

Friday 30th October 2015

THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY Our key principles up close

Countdown till the third regional dialogue around EU-Arab Partnership
30-31 October 2015
Beirut, Lebanon

EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform
Plate-forme non gouvernementale EuroMed
منبر المنظمات غير الحكومية للمنتدى الإقليمي الأورو متوسطي

annd
Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتطوير

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SOLIDAR LAUNCHES SEVEN SOCIAL PROTECTION MONITOR REPORTS ON THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

On the occasion of the first day of the third regional conference on the EU Arab Partnership, organised by the ANND and the EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform with the support of SOLIDAR in Beirut on 30-31 October 2015, SOLIDAR has launched the Social Protection Monitoring (SPM) of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) with seven country reports on [Algeria](#), [Tunisia](#), [Morocco](#), [Palestine](#), [Lebanon](#), [Egypt](#) and [Jordan](#).

The country reports show that the European Southern Neighbourhood countries are continuing to suffer from:

- **Lack of/discrimination in the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs):** Although several states have ratified or are signatories to international human rights conventions, transposition into national legislation or effective implementation is ineffective in several countries. Access to or the full enjoyment of ESCRs is widely limited, thus hampering the possibility of progressively realising and enjoying other human rights.
- **Lack of universality in the implementation of social protection (SP) systems:** SP systems are generally fragmented and not universal, and work on an individual and short-term basis. Governments are also spending too much on short term poverty alleviation policies which do not lead to long term and economic social investments or address the structural causes of poverty and social inequality. SP systems are also economically-oriented and based on the belief that it is a service and a charitable act and not a legal State obligation stemming from international human rights law. For this reason, there is an urgent need to reassess the role of the State and the need for a legal framework on social protection based on human rights.
- **Serious restrictions to the right of freedom of association and peaceful assembly and collective bargaining.** Freedom of association is recognised as an *enabling right* that underpins inclusive development, in which decent work and social protection and the progressive realisation of social, economic and cultural rights (ESCRs) are key. The right to form a trade union is restricted or violated in almost all surveyed countries, **and labour strikes are criminalised**, with cases reported in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Algeria. The **absence of a genuine and effective social dialogue** bringing together all concerned parties, including civil society, is also a major trend.

In the light of the upcoming revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), we call on the EU to:

1. Foster a comprehensive agenda to promote ESCRs and the human right to social protection:

- The EU should promote **economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs)** in its external relations as a tool to ensure the progressive realisation of all human rights, including the full realisation and enjoyment of the human right to social protection for all.
- The EU should promote the ratification of international human rights instruments, including the **International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs)**, and its **Optional Protocol**, and promote the transposition into national legislation of international human rights clauses and **ILO core labour standards**, as instruments to promote the **implementation of National Social Protection Floors (SPF)**, as per ILO Recommendation 202, in compliance with the human rights principles of **equality, universality and non-discrimination, including accessibility, adaptability, acceptability and adequacy**.
- The EU should promote, through its external policy frameworks such as the **European Neighbourhood Policy and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy**, the **implementation of ILO Recommendation 202 on National Floors of Social Protection**, and adopt a roadmap to integrate the implementation of the **four social security guarantees** in EU external policies and programming documents (Action Plans, Single Support Frameworks)

2. Promoting freedom of association and collective bargaining

- The EU should take a more active and vocal role in **fighting violations and restrictions on CSOs and trade unions**, in order to provide them with an **enabling environment to engage in policy-formulation, programming, implementation, monitoring and the evaluation of public policies at national level**, and to promote transparent and meaningful **social dialogue** with the participation of CSOs.
- The EU should promote a **structured regional dialogue** between EU institutions, progressive political forces, CSOs, trade unions and all relevant stakeholders, in order to **ensure a consultative process in the definition, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU regional, bilateral policies and programmes**. Consultations and dialogue with CSOs should be broadened to include diverse levels (national, sub-national etc.) and cover all related sectors (human rights, social protection, trade, aid, environment, energy).

SOLIDAR and its members and partners are organising the European Neighbourhood Days that will take place from 16th & 17th November 2015 in Brussels. You can register now for our two public events;

‘Defending Civil Society Space. EU-Arab Dialogue: Rebuilding relations with European Southern Neighbourhood Countries’

Seminar organised by CONCORD, Euromed Non-Governmental Platform and the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND).

16 November 2015 , 09:30 – 16:30 at the EESC

[Programme](#)

[Online Registration](#)

‘The EU as a peace promoter in the Middle East and North Africa: between human rights and security’

Roundtable debate organised by SOLIDAR, Euromed Non-Governmental Platform and the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) hosted by Pier Antonio Panzeri , MEP.

17 November 2015, 18:00 – 20:00 at the European Parliament

[Programme](#)

[Online Registration](#)

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY DAYS

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JOIN US 16- 17 NOVEMBER 2015
Brussels

With public debates on

Defending Civil Society Space. EU-Arab Dialogue:

Rebuilding relations with European Southern Neighbourhood Countries

The EU as a peace promoter in the Middle East and North Africa: between human rights and security



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