



Brussels, 17.11.2017
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 17.11.2017

**on a Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on
Strengthening the role of women in Society, Cairo 27 November 2017**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,,

- (1) Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union lists the powers of the Commission and provides in particular that the Commission is to ensure the Union's external representation, with the exception of the common foreign and security policy and other cases provided for in the Treaties.
- (2) ,on 8 February 2013, the European Council adopted conclusions calling for enhanced cooperation in a wide range of fields, including the development of civil society, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and administrations' capacity building;
- (3) recalling the Joint Declaration of the Summit for the Mediterranean held in Paris on 13 July 2008, the Marseille Declaration of November 2008 and relevant Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Conferences and notably:
 - the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Research and Innovation in Barcelona on 2-3 April 2012;
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society in Paris on 11 and 12 September 2013;
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport in Brussels on 14 November 2013;
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy in Brussels on 11 December 2013;
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Industrial Cooperation in Brussels on 19 February 2014;
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change in Athens on 13 May 2014;
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Digital Economy in Brussels on 30 September 2014;
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy in Brussels on 17 November 2015;
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation and Planning, at the Dead Sea, Jordan on 2nd of June 2016.
 - the UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour, at the Dead Sea, Jordan, on 26 September 2016,
- (4) the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" will take place in Cairo on 27 November 2017 under the co-chairmanship of the European Union and of the Kingdom of Jordan;

- (5) the Commissioner in charge of Digital Economy and Society is to co-chair the Ministerial meeting on behalf of the European Union;
- (6) it is envisaged that a Ministerial Declaration will be approved by the participants. The Council has been kept informed of the discussions and of the envisaged date for approval of the Declaration.
- (7) The Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the role of women in Society does not, nor is it intended to, create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law.
- (8) Given the interest of the Union in women's rights it is appropriate to approve the Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the role of women in Society.
- (9) It is necessary to submit the Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the role of women in Society to the Council for endorsement, prior to its signing by the Commission on behalf of the Union.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the role of women in Society, as attached to this Decision, is approved.

The text of the Ministerial Declaration is submitted to the Council for endorsement.

Minor changes to the draft Ministerial Declaration may be agreed without requiring this Decision to be amended.

Article 2

The Commissioner responsible for Digital Economy and Society is authorised to approve the Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the role of women in Society on behalf of the Union, after its endorsement by the Council.

Done at Brussels, 17.11.2017

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission