importance of developing inter-academic co-operation and scientific research for growth and employment.
11. Encourage the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean to continue to coordinate and promote initiatives and projects in the various sectors and to reinforce, in cooperation with other relevant bodies, the visibility of, information about, and access to financial instruments. Invite, in particular, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean to report regularly to the Parliamentary Assembly and the Summit of Speakers of the Union for the Mediterranean on the implementation of employment policies in the region.