



## ARE CSOs REPRESENTED IN HAHN'S NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD?

The Green paper "[Toward a new European Neighbourhood Policy](#)" that has been published on 4 March 2015 insists on some key policy principles to strengthen the revised European Neighborhood Policy with an emphasis on flexibility, focus, ownership and visibility.

The 2011 ENP approach also insisted on these same principles, with in addition the recognition of the necessity to step up efforts to enhance the participatory role and representativeness of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the Neighbourhood.

In the light of the Civil Society Forum - Southern Neighbourhood that is taking place today in Brussels, with the aim **to achieve a genuine EU-Arab Partnership**, SOLIDAR, the Euromed non-governmental platform and the Arab NGO network for Development (ANND) insist that the revised ENP should make sure that independent Civil Society Organisations, trade unions, social actors and human rights defenders are on the first place in Hahn's new neighbourhood.

**Fostering inclusive and structured dialogue with independent CSOs, trade unions and social actors should be at the core of the revised policy.**

Recognition of the crucial role of CSOs in national and regional policy-making was highlighted in the 2011 ENP revision, where the European Commission stepped up support and dialogue with CSOs from across the region through various instruments. However, this has failed to translate into an effective improvement in CSOs operational conditions and recognition on the ground, as several countries in the region are experiencing growing shrinking space for CSOs, and violation of human rights defenders.

For this, SOLIDAR insists that independent CSOs, trade unions and social actors should be the key elements of Hahn's renewed Neighbourhood, and to this end

**"this revision should enhance their role from mere watchdogs to that of key stakeholders in the design,**

**implementation and monitoring of national and regional priorities and policies with the purpose to engage them in a long-term inclusive structured dialogue with local, national and regional authorities.”**

says Ziad Abdel Samad, the Executive Director of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND).

VP/HR Federica Mogherini has highlighted today in her speech that “a true partnership with CSOs from both sides of the Mediterranean is essential to ensure equal participation, transparency and accountability in policy making and monitoring within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership”. She insisted that CSOs are essential stakeholders to shape the revised ENP to promote sustainable employment, socio-economic opportunities for youth to deliver social justice and achieve stability and security over the long-term.

**SOLIDAR welcomes the initiative of the Civil Society Forum- Southern Neighbourhood that is starting today in Brussels. On this event, we are participating to raise our voice for a more inclusive, human rights-friendly ENP policy that aims at tackling inequalities and social exclusion, empower people and deliver economic, social and cultural rights for all.**

Read the Briefing No. 73 'Key Principles for a Revised European Neighbourhood Policy' [here](#).

---

Follow us through [#SocialJustice\\_MENA](#)



*This publication has been produced with the financial support of the European Union. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.*

---

**solidar**

Rue du Commerce 22 | B-1000 Brussels

T +32 (0)2 500 10 20 | F +32 (0)2 500 10 30