



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان

TUNISIA AFTER JANUARY 14 AND ITS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

THE ISSUES AT STAKE IN A RECONFIGURATION OF EUROPEAN POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS

MADE BY THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK



These recommendations are addressed to all elements of civil and political society: government, political parties, organizations and associations, and media

Tunisia now needs to initiate a real debate on the key issues that directly affect the economic and social rights of its people. Although the problems tackled by the report may be of an urgent nature, it is necessary that this fundamental debate be conducted in a calm and constructive manner.

On the basis of the report 'Tunisia after January 14 and its political and social economy; the issues at stake in a reconfiguration of European policy', the EMHRN recommends:



INTERNALLY AND IN THE SHORT TERM:

- Initiate and promote a real debate at national level on the future economic and social model of Tunisia, including its relations with external partners, especially the European Union;
 - Focus on the many inequalities, whether they be social inter-categories, or inter-regional or inter-generational categories, in order to promote equitable, balanced and sustainable development
- Encourage forums for discussion and analysis to modify the economic model, taking into account the social and economic demands that led to the revolution, and giving full scope to the representation of the most disadvantaged sectors and to the actors of the movement
- Initiate a debate on women's participation in the workforce
- Open up the issue of corruption, in all its aspects and dimensions, to public debate
 - Launch a debate on good governance and transparency in the public domain and in the economic management of the country. In this context, cells to promote vigilance and further the fight against corruption should be created, covering in particular the various levels of administrative and governmental action.
- Launch an annual exercise whereby civil society will monitor progress in the economic and social domain in Tunisia
- Open up a debate on the role of the media in general, and more particularly in regard to economic and social reforms, as well as the issue of taking over the education system
- Given the importance of having a credible statistical system, create a reliable statistical apparatus as a tool for analyzing economic and social policy, both nationally and regionally, reflecting accurately the situation of the country, in the most detailed and relevant manner possible, with cross-sections that take into account disparities of gender and age groups. In this context, indicators constructed on the basis of a consideration of the realities of each region will need to be established, so as to develop a policy of development suited to them
- Open a debate on the education system and the need for reform of this important sector



IN THE CONTEXT OF RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION AND IN THE MEDIUM TERM

- Review the relationship with the EU to initiate a renegotiation of former agreements, primarily in the following four areas:
 1. Migration policy: mobility of people and not just of goods and capital must be ensured. This mobility should not be selective. It should cover the various categories of the population
 2. Public finances (currently in crisis): renegotiate new ways to support Tunisian public finances
 3. Relations between the EU and Tunisia in industrial policy
 4. Agricultural policy: the need to set out a strategy for developing agricultural production
- Assess the impact of the introduction of a Europe-Mediterranean free-trade area on economic and social rights in Tunisia

REGARDING THE CHOICE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MEDIUM-TERM POINTS

- Develop a strategic framework for economic and social reform that guarantees the right to health, the right to social security, the right to education and the right to an adequate standard of living. This will mean reformulating policies on public services in this context, so as to ensure that citizens from all regions have equal access to health, education, housing, work, etc.
- Develop a national strategy for greater participation of women in the labour force, unceasing vigilance against all forms of discrimination in the workplace, and the establishment of a budget that takes gender into account
- Reform the education system, improving the relation between training and employment so as better to promote employment with a rise in scale of specialization, economic diversification and employability
- More specifically, rethink the definition of economic and social policies with special emphasis on the fundamentals such as
 - The rebalancing of investments and economic incentives at the regional level



- The rebalancing of investments and economic incentives at the sectoral level, between on-shore and offshore sectors, encouraging the development of the agricultural sector and seeking to improve the added value of the offshore sector and the renewed promotion of skilled employment in this sector
- A rethinking of employment policy, with particular emphasis on the integration of graduates and the creation of skilled jobs, and starting not from the increased flexibility of labour, but from a modification of the model and investment
- A rebalancing of fiscal policy to suit these economic decisions (investment incentives in the most needy regions and sectors, and in favour of sectors that employ skilled labour) and obtaining a distribution of wealth between capital and labour, giving relief to the underprivileged classes on whom taxation (direct and indirect) weighs relatively most heavily
- Also, a redefining of the system of tax incentives, so as to make it less favourable to unskilled jobs and (unlike what now happens) of greater benefit to companies employing skilled labour
- A redeploying of public services (concluding in a moratorium on privatization and budget cuts) so as to:
 - Guarantee equal access of all citizens in all regions to public services
 - Ensure better targeting of the benefit of free public services (especially health services)
- Setting out a clear environmental policy that takes into account intergenerational equality and sustainable development, and allows the identification of appropriate solutions to the problems of pollution and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources (desertification, salinization of water, etc.)

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