Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Doc. 11415
4 October 2007

Stepping up co-operation with Libya and Mauritania

Motion for a recommendation
presented by Ms DURRIEU and others

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only the members who have signed it

At the Warsaw Summit in May 2005, Council of Europe Heads of State and Government declared their commitment to a new dialogue between Europe and its neighbouring regions – in particular, the southern Mediterranean – based on universal human rights as a means of promoting awareness, understanding, reconciliation and tolerance, as well as preventing conflicts and ensuring integration and the cohesion of society.

The countries in the Maghreb region are among Europe's nearest neighbours, both in geographical terms and because of a wide range of historic, cultural, economic and social ties. Libya and Mauritania, which form part of the Greater Maghreb, therefore have a significant role to play in such dialogue with the southern Mediterranean.

To varying degrees, these countries' political development has drawn on European experience and institutional models, and various reforms are under way. In the Maghreb societies in transition, there is increasing interest in the democratic values championed by the Council of Europe.

Following initial parliamentary contacts with Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, the Assembly needs to engage in more in-depth dialogue with the whole of the Maghreb region, including with Libya and Mauritania.

At the same time, the Assembly has played a leading part in the process of democratic transition in eastern Europe and is continuing its efforts to consolidate democracy throughout Europe.

The Assembly must harness this dual experience to help the countries of the Maghreb move forward with reforms leading to the democratisation of political systems, the strengthening of institutions, the consolidation of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The Assembly resolves to consider ways of stepping up dialogue and co-operation with the parliaments in the countries of the Maghreb with a view to contributing to democratic change there.

Signed (see overleaf)

F – 67075 Strasbourg Cedex, e-mail: assembly@coe.int
tel : + 33 3 88 41 2000, fax + 33 3 88 41 2776

Signed [1:]

DURRIEU Josette, France, SOC
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia, EPP/CD
AZZOLINI Claudio, Italy, EPP/CD
BADRÉ Denis, France, ALDE
ČURDOVÁ Anna, Czech Republic, SOC
KYPRIANOU Andros, Cyprus, UEL
LAVTIŽAR-BEBLER Darja, Slovenia, ALDE
LINDBLAD Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD
POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
TEKELİOĞLU Mehmet, Turkey, EPP/CD

1 SOC: Socialist Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democratic Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: not registered in a group