

Remarques de la Haute Représentante/Vice-Présidente de la Commission européenne Federica Mogherini lors du débat 'Présent et

Bruxelles, le 2 mai 2017

Seul la version écrite fait foi!

Messieurs les Présidents, Mesdames et Messieurs les Députés, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, Chers amis,

C'est vraiment pour moi un plaisir de me retrouver avec vous, je salue chaleureusement l'initiative du Parlement européen d'organiser cette Semaine Tunisienne – la toute première pour un pays méditerranéen – et je suis très heureuse de comprendre que votre première visite à l'étranger est ici à Bruxelles, auprès des institutions européennes, en particulier auprès du Parlement européen où tous les groupes politiques ont toujours soutenu fortement l'approfondissement de notre partenariat, comme également au sein du Conseil européen où tous les Etats Membres peuvent se définir des amis de la Tunisie. Alors, s'il y a un sujet qui n'est pas matière à divisions dans l'Union européenne c'est bien le soutien et l'amitié et le partenariat entre l'Union européenne et la Tunisie.

Depuis 2011, la Tunisie représente l'espoir de notre région commune. Elle a été le phare du changement, et en même temps le baromètre des tensions et des aspirations des peuples de la Méditerranée avec toutes les contradictions de ces dernières années.

Aujourd'hui, la Tunisie a besoin de consolider les acquis de ces dernières années. Ces acquis nous démontrent que le changement est possible, au-delà de toutes difficultés. Ils nous démontrent que la négociation et la coopération sont plus efficaces que l'affrontement. Ils nous démontrent que l'Islam peut s'épanouir en démocratie et la démocratie en terre d'Islam. Ils nous démontrent que la société civile est un partenaire essentiel pour la paix et la réconciliation nationale.

Mais ces acquis, bien qu'importants, ne sont pas un point d'arrivée : comme vous l'avez dit, ils ne sont qu'un début. La démocratie est toujours un chemin, un processus d'apprentissage continu – cela est vrai par contre ici aussi, en Europe. Le changement qui a commencé en Tunisie doit continuer – et nous, les Européens, nous sommes prêts à vous accompagner, étape par étape, sur ce chemin, avec toutes les institutions européennes, fortement convaincues de cette nécessité, parce que c'est aussi notre intérêt à nous, les Européens.

Le Président Essebsi l'a très bien dit devant ce Parlement, avec un discours qui a combiné le respect pour la tradition et un désir de modernité, l'Islam et la démocratie, la consolidation et le changement.

Parmi les forces de la Tunisie, il y a tout d'abord le désir de changement du peuple tunisien, comme démontré par la révolution de 2011. Il y a aussi la Constitution de 2014, Monsieur le Président [Antonio Tajani] vous l'avez rappelé, dont la mise en œuvre effective reste, je le sais très bien, l'un de vos engagements majeurs et là aussi, comptez sur nous pour vous accompagner dans ces défis.

L'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple a un rôle central dans cette consolidation démocratique. Vous avez devant vous une tâche importante de bonne coordination – tant interne qu'avec les instances gouvernementales –, de transparence, et de suivi en faveur des citoyens. Ceci sera crucial pour garder pleinement leur confiance et traduire leurs aspirations.

Les élections municipales prévues à la fin de cette année seront sans doute une autre étape importante dans le processus de transition démocratique.

Dès le lendemain de la Révolution de 2011, l'Union européenne s'est engagée à soutenir pleinement la transition entamée par le peuple tunisien, que vous représentez ici aujourd'hui. Une transition pour plus de démocratie, plus de justice sociale, plus de liberté. Mais une transition aussi, le Président Tajani l'a bien rappelé, pour plus de croissance et d'opportunités, afin de réduire les inégalités sociales, générationnelles et régionales.

Nous avons depuis lors décidé, ensemble, de la mise en place d'un partenariat privilégié. Un partenariat continuellement nourri par nos échanges à tous niveaux.

