



## **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**

### **Preamble**

#### **The Euro-Med Movement strives for:**

- a humanity that frees itself from the madness of war and of the arms race, that settles conflicts without violence, engaging its energies in the preservation of nature and overcoming starvation;
- a society in which income is more justly distributed, in which employees increase their share of the production capital and social security remains reliable;
- an ecologically and socially renewed economy that makes sparing use of energy forms that are compatible with nature, and that clears away the inherited burden of the nuclear age;
- a society that, despite a reduced rate of growth, a smaller proportion of paid employment, and more personal activity, increases its prosperity and improves its quality of life through a healthier environment, less anxiety, a more humane working world, and more time at the disposal of the individual;
- a society with decent work for all, a society that justly divides paid employment and house or family responsibilities between the sexes, that promotes codetermination and self-determination at work;
- a society of equality and solidarity for women and men, young and old, Maltese and foreigners;
- a society in which citizens, wherever they feel affected, have an equal say in making and implementing decisions.

The Euro-Med Movement supports regional cooperation that aims to reduce security tensions, to encourage commercial and economic relations, to confront threats to the natural environment and to develop cultural relations between the nations that live in the region.

This kind of cooperation is necessary for achieving peace and security and for dealing more effectively with the fundamentalism and religious radicalism that is spreading throughout the Mediterranean region.

The European Union - a political and economic institution - is an important and influential actor in our region. The Euro-Med Movement is in favour of strengthening ties between the European Union and all countries bordering the Mediterranean. The EMM encourages the implementation of regional cooperation projects that are financed by the European Union.

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## **FREEDOM, EQUALITY & SOLIDARITY**

The Euro-Med Movement has a vision of a just world without poverty, in peace and ecological balance, where the people are free and equal and have influence on the conditions affecting their lives.

The policies of the Euro-Med Movement are based on the values of freedom, equality and solidarity.

All people seek Freedom: Freedom from repression. Freedom to make their own choices and shape their own lives. Freedom to express their opinions and influence the conditions affecting their lives.

All people are of equal worth. As individuals, each of us is unique with our own set of thoughts, beliefs, interests, opinions and experiences. Everyone should have the same opportunities and the same freedom to achieve their goals and shape their lives. This must be done in a way that is responsible to the individual, the society, future generations and the natural environment, of which we are all a part. People's opportunities should not be limited by their social class, gender, ethnic background or sexual orientation.

All people need to feel interdependent with others. We are dependent on others, on each others efforts, support and recognition. We all have a right to be accepted and respected as the person we are, and we all need to care for others and be cared for ourselves. People are social beings. Therefore, the interests of the individual are not contrary to those of the society, but the two evolve by interacting with each other.

Freedom for everyone requires a fair distribution of benefits and burdens. Large economic and social disparities, discrimination and exclusion create insecurity and a lack of freedom. Solidarity is the willingness to divide resources in a way that allows freedom and equality for everyone. Solidarity is also the ability and willingness to take responsibility for each other and contribute to the common good. We achieve more when we are united than when each of us only pursues his or her own special interests. Therefore, the society must be based on principles of solidarity so that everyone will have equal opportunity.

Freedom and equal opportunity prevent conformity and stagnation. Solidarity and a fair distribution of resources give rise to diversity and a strong sense of fellowship, whereby people can have influence on their own lives. A fair distribution of resources and equal opportunity entail that everyone be given an opportunity to participate and that we make use of everyone's efforts.

A secure society is based on the equal worth of everyone and on a fair distribution of benefits and burdens. A strong society gives people power over their own lives.

The natural environment is our common property and resource. A policy of solidarity must be sustainable; i.e. today's extraction of resources must be not at the expense of future generations' opportunities to meet their needs.

Politics is people's opportunity to gain control over the development of their society. Democratic politics arise out of the desire that people, by themselves and in consultation with others, should have influence on the conditions that shape them. The right to vote, freedom of thought, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom to organise are completely necessary in order to ensure everyone the right to participate. Dialogue, discussion, reflection and criticism are necessary conditions for democracy. Through consultation with others, it is possible to create a real democracy and devise a policy that gives people control over the development of their society.

