

**REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES**

**Report on the Reunion of the Committee on women rights
of the Euro Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA)
Amman : Friday 12 March 2010**

In the framework of the 6th ordinary session of the Euro Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) held in Amman (Jordan) from 12 to 14 March 2010, the Committee on women rights in the Euro Mediterranean countries held on 12 March 2010 in “Grant Hayat” hotel in Amman its 2nd Reunion headed by Mme Afifa SALAH, President of the Commission on general Legislation and General Organization of the Administration in the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies.

Have participated in the Reunion Delegations from southern shore parliaments just as from National Parliaments of the European Union : Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Israel, Luxemburg, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Romania, United Kingdom, Belgium, Slovenia and members of the European Parliament.

The Reunion tackled the following points :

- 1) Adoption of the draft Agenda and Minutes of the Committee Reunion held in Rabat on 27 February 2010.
- 2) Statement of the President of the Committee.
- 3) Debate on the draft recommendation and approval of amendments.

I- Adoption of the draft agenda and Minutes of the previous committee Reunion :

The draft agenda and Minutes of the Committee Reunion held in Rabat on 27 February 2010 were adopted.

II- Statement of the President of the Committee :

Mme Afifa SALAH, President of the Committee has expressed at the beginning of the Reunion her great thanks to the Moroccan parliament which welcomed the previous Reunion of the committee in Rabat just as to Mr Mustapha MANSOURI, President of the Moroccan Parliament who hosted the Committee, opened its Reunion and praised efforts the Committee makes in order to promote women rights in different fields.

Then, Mme Afifa SALAH has presented a broad outline on the most important points discussed during the last Reunion of the Committee. After, she spoke about the draft recommendation which the committee succeeded to draw up during the study of the two following subjects:

- Fight against all forms of violence toward women : causes, process and mechanisms.
- Social gender approach and its role in developing legislations and practices.

The President of the Committee has informed participants that the draft recommendation comprises all the Reporters' proposals:

- Mme Emna SOULA, Member of the Tunisian Chamber of Advisors and Mme Antonyia PARVANOV, Member of the European Parliament (as far as the first subject is concerned).
- Mme Fatima CHALLOUCH, Member of the National People's Assembly of Algeria and Mme Fredrika BREPOELS, Member of the European Parliament (as far as the 2nd subject is concerned).

The draft recommendation has also comprised all the legal references just as all elements and details which were discussed so as to be a comprehensive document in its all aspects (especially since subjects are very important) as in previous sessions and in accordance with rules of procedure.

Moreover, the president of the committee underlined that Tunisia insisted on drawing up the draft recommendation, translating it to three languages Arabic, French and English and sending it to the European Parliament and to the National Parliaments within the allotted time and informed that our country has received several amendments in this respect.

In her intervention about the draft recommendation, Mme Antonyia PARVANOV, Member of the European Parliament, highlighted efforts made by the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies in order to draw up and to translate the draft recommendation as soon as possible.

III- Debate on the draft recommendation :

Then, the Committee debated the draft recommendation and amendments submitted mainly by the European Parliament, Sweden, Egypt and Jordan. It is worth mentioning that the Committee discussed for a long time centring the debate on the amendment proposed by Mr Sergio SILVESTRIS, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-President of the committee and relative to the double violence from which Palestinian women suffer and which origin is both society and occupation.

The debate has also dealt with the action plan emanating from the previous Reunion of the Committee and which contained recommendations as follows:

- Providing a coordinated political will to states and governments so as to eradicate violence against women and promoting social gender approach.
- Reinforcing the role of Parliaments in terms of elaborating and developing legislations relative to violence against women and promoting social gender approach.
- Establishing observation mechanisms in order to draw up studies and plans and carry out assessment and follow-up of women situation.
- Promoting sensitization and education.
- Creating networks in order to establish partnerships and consolidating efficient experiences' exchange.

Then, and after discussing all amendments submitted to the Committee and which concerned paragraphs 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 41, the committee managed at the end of the Reunion to approve all the paragraphs of the recommendation noting reservations expressed by some European delegations about the question relative to Palestinian women in paragraph 28 of the final recommendation.