Je souhaite ainsi aujourd'hui réaffirmer notre volonté de continuer à appuyer vos efforts sur les réformes – notamment de l'administration publique, la justice, la décentralisation et la lutte contre la corruption, pour ne citer que les plus importants.

L'Union européenne a adopté à la fin de 2016 une Communication détaillant une série de mesures ambitieuses en appui à la Tunisie, tant sur le plan financier que pratique, et démontrant ainsi la profondeur de notre relation avec la Tunisie.

Au travers de ces actions, l'Union européenne répond "présente" pour la Tunisie, toujours. Ainsi, nous nous réjouissons de vos succès, et nous voulons vous soutenir pleinement face aux défis actuels – on le sait très bien, il y en a plusieurs, économiques, sécuritaires, sociaux et régionaux, à partir de la crise en Libye qui nous concerne directement comme Tunisiens, comme Européens, exactement de la même manière.

A cet égard, le rôle des instances tunisiennes, du Gouvernement, de l'Assemblée, des institutions visant au renforcement de l'Etat de droit est déterminant pour aller de l'avant. Il est important que l'Assemblée continue à travailler avec le gouvernement pour soutenir et [faire] avancer les réformes et permettez-moi d'ajouter que le Premier Ministre Youssef Chahed et moi faisons partie de la même génération. Sa nomination – je crois – a envoyé un signal important de renouvellement de la classe dirigeante tunisienne. Pour la première fois en soixante ans – je pense ne pas me tromper –, le chef de gouvernement tunisien a moins de 50 ans.

Cela reflète la réalité du pays. En effet, rappelons que la moitié de la population tunisienne a moins de trente ans. Chaque fois que je

visite votre pays – et je le fais souvent, je suis contente – je rencontre un grand nombre de jeunes hommes et jeunes femmes – je voudrais souligner le rôle des jeunes femmes et des femmes dans la société tunisienne, y compris dans la Révolution de 2011-, qui ont beaucoup de talent, d'énergie et un désir profond de contribuer à la vie de leur pays. C'est une ressource fondamentale sur laquelle il faut s'appuyer.

Je souhaite donc terminer en parlant des jeunes tunisiens. Suite à ma rencontre avec le Président [Béji Caïd Essebsi], lors de ma visite à Tunis le 1 novembre 2016, nous avons lancé le Partenariat Union européenne-Tunisie pour la jeunesse. Et nous sommes prêts à soutenir pleinement la Tunisie dans la préparation et la mise en œuvre d'une stratégie nationale pour la jeunesse.

Notre but est de permettre à cette grande richesse -la jeunesse- de fleurir. Il est urgent de trouver la façon de leur donner une perspective plus forte pour leur développement personnel et professionnel, par la création d'emplois, mais aussi par la formation professionnelle, ou l'éducation, et la participation politique. L'Assemblée a aussi un rôle important à jouer à cet égard.

Nous travaillons maintenant sur un appui renforcé dans les domaines tels que l'emploi, l'éducation, la recherche et la mobilité des étudiants et des jeunes. Nous espérons établir un dialogue structuré et inclusif sur la jeunesse tunisienne, mais surtout avec la jeunesse tunisienne, et surtout travailler pour ouvrir des canaux de participation active de la jeunesse à la vie sociale et politique du pays.

Nos jeunes doivent toujours être au centre de notre attention et surtout de nos actions. Ce n'est pas une faveur que nous leur accordons, ce n'est pas que pour investir dans le futur, parce que quand la moitié de la population a moins de 30 ans, il n'y a pas de développement, il n'y a pas de démocratie, il n'y a pas de présent si les jeunes ne sont pas directement engagés et parties prenantes du processus de décision du pays. Ils demandent à obtenir l'éducation à laquelle ils aspirent ou le travail qu'ils méritent. Et nous avons le devoir et l'intérêt, ensemble, de répondre à leurs attentes et de créer les bons canaux pour leur engagement. Nous devons réussir à transformer leur désenchantement en citoyenneté; croire qu'ils peuvent vraiment contribuer à changer leur pays, avec des résultats concrets.