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## **CRITICAL MOMENT**

The Euro-Med Movement is being launched in a crucial moment for the entire international community after the war in Iraq,

Notes that the Mediterranean is today at the centre of the world crisis and the place where the main challenges faced by the international community are occurring: security, peace and war, the threat of a clash of civilisations, regionalisation processes, sustainable development, differences between men and women or the relationship between democracy and development.

Considers that the post-war crisis that has arisen has brought to the fore the urgent need to reform international multilateral institutions, to ensure greater democracy, efficiency and transparency and to adapt them to the new realities and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We must also recover the "Agenda of Hope", and promote the International Criminal Court, the agreement on antipersonnel mines, the sustainable development of Johannesburg, etc.

The Euro-Mediterranean process, launched in Barcelona in 1995, is the ideal model and the only way to promote political, economic and sociocultural cooperation in the region. A greater effort and will are required to make decisive progress in the specific implementation of the agreements. Promoting a formula midway between association and adhesion, as the European Commission has pointed out, could contribute towards this objective. Relations between both shores must be enriched and diversified, extending to civil society, businesses and NGOs.

The Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Barcelona Conference expresses the 27 partners' intention to

1. Establish a common Euro-Mediterranean area of peace and stability based on fundamental principles including respect for human rights and democracy (political and security partnership),
2. Create an area of shared prosperity through the progressive establishment of a free-trade area between the EU and its Partners and among the Mediterranean Partners themselves, accompanied by substantial EU financial support for economic transition in the Partners and for the social and economic consequences of this reform process (economic and financial partnership), and

3. Develop human resources, promote understanding between cultures and rapprochement of the peoples in the Euro-Mediterranean region as well as to develop free and flourishing civil societies (social, cultural and human partnership).

The relationship between democracy and development must also be reinforced.

The fight against terrorism, which is the greatest threat against freedom, human rights and democracy, must be based on a concept of global democratic security that includes fighting against illegal immigration mafias, organised crime, hunger, AIDS and pandemics. We do not accept the militarisation of the response to terrorism as an efficient and valid solution. Very much to the contrary, we must launch a debate on the need for disarmament, starting in our Mediterranean region. Certainly, the disarmament of only the Arab countries would be impossible and unsustainable.

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## **THERE MUST BE A FAIRER DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES**

The distribution of the world's resources is extremely unjust. Over one billion of the planet's six billion people live below the absolute poverty line. A lack of democracy, violation of human rights, the AIDS epidemic, environmental problems and violent conflicts stifle opportunities for development. The so-called free world trade prevents goods from developing countries from reaching western markets.

Yet the planet is no longer clearly divided into a rich north and an impoverished south. Some previously poor countries are generating increased welfare and prosperity for much of their population. They are making economic, democratic and cultural progress. At the same time we see that countries with a high level of prosperity also have large groups of poor people and individuals who have been given no place in their society.

Internationally there is a need for a major increase in development aid efforts. The efforts to reduce the poor countries debts to the rich must be stepped up. However, the actual basis for growth and a fair distribution of resources lies in the poor countries' own economies and in their use of resources. Therefore, it is important that developing countries be given access to our markets in an equivalent way, and that we create more stable conditions in the world economy through increased co-operation.

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## **A DEVELOPMENT THAT IS ECOLOGICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE**

The Euro-Med Movement upholds the basic right of every individual to live in a healthy and well-balanced environment. It is the state's obligation to look after the environment and natural resources, and to prevent damage to and destruction of ecological systems.

Striking a balance between economic development and environmental protection requires cooperation between all sectors of the economy, private and public.

Nature and the environment pay no heed to national borders.

The EMM listed the environment as a key priority, and will continue to act in this field in order to ensure a better and more beautiful future for the peoples of the entire region.

The natural environment is the foundation of human existence. New technology has made it possible to exploit available natural resources more and more efficiently.

At the same time, the natural environment is being damaged by our growth and consumption, and there is a limit to how much it can tolerate. That limit is currently being exceeded in many areas.

The effects of reduced biological diversity, increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the spread of chemicals that are hazardous to health and the environment are a threat to the very basis of life on earth. The current trend is not ecologically sustainable. The fundamental cause of this trend is related to the big disparities in the world. Poverty and rapid population growth in some countries and regions overtax the environment. In other places over-consumption and overabundance are the causes of the same trend. The way to ecologically sustainable development is therefore through a fairer global distribution of resources, but it is also necessary to make changes in production and consumption. The nations of the world must commit themselves jointly to emission reductions and environmental protection.

