



XXII Euro-Med Seminar
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MALTA



REPORT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

The topic that has been put under thorough discussions during the workshop was the relation between security and development, since it was underlined that recently a great part of the provided funding for projects goes to security projects.

In this context various issues were raised – among them: energy supply, maritime transport, border control, migration, education, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, water supplies.

The group agreed that migration, energy and unemployment are the three most important issues.

The group focused on examining migration. Both legal and illegal migration were discussed.

LEGAL MIGRATION

There was a consensus that legal migration is a positive phenomenon and generally leads to development. However, several concerns were raised regarding legal migration – the brain-drain effect in the sending countries, the difficulties migrants coming from the South experience trying to get fully integrated in the European countries, since they are facing entirely new cultural situations.

ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Illegal migration was considered as the main threat to security. In this context, it was pointed out that security is an irrational concept, meaning that it is not directly linked to concrete realities but is a feeling that affects security measures. It was also underlined that insufficient development is the main reason for illegal migration. It is mainly due to economic reasons and political conditions in some sending countries. There was understanding that the lack of proper education and unemployment are crucial in order to handle the problem of illegal migration.

Egypt was taken as an example to illustrate the different types of migration that are taking place in general. In this context, it was underlined that some countries are at one and the same time sending, receiving and transit countries, not to forget that there is a process of internal migration going on.

The group came up with the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Root causes of migration should be tackled.
2. There is a need for profound dialogue between EUROMED parties. There should be understanding of the specific needs of the partners and based on them concrete initiatives should be undertaken.

3. It was stressed that integration of migrants is not only their own responsibility but should be also responsibility of the receiving countries.
4. In short term perspective, it was recommended that receiving countries should concentrate on the legalization of migrant workers in order to improve conditions for migrants in the receiving countries.
5. In the long term perspective, efforts should be made to improve situation in the sending countries, which could be done through establishment of appropriate mechanisms. The importance of proposing concrete projects and providing appropriate funding was stressed.
6. The importance of development through reforms was underlined.
7. It was agreed that a Communication Strategy on Migration should be developed, taking into account the necessities of both the sending and the receiving countries within the EUROMED Partnership.
8. In order to promote dialogue between partners education and cultural cooperation should be fostered.

The main conclusion that was drawn as a result of the discussion was that the migration issue should not be taken only as a security issue but there is a need to adopt a holistic approach, which would lead to development.

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