



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE**

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

## **PAM Action to Counter Terrorism**

### **Overview:**

The threat posed by terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean region is a priority issue and is covered by the political-security dimension of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). Since its establishment in 2007, PAM has been committed to fight terrorism in all its facets, and has used its unique parliamentary platform to address the issue. In recent years, the threat of terrorist activities in the region has dramatically evolved, and PAM's approach has equally changed to address the phenomenon, both from a political and an operational point of view, to respond adequately to the situation.

In 2008, PAM was the first international organization to adopt, by consensus, a working Definition of Terrorism, which has also been subsequently used, as a reference, by the United Nations:

**“Terrorism can be defined as violence or the threat of violence, induced by political, ideological, religious or ethnic motives. Terrorist actions are carried out or designed to achieve maximum publicity, and to produce effects beyond the immediate damage to people, property and the environment. The methods used are extreme, destruction is ruthless, and the behavior is not constrained by the rules of war. The nature of violence is such so as to provoke fear and intimidation”**

In 2019, faced with the phenomenon of returning or relocating Terrorist Foreign Fighters, PAM took the decision to upgrade the Special Task Force on Counter-terrorism, which had been established in 2008, and set up a Special Parliamentary Committee on Terrorism to enhance the scope of the structure and shape it to better coordinate its activities on this issue.

PAM has always enjoyed a close cooperation with the United Nations on counter-terrorism. In 2015, due to the rise of ISIS and the FTFs, PAM and the UN, also in cooperation with the EU, started organizing a series of joint regional meetings for parliamentarians of the Euro-Mediterranean countries on counter-terrorism legislation, targeting the FTFs. More specifically, these joint efforts are aimed at addressing the gaps caused by the lack of harmonisation among national legislations, which causes operational barriers to international cooperation to track, capture and prosecute terrorists.

PAM regularly produces updated and detailed reports on the threats posed by terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean area. National parliaments play a pivotal role at PAM meetings and Plenary Sessions, which serve as platform for exchange of practices on the issue, and where they can share and exchange legislative expertise and lessons learned in combating terrorism.

PAM fully supports the UN-IPU Joint Programme and the establishment of the Global Parliamentary Network on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, of which PAM is a

founding member in its own capacity, and facilitates the regional aspect of this global initiative.

**Key PAM partners on counter-terrorism are:**

UN Office for Counter-Terrorism, UN Security Council CTC / CTED, UN Office for Drugs and Crime, European Union, IPU, European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe, US Department of Justice, NATO, NATO PA, IPA CIS, OSCE PA, PACE, CSTO PA, as well as relevant national ministries and security services.