International, national and local measures must all work in concert with each other. This is extremely demanding in a world where we still do not have adequate democratic arenas for international co-operation. At the same time it is often difficult for individuals to perceive the environmental consequences of their own actions. This puts our capability of solidarity to the test, both in present human relations and in the relationship between different generations.

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## **BARCELONA CONVENTION: PROTECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

The Euro-Med Movement urge all contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention to take all appropriate measures to prevent, abate and combat pollution of the Mediterranean Sea area. The parties must give particular attention to four types of pollution:

- pollution caused by dumping from ships and aircraft;
- pollution from ships;
- pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil;
- pollution from land-based sources.

The Barcelona Convention lays down provisions on cooperation and information among the parties in the event of a critical situation causing pollution in the area of the Mediterranean Sea in order to reduce or eliminate any damage resulting.

Cooperation in the fields of science and technology and work out appropriate procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution deriving from violations of the provisions of the Convention are envisaged.

The Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft should be enforced.

Dumping of certain types of waste and matter (toxic organohalogen and organosilicon compounds, mercury, cadmium, plastics, crude oil, etc.) is prohibited. Dumping of other matter or types of waste (arsenic, lead, copper, zinc, chrome, nickel, containers, scrap metal, certain types of pesticides, etc.) is subject to the prior issue of a special or general permit by the competent national authorities.

Such permits must be issued only and in special cases after careful consideration of a number of factors (characteristics and composition of the matter, characteristics of dumping site and method of deposit, general considerations and conditions).

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## **A STRONGER UN IN A BETTER ORGANISED WORLD**

Involvement in the UN and the international financial and trade organisations is an important part of the efforts to promote a more just and better organised world. A functioning democracy and political government with strong popular support are key requirements for every country's development. They are also necessary conditions for responsible, binding interactions between countries. No country can guarantee its own security, peace and stability all by itself. Globalisation makes increasing demands on global mechanisms for negotiation and control.

Malta must work systematically to improve international co-operation so as to create a better organised world. This work must be done globally as well as regionally. There is no contradiction between working for international justice and looking after Maltese interests. As a small country Malta has many interests that coincide with those of other countries: international rules of conduct must be strengthened and developed, conflicts must be prevented in time, the global society must work collectively to help develop the weakest countries, and principles such as democracy, human rights and a good system of government must be accepted as fundamental values throughout the world.

The UN system was established in a period of internationalism. Now the system must be further developed into effective institutions in a globalised world. It is necessary to clarify the UN's role, tasks and sphere of action in relation to the strong regionalisation of the world society. The Euro-Med Movement wants a strong, dynamic UN with a mandate to and possibility of making binding joint resolutions on fundamental issues that the people of the world can only resolve together. The UN must continue to be a common instrument for peace, security, sustainable development and defence of human rights.

Today there is a big contrast between the under-financed UN system and the enormous wealth that is amassed in the global private sector. The UN system must seek alliances with new players in the global arena, which also includes the private sector and civil society. There are great opportunities in these new partnerships, but there are also major challenges with regard to ways of working, decision-making and government in order to ensure that these new alliances strengthen the UN's capability of acting and do not undermine the UN's legitimacy.

It is a problem for the UN that the organisation is completely dependent on the contributions from the member countries, at the same time as many member countries are delinquent in their payments. This weakens the UN's ability to work effectively, not least when a quick response is required.

A necessary condition for a strong UN is effective problem-solving and debureaucratisation.

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## **SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLD'S REFUGEES**

The global refugee problem is large and tragic, and it challenges the global society's solidarity and ability to act. All persons who are forced to flee concern us. Nearly 40 million people are in flight in the world, of whom 14 million have crossed a national border and are therefore regarded

as refugees in accordance with the UN Convention relating to The Status of Refugees. Up to about 25 million people are internally displaced in their own country.

A key aspect of this trend in recent years is that violent conflicts are waged more often within a country rather than between nations. Internally displaced refugees are not covered by the provisions of the UN Convention relating to The Status of Refugees.

