

THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

Our key principles
up close

UP
CLOSE

EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform
Plate-forme non gouvernementale EuroMed
منبر المنظمات غير الحكومية للمنطقة الأورو-متوسطية



annd
Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات الأهلية العربية

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TIME TO ESTABLISH A NEW EQUAL EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

On June 30th the public consultation opened by the European Commission on 4th March 2015 with the green paper « Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy » came to an end. Yet, the full process of revision is just about to start.

SOLIDAR, together with the **Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)** and the **Euromed Non-Governmental Platform**, prepared a joint input to the consultation building on the three networks common understanding of the ongoing challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean and wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. **The input calls towards a new European Neighbourhood Partnership that is anchored on universal values, upholds the statutory role of CSOs, promotes mutual accountability and policy coherence for sustainable development, and changes the “business as usual” approach in policy priorities.** Please read our joint input [here](#).

Taking stock of the European Neighbourhood Policy, it became clear that over the last decade, there has been an unbalanced relation between the different pillars of the partnerships, the economic, social and political priority agendas, highlighting the competing nature of EU values and interests. For this, we call for this revision to bring back the **Partnership principle at the core of the external relations between the EU and its neighbouring countries, strengthening the mutual ownership of its programmes by the citizens of both EU and partner countries.** This revision has the potential to re-build relations with its neighbours based on a **mutual and equal partnership enshrined in the international human rights treaties, and core ILO conventions, working in partnership with all stakeholders, including independent trade unions, civil society organisations, social movements and human rights defenders.**

Against this background, **we call the new European Neighbourhood Partnership to:**

- 1) **Reinforce the Universal Human Rights Dimension**, by firmly strengthening the promotion of fundamental freedoms, in particular freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly as a baseline for enabling the **progressive realisation of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs)**, and by adopting a new binding definition of the concept of “conditionality” and by ensuring the **implementation of and the mutual compliance with the obligations enshrined in the core human rights and ILO conventions;**
- 2) **Strengthen mutual accountability and policy coherence for sustainable development**, by ensuring **transparency in policy formulation and implementation** and through early involvement of CSOs in the definition of policy and programming priorities within action plans, and the single support framework, and by adhering to the principle of **policy coherence for sustainable development;**

- 3) **Uphold the statutory role of independent civil society**, by ensuring procedural requirement at the bilateral and regional levels to ensure timely and transparent **statutory consultation with CSOs** and follow-up, as well as to further develop the **regional structured dialogue** through the support for existing networks of independent civil society organisations, trade unions and social actors, through a format that allows a **longer-term dialogue partnership**;
- 4) **Change the business as usual approach in policy priorities**, by focusing on tackling inequalities and **promoting universal and comprehensive social protection systems, including national social protection floors**, as key to promote sustainable socio-economic development, leading to **peace and human security**. This will entail promoting a **decent work agenda**, and promoting a **development-oriented economic model** that fosters and protects the policy and productive space of partner countries, and developing a rights-based approach to migration.

Partner organisations on the ENP public consultation

- [CONCORD](#)
- [Arab NGO Network for Development \(ANND\)](#)
- [The Reseau Euromed France \(REF\)](#)
- [Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network](#)
- [Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung](#)
- [Human Rights and Democracy Network](#)

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