

# THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

Our key principles  
up close

UP  
CLOSE

**solidar**

## AFET REPORT ON THE ENP REVIEW: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION FOR A MORE SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED ENP

On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015, the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) adopted the [draft report](#) prepared by Eduard Kukan, member of the European Parliament (EPP), on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) review.

SOLIDAR warmly welcomes the reference to several amendments proposed by SOLIDAR on the ENP, that reflect our "[Key Principles for a Revised European Neighbourhood Policy](#)" jointly developed with the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform.

In particular, we strongly welcome those amendments that strengthen the **social dimension of the ENP**, stress the necessity to anchor the ENP on **universal values**, promote **freedom of association** as an enabling right for the **realisation of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs)**, and foster inclusive, meaningful and transparent **regional dialogue with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)**.

In particular, SOLIDAR welcomes the following amendments:

Amendment no. 24: Considers that the revised ENP should strengthen the **promotion of fundamental freedoms** in the ENP countries by **fostering freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly** and freedom of the press and of the media as **enabling rights for realisation of economic, social and cultural rights**.

Amendment no. 5: Stresses that **respect for the universal fundamental values of human rights, the rule of law, democracy, freedom, equality and respect for human dignity** on which the EU is founded **must remain at the core of the revised policy**, as stated in article 2 of the association agreements between the EU and third countries. This amendment also reiterates that strengthening the rule of law and support for democracy and human rights are in the interests of the partner countries, and calls for **stronger conditionality regarding respect for these common fundamental values**. On top of that, it underlines the role of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights and the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) in this regard.

Amendment no. 25: Highlights the importance of **developing the social dimension of the ENP**, by engaging with the partners in the **fight against poverty and exclusion**, stimulating **employment and fair growth**, facilitating healthy labour relations and promoting **education and decent work**, allowing to tackle

some of the **root causes of irregular migration**.

Amendment no. 50: Emphasises that the **development of regional civil society platforms**, such as the Eastern Partnership and the **Southern Neighbourhood Civil Society Fora**, strengthens a multi-stakeholder engagement driving the democratisation and economic reform agenda in the neighbourhood.

Amendment no. 9: **Emphasises that local ownership, transparency, mutual accountability and inclusiveness** should be the key aspects of the new approach to ensure that the benefits of the ENP reach all levels of the community and society in the countries concerned, rather than being restricted to particular groups.

Amendment no. 45: Calls for **systematic human rights impact assessments** – including gender perspectives – **of trade agreements** and EU financial support to programmes and projects within the framework of the ENP.

Amendment no. 67: Stresses that the **progress reports** should focus on:

- the implementation of the priorities identified in the action plans and should reflect the level of engagement of the partner country;
- reiterates its call for the data contained in the reports to be put into perspective by bearing in mind the national context and by including trends from the previous years;
- **takes the view that all the main stakeholders of ENP countries, including civil society, should be genuinely involved and consulted before drafting the reports;**
- calls for key documents such as progress reports to be readily available on the respective EU delegation websites and translated into the local language;
- calls on the EU to employ more qualitative means of measuring the extent of progress in the partner countries and to implement effective cross-compliance measures regarding progress by partners in terms of human rights, the rule of law.

The reference to these amendments in the AFET report is a step forward towards a ENP revision more anchored on universal values, a strengthened social dimension, as well as a more inclusive and transparent partnership with an enhanced role of civil society. For this, SOLIDAR calls upon the European Commission to take stock of these amendments and to include them into the final communication that will be issued by the end of October. However, we remain concerned about the significant weight given to the security dimension in the current discourse on the ENP revision, and how the above mentioned principles would be effectively implemented. In this sense, in order to strengthen the social and rights-based approach to the revised policy we call for a stronger emphasis on the need to foster human security as precondition for peace building and long-standing stability.

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