By far the greatest percentage of the world's refugees remain in their own region. Most neighbouring countries to a country in conflict show solidarity by acting as a host country for large groups of refugees. In order to take part in sharing the burdens, it is important that the international society contribute humanitarian aid and support political measures that can lead to lasting resolution of conflicts.

The majority of the refugees and internally displaced persons in the world are women and children. Arrangements must be made to protect these women from attack while they are in flight, and they must be given an opportunity to educate themselves, find work or take part in other activities that will improve their status – after the conflict is over as well.

The Mediterranean States should base their refugee policy on the UN Convention relating to The Status of Refugees and other international human rights obligations. All asylum-seekers who come to these states because they need protection from persecution in their homeland should be granted asylum. All asylum-seekers should be ensured equal and fair treatment on an individual basis.

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## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Human rights include civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. These cannot be considered independently of each other. It is only when all rights are respected that the protection of the individual is complete. Thus, human rights are indivisible. They are also universal; they apply to all people.

In order to ensure that human rights are respected everywhere, it is important that every country adopt the various international human rights conventions. It is in critical and difficult situations that the responsibility for human rights is put to the test. Those who do not have a strong voice in everyday life and in the public debate, have the same rights as others. This is true whether they are children, minorities, handicapped persons or people who have committed acts that the majority despises.

Information, instruction and education are among the most important policy instruments for protecting and promoting human rights. It is estimated that around 300,000 child soldiers are taking part in armed conflicts throughout the world. Many of them are under 15 years of age. The Euro-Med Movement wants to work to incorporate an absolute ban against participation in armed conflicts by children under 18 into the optional additional protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This ban must also pertain to compulsory or voluntary recruiting of persons under age 18 into the armed forces of states and into armed resistance groups.

The international society must ensure that war crimes, genocide and other crimes against humanity are prosecuted.

The death penalty is unacceptable in relation to the most fundamental right that we have, the right to life. The Euro-Med Movement is going to work to abolish the death penalty in the countries in the world that still practice it.

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## **NO TO ALL RACISM**

The Euro-Med Movement is against all forms of racism. The most dangerous thing in Malta and other countries of the region is not hate, but indifference. Legislation should be strengthened against ethnic discrimination, and all Mediterranean States should incorporate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into their domestic law.

When a diversity of cultures, religions, customs and lifestyles meet, there will often be problems and misunderstandings, but most problems can be resolved with measures and the willingness of all parties to understand the others' situation. In any case, ignoring problems is not a very good way of solving them. They can best be faced and resolved through openness and dialogue.

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## **EDUCATION**

Investment in education is the most worthwhile investment for both the economy and society as a whole.

Equal opportunity in education is central vehicle in eradicating distress narrowing social gaps and maintaining a cohesive and orderly society. A high standard of education for all the country's inhabitants is a means towards social equality.

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## **WOMEN**

The struggle for equal rights for women is not a matter for women alone, but rather a cardinal and integral part of the struggle for equal rights in all Mediterranean Countries.

The struggle for women's rights is designed to ensure that women enjoy equal status and rights in all areas of life, and in all issues of power and decision-making.

A woman is a sovereign legal individual in all matters relating to her person, her possessions, her income, her actions and her lifestyle. She is a full and equal partner in family planning and in raising and educating her children.

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## **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

No person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of sexual orientation in any area of life or any activity. Special clauses ensuring this equality should be included in various laws guaranteeing social benefits for partners as well as inheritance law.

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## **WELFARE**

The EMM regards the principle of the protection of the welfare state as paramount in the region.

The modern welfare state should ensure basic social rights for all its citizens, including shelter, health care, education, work and social security payments for seniors and those that have lost the ability to work.

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## **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

The consumption of dangerous drugs, cigarettes and alcohol is on the increase within certain sections of the population.

Drug addicts and alcoholics are not only doomed to self-destruction, but they also constitute nuisance - and even threats - to the people around them. They are gradually expelled from the cycle of employment, and are liable to degenerate into crime.

Therefore, it is important to marshal all existing methods for the prevention and treatment of drug or alcohol addiction. Prevention is both an important social goal and an economic investment, as treatment and rehabilitation after the fact are much more difficult and expensive.

The war against drugs and alcohol is a combined war waged by the education, police and welfare systems, and cooperation should be intensified among the various authorities in accordance with the programs that have been offered over recent years.

