



A SHARED VISION OF THE FUTURE • رؤية موحدة للمستقبل • UNE VISION COMMUNE DU FUTUR

**The European Movement International and its Mediterranean Committee  
The Algeria Committee  
The Bibliotheca Alexandrina and its Arab Reform Forum  
The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures**

## **Algiers Declaration for a Shared Vision of the Future**

**26 February 2006**

The Congress was held in Algiers from 24 to 26 February 2006 under the patronage of HE Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. It was organised by the European Movement International, the Algeria Committee, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and its Arab Reform Forum and the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures.



**European Movement  
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Opened by Mr Pat Cox, President of the International European Movement, with the key note speech by HE Mohamed Bedjaoui, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Congress hosted more than 600 people.

Carrying a message of hope and in continuation of the process initiated in Malta in November 2004, the participants have adopted the present Declaration for a shared vision of the future and agreed to carry the message across all frontiers and barriers.

Convinced of the necessity to

- foster an open and balanced dialogue, without limitations, between the North and the South,
- enhance the circulation of people and ideas,
- define a shared vision of the future and of the concrete projects which may accomplish it,
- encourage the reforms aspired to by civil society on both sides of the Mediterranean,

the participants agreed

### **1. To promote information based on an approach fostering dialogue and awareness of cultural diversity**

Information is one of the principal means for strengthening the dialogue between peoples; it is thus necessary to adopt an approach which respects ideals, differences and freedoms.

It is necessary to enhance the perception of the North in the South and the South in the North in the various fields of information.

The activities of organisations and regional networks already in existence should be supported and means of coordination between them should be set up in order to avoid redundancies.

### **2. To promote equal and trans-cultural education**

It is necessary to actively develop a knowledge-based society throughout the Mediterranean Basin. Education could be the cornerstone of all action originated by the Congress.

Education is the collective responsibility of families, the teaching professions and of the authorities.

### **3. To promote professional training and academic exchange**

Weaknesses in recognising and defining training needs undermine the effectiveness of cooperative projects between countries on the two side of the Mediterranean.

There is a lack both in quality and in quantity of North/South exchanges and the cooperative activities between these countries lack the awareness of cultural, historic and anthropological elements.

The exchange of experiences both between the North and the South and among the countries of the South should be intensified and tutorials should be launched for raising awareness on historic and cultural elements concerning the countries on both sides of the Mediterranean

### **4. To promote the fact that employment must constitute an essential objective of cooperation**

Both at the national and on the Euro-Mediterranean level, decisions regarding employment have failed to achieve the desired results because of competing agendas between participants, countries and institutions, because training measures did not meet the needs of the employment market and because of the cumbersome financial procedures in the field of employment creation.

The development of the employment pool with the help of civil society is a matter of dignity of life especially for young people and women, as well as an element of stability in the Euro-Mediterranean area.



**5. To promote investment and access to finance both North-South and South-South**

It is essential to continue economic integration within the area and to promote the exchange of best practices and know-how between actors from North and South.

The capacity of banking and finance to reinforce the economy should be increased, interaction between systems in the North and in the South should be promoted and the development of SMEs should be enhanced.

**6. To promote a new understanding of the migration issue in North-South and South-South relations**

Current migration strategies are dominated by short-term political action lacking in vision. The social and human rights of the migrants and their families are not respected.

It is necessary to emphasise the positive contribution made by migrants to the development of both their countries of origin and of immigration. All action concerning migration flows should be supported, which is based on a global and long-term approach and takes gender into account. Contractual agreements concerning the mobility of people who contribute to dialogue and cooperation must be respected in an effective manner.

**7. To promote the active participation of Civil Society in the Political and Decision-Making Processes**

It is essential to create a Euro-Mediterranean entity founded on universal values which are the basis for promoting political reform and common action plans.

With this in mind, a Follow-up Committee has been instituted. It consists of the members of the Algiers Congress Executive Board; its remit being to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the proposals made by the Algiers Congress. This Committee agreed to establish an independent Euro-Mediterranean Observatory, based in Algiers. The Algerian Organising Committee is in charge of presenting this project to the Follow-up Committee within six months time.

**8. To promote ownership as “essential principle” of any cooperation**

This essential principle of cooperation meets practical implementation difficulties. A new approach should be rethought: an approach, accepted by public authorities, founded on a high participation of the civil society from the North and the South in the conception, implementation and follow-up of the cooperation.

This requires a strengthening of the organisation of civil societies from the South, in particular by providing them with financial means for their structural reinforcement and support for their initiatives.

**9. To promote within the Euro-Mediterranean area a dialogue between all citizens as representatives of specific values and cultures**

It is essential that the diversity of perception be understood and made known, in order to overcome stereotypes and preconceptions.

It is crucial to positively emphasise all common cultural heritage, even if marginalised or nearly forgotten.

Algiers, 26 February 2006



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