C'est un défi formidable, mais c'est un défi que nous pouvons gagner grâce à notre collaboration, entre la Tunisie et l'Union européenne. Donc comptez sur nous, toujours, à travers les différentes institutions – je peux le dire ici vous le voyez, le Parlement, la Commission, le Conseil, les Etats Membres tous ensemble, l'Union européenne est là, toujours, pour la Tunisie, pas seulement parce que nous sommes des pays voisins, nous sommes dans la même région, nous partageons la même mer mais surtout parce que nous savons très bien que si la Tunisie va bien, l'Europe va mieux et alors c'est dans notre propre intérêt que nous allons continuer à travailler pour approfondir notre collaboration et être sûrs que cela va amener des bons résultats.

Alors merci encore pour votre présence ici aujourd'hui, pour cette rencontre aujourd'hui mais aussi et surtout je vous souhaite une bonne continuation de votre travail pendant cette semaine et dans le futur parce que comme le Président Tajani l'a dit, ce n'est que le début et nous comptons très fortement sur la collaboration et le partenariat entre parlements en Tunisie et au sein de l'Union européenne pour soutenir et accompagner au niveau parlementaire le travail que nous faisons aux autres niveaux des institutions européennes et tunisiennes.

Merci beaucoup.

Lien vers la vidéo: <https://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I137653>

Media Advisory on the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee

Press release

The annual spring meeting of the donor coordination group in support of the Palestinian economy, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC), will be held in Brussels on Thursday, 4 May 2017.

The meeting is hosted by the EU High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini, and presided by the Norwegian Foreign Minister Børge Brende in his capacity as the Chair of the AHLC. Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, will also participate.

The AHLC has served since 1993 as a key policy-level coordination mechanism for financial assistance to the Palestinian people. The main purpose of the AHLC is to support preserving the vision of the two-state solution.

Media Advisory:

The AHLC meeting will take place from 16:00 to 18:00 in the Berlaymont building of the European Commission.

- 15:50–16:00: Statements to the press by HR/VP Mogherini & Norwegian FM Brende at VIP corner, Berlaymont.
- 16:00: Start of the meeting; photo opportunity – tour de table (*for photographers and cameramen only*).

- 18:00: After the session, FM Brende will be available for a press point to media in front of the meeting room.
- Images will be available on EbS.
- For queries regarding media opportunities and facilities, please contact Mr. Vasco Batista and Ms. Claire Struss, (emails: vasco.batista@ec.europa.eu; [Claire Struss@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Claire.Struss@ec.europa.eu)).

Journalists not accredited to the EU institutions who wish to cover the press events need to register with vasco.batista@ec.europa.eu; [Claire Struss@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Claire.Struss@ec.europa.eu) by 3 May April 2017 18:00 CET.

Remarks of High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini at the joint press point following the meeting with the State

Check against delivery!

It was really an honour, a pleasure for me to welcome the State Counsellor here to Brussels, to the EU institutions, for her first official visit after the formation of the government one year ago. I take it as a particular honour also the fact that, in her first visit to Europe, she is visiting the European institutions.

It is really a sign of recognition of our strong friendship, partnership that has deep roots and also very concrete elements in the work we do together. I started by thanking her for a very [warm message she delivered](#) on the relevance of the European Union on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. This might not be the central point of the relations between the EU and Myanmar, but seeing how our friends and partners in the world value the partnership with the European Union is something that us Europeans should keep in mind a bit more often and hearing her words on that occasion was particularly important – for me personally and I believe for all of us.