Smoking causes hundred of fatalities a year in the Mediterranean region much more than the number of fatalities resulting from road accidents.

Smoking can become a serious addiction in all age groups, and the consequences are expressed in high health care expenses. The damage to the economy is enormous.

Due to those reasons the EMM is committed to:

- Banning smoking in public places by legislation.
- Enforcing the laws that ban smoking in the workplace.
- Enacting legislation to prevent cigarette companies from adding addictive ingredients to their products.
- Protecting young people from deceptive advertising that encourage them to smoke.
- Forming a wide front from different parties to fight the influence of the wealthy cigarette companies.

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## **END OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**

The Euro-Med Movement recognise the humanity and fundamental decency of both the Israeli and Palestinian people, and wish to see them living in peace with each other, side by side in a safe Israel and a safe Palestine. We condemn acts of terror, violence and denial of human rights. The continuation of this conflict is destructive to the people of the Middle East, and is contributing to an increase in anti-Semitism and anti-Arab prejudices.

1. *Two states for two peoples*: Both sides will declare that Palestine is the state of the Palestinian people and Israel is the state of the Jewish people. The Euro-Med Movement supports the creation of an economically and politically viable, democratically governed and

human-rights-respecting Palestinian state and peaceful relations, economic cooperation, and diplomatic recognition of Israel and the Palestinian state by surrounding Arab and Islamic states.

2. Borders: Permanent borders between the two states will be agreed upon on the basis of UN resolutions, and direct negotiations.

Border modifications will be based on an equitable and agreed-upon territorial exchange (1:1) in accordance with the vital needs of both sides, including security, territorial contiguity, and demographic considerations.

The Palestinian State will have a connection between its two geographic areas, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

3. Jerusalem: Jerusalem will be an open city, the capital of two states. A UN monitoring team with a governing board made up of distinctive former head of states supervise and guarantee Freedom of religion and full access to holy sites to all.

Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem will come under Palestinian sovereignty, Jewish neighborhoods under Israeli sovereignty.

Neither side will exercise sovereignty over the holy places. The State of Palestine will be designated Guardian of al-Haram al-Sharif for the benefit of Muslims. Israel will be Guardian of the Western Wall for the benefit of Jewish people. No excavation will take place in or underneath the holy sites without mutual consent.

The status quo on Christian holy site will be maintained with a special committee comprises all the Christian denominations will deal with the daily and extraordinary issues that concern the Christian holy sites.

4. Right of return: Recognizing the suffering and the plight of all refugees, the international community, Israel, and the Palestinian State will initiate and contribute to an international fund to compensate them.

Palestinian refugees will return only to the State of Palestine; Jews will return only to the State of Israel.

Palestinian family reunification should be continued and encouraged.

The international community will offer to compensate toward bettering the lot of those refugees willing to remain in their present country of residence, or who wish to immigrate to third party countries.

5. Security and independence: The Palestinian State will be demilitarized and the international community will guarantee its security and independence. As a sovereign state Palestine will have control on its airport and port.

6. End of conflict: Upon the full implementation of these principles, all claims on both sides and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will end.

- Two special sessions of Knesset and Palestinian Legislative Council will mark this event with the respective President and Prime Minister deliver speeches in respective parliamentary assemblies. Head of States and the general secretary of the United Nations shall be invited to witness these special events.
- The Euro-Med Movement supports the creation of institutions in both societies designed to eliminate the teaching of hatred and stereotyping in the media, religious communities, and educational systems, and to support educational and social practices aimed at building trust and cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, fostering

repentance for past violations of human rights, and promoting a new spirit of reconciliation, recognition of the humanity of the other, and generosity towards each other.

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## **CYPRUS**

Considering the present status quo in Cyprus as unacceptable, the Euro-Med Movement policy is that a settlement of the Cyprus question must be based on the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and International Law.

The Euro-Med Movement underlines the urgent need to reach a peaceful, just, democratic and lasting solution to the situation in Cyprus and supports all steps and efforts by the UN Secretary-General to this end.

Communication between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is essential because it promotes reconciliation, rapprochement, mutual understanding, respect and coexistence. Dialogue should therefore be open and expanded, aware that the multicultural character, tradition, political culture, institutions and human rights norms of the EU will serve for the peaceful coexistence and interdependence of the peoples of Cyprus.

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