

## **PAM 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session**

### **Tirana, Albania, 18 February 2016**

#### ***Greeting Speech by H.E. Mr. Blendi Klosi, Minister of Youth and Social Welfare of Albania***

Distinguished Parliamentarians,  
Distinguished Participants,

The Mediterranean in our language means the middle of the earth. Around it in the three continents are born the most ancient civilizations and the earliest culture and trade exchanges. I take pride in my ancient nation having relations with other Mediterranean cultures and nations and today being part of the world heritage.

The Albanians nation has historically been a migratory nation in search of a better life. From ancient times all over the centuries large Albanians migratory Albanians groups have settled in Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt and in other Mediterranean countries and they have integrated with the local population of the centuries. Today, in the epoch of globalization, trade exchange and trade culture, human and institution relations have taken priority but also migration for employment for worth employment.

The European Union cannot be considered complete without the integration of the western Balkans but Europe itself has great need of the Mediterranean countries important EU countries but also my country do need coexistence between Europe and Mediterranean which produces greater stability well being economic growth and most importantly peace and love among nations and cultures within different religious, religious. I am proud that Albania is an outstanding example of different religious beliefs rendering a valuable contribution to coexistence peace of our nations.

Distinguished participants,

Albania today is a country with a very high share of migratory population over 27 percent of our population are migrants, therefore the Albanian government pays special attention to all issues addressing the dynamics of migration, the issues that are coherent as well as integrated into a comprehensive policy. The process of integration, the EU integration has required that we develop a migratory strategy in conformity with the EU legislation.

The government policies aim at better management of migrants flux regular employment reduction of public and individual costs for irregular migration and reintegration of returning migrants and their families. The strategy of our integration of return of Albanian migrants and its action plan focused primarily on Albanian citizens who return in the context of repatriation agreement assigned between EU and Albania. The mutual agreements Albania has concluded with other countries or through other forms of mandatory return. This strategy sets out the reintegration of mechanisms that address the issue of the Albanian citizen's return voluntarily. The objective of this strategy was to ensure a sustainable return of migrants to support the process of reintegration. The reintegration of Albanians migrants return, in the socio-economic life of the country, through the provision of information to the end the direct services.

The deadline for the strategy is over now and we see the first outcomes, but also the immediate need to build a new strategy in the new conditions that Albania is in. The

challenges we have to cope with are prevention of an illicit migration as a result of misuse of visa free regime, a forceful return of migrants and strengthening of the policies for the management of migration in conformity with the international standards including respect for human rights of all returned migrants. Our strategic objectives are:

1. Promotion of safe channel and regular channels of migrations to prevent an unlawful migration
2. Greater sustainability of migration and support for returned migrants
3. Consolidation of migration points legal framework of management structures so that we can respond better to our migration challenges.
4. The possibilities for those who return to get vocational training in the response to the labor demand and use standards.

Distinguished Participants,

Another issue I want to share with you is that of employment with a dignified work as everywhere in our region but also in the E.U. In Albania the employment is a major challenge in our fight against poverty and our efforts for economic growth.