We discussed during a very warm, useful, frank, open, interesting and lively discussion today first of all the ways in which the European Union can continue to support, in the best possible way, the democratic transition of the country, the peace and reconciliation process. The European Union is one of the few international signatories of the Peace Agreement [Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement] as a witness and so we exchanged views on how we

can – even better and more – support this process, which is fully in the hands of the people of your country, but that needs to be accompanied by all those who believe in democracy, peace and reconciliation. Any reconciliation and peace process needs time, energy, determination, political leadership that Aung San Suu Kyi has shown in a remarkable manner over decades and in these last months, in very difficult conditions. This is what the European Union continues to support and will continue to support with all our means and all our strength – both politically and financially.

We have also discussed our humanitarian support. Commissioner Stylianides has joined us during our meeting; he will visit Myanmar next week and we took also the opportunity also to prepare his visit. We also discussed the political process; perspectives for the change in the Constitution. We also discussed the situation in Rakhine State that is for us an area of concern but also an area where we are providing key humanitarian support for all communities. This will also be part of the work that Commissioner Stylianides will do next week.

We also exchanged views on the broader regional situation – the work that the European Union is doing with ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations], strengthening our partnership in many different fields and the fact that we will be in Myanmar in November with all the EU Foreign Ministers for the EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting that her excellency will host and chair. That will be another occasion for us to meet and continue our cooperation that, as I said, is for the European Union a key partnership, and if I can, also a key way to show and live in concrete ways our friendship with the people of the country – all of them – in this new era that the country has started to live.

Any new era is a challenge, is difficult, is interesting, but mainly is difficult. Friends are there to accompany difficult processes; that's what the European Union is determined to do. Sometimes we have some bumpy moments ahead of us but the determination, the sense of direction is the same: that of strengthening and supporting the democratic transition and the reconciliation process in the country, knowing all the challenges that are ahead but in a sense of respect, friendship and mutual understanding and support.

I thank you very much for the honour you gave us of being here today.

Q. I just wanted to ask both of you, actually, what exactly the High Representative has encouraged you to do with regards to the Rakhine and whether you believe that any of her suggestions might be things that you'll be putting into practice? If there's anything specific you can tell us about your discussions on that issue?

I can confirm completely what Aung San Suu Kyi just said. For us what is essential is that the living conditions of all communities are improved as a matter of urgency. Let me start by saying that we always condemn any forms of

violence, including the ones that took place [on 9th October](#) [2016]. And we did it, I think, as the first international actor, condemning and publicly denouncing attacks on the security forces. We believe that all communities need to see an improvement in their lives and we discussed mainly how we can better support the authorities in the country to implement the recommendations of the Annan report. This is, for us, the roadmap. We have appreciated the determination and the endorsement that the State Counsellor made clearly about the recommendations and indications of the Annan report and we believe that is the way forward. So the fact of the matter is that we are ready to support and we discussed practical ways in which, including through humanitarian aid, the European Union can help and support the full implementation of the measures indicated in the report.

Q: This is a question for both of you. What is your position on the calls for an international investigation into the situation of the Rohingya?

The decision by the [United Nations] Human Rights Council to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission is probably one of the very few issues of disagreement between us, if I can say so. Actually, I have not detected any other. We believe that this can contribute towards establishing the facts for the past provided that, as we said before, we fully agree on the need to work together on the way forward. The fact finding mission, to our understanding, is focussed on establishing the truth on the past and we agree on the need to focus on the future and the implementation of the recommendations that are included in the Annan report as I said.

Thank you.

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Thank you.

Visa Reciprocity: Commission responds to Parliament

The Commission considers that, in view of the significant progress achieved during the last year and the positive momentum of ongoing work, the temporary suspension of visa waivers for nationals of Canada and the United States would be counterproductive at this moment and would not serve the objective of achieving visa-free travel for all EU citizens. The Commission's diplomatic approach meanwhile has already started to bring tangible results: Canada lifted the visa requirements for some categories of Bulgarian and Romanian citizens on 1 May 2017 and is set to achieve full reciprocity as of 1 December 2017 and contacts have been re-launched with the new U.S. administration to push for full visa reciprocity for the five EU Member States concerned.

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs, and Citizenship **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"Our goal is and remains to obtain full visa reciprocity with both Canada and the U.S. Our continued engagement and patient diplomatic contacts over the past year have brought tangible results already with Canada, and we are committed to proceeding in the same way with the U.S. Dialogue with our strategic partners is the right way forward and we are on the right track."*

Today's report defines the Commission's position following the European Parliament's non-legislative Resolution of 2 March which called on the Commission to adopt a delegated act to suspend the visa waiver for Canadian and U.S. nationals.

The Commission reported on visa reciprocity in [April](#), [July](#) and [December](#), welcoming the clear timeline provided by Canada for achieving full visa reciprocity for all EU citizens and committing to re-launching efforts with the new U.S. administration with the aim of agreeing on a way forward for the five EU Member States concerned in the first half of 2017.

Canada

On 30 October 2016, Canada provided a clear timeline for achieving visa reciprocity for all EU citizens and has so far delivered on this commitment by lifting visa requirements on some categories of Bulgarian and Romanian citizens as of 1 May 2017. The Commission welcomes Canada's continued engagement and will remain in close contact with Bulgaria, Romania and Canada, both at technical and political level, to ensure that full visa reciprocity is achieved by 1 December 2017.

The United States

During the last months, contacts with U.S. interlocutors at the political and

technical level were intensified, leading to the launch of a result-oriented process to bring the five EU Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania) into the Visa Waiver Program. The U.S. reconfirmed its commitment to admit the five EU Member States into the Program once they meet all the requirements set out by U.S. legislation. To this end, the need to accelerate the necessary work on the outstanding requirements was stressed. The Commission, in close cooperation with the five Member States concerned, will work with the U.S. on a way forward to be endorsed in a Joint Statement by the EU-U.S. Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting in June 2017.

Next Steps

The Commission will continue to work closely with both the European Parliament and the Council and will report on further developments before the end of December 2017.

Background

On 2 March, the European Parliament adopted a non-binding resolution calling the European Commission to suspend visa exemption for nationals of third countries that do not grant a reciprocal visa waiver to citizens of all EU Member States. Under the Article 265 TFEU, the Commission was obliged to define its position on the matter within two months.

A fundamental principle of EU visa policy is to ensure that third countries on the visa-free list grant a reciprocal visa waiver to citizens of all EU Member States. To support this effort a visa reciprocity mechanism has been set up.

In the framework of the reciprocity mechanism, which among other stipulations requires that the Commission takes into account the consequences of the suspension of the visa waiver for the external relations of the EU and its Member States, the Commission has already adopted three reports assessing the situation: on [10 October 2014](#), on [22 April 2015](#) and on [5 November 2015](#), as well as three Communications in [April](#), [July](#) and [December](#) 2016. In the Communication of 12 April 2016, the Commission assessed the consequences and impacts of a suspension of the visa waiver for citizens of Canada and the United States and concluded that, in addition to the adverse impact on EU citizens and the difficulties in implementation, it would also have significant negative impacts in a wide range of policy areas, notably on external relations, trade, tourism and the EU's economy.

The United Kingdom and Ireland do not take part in the development of the common visa policy and would not be bound by a visa waiver suspension.

For More Information

[Frequently asked questions: EU visa reciprocity mechanism](#)

[Communication adopted on 3 May 2017](#)

[Communication](#) adopted on 21 December 2016

[Communication](#) adopted on 13 July 2016

[Communication](#) adopted on 12 April 2016

5 November 2015 – [Report](#) from the Commission assessing the situation of non-reciprocity with certain third countries in the area of visa policy

22 April 2015 – [Report](#) from the Commission assessing the situation of non-reciprocity with certain third countries in the area of visa policy

10 October 2014 – [Report](#) from the Commission assessing the situation of non-reciprocity with certain third countries in the area of visa policy

Council Regulation listing those countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement ([Council Regulation \(EC\) No 539/2001](#))

Regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement ([Regulation \(EU\) 1289/2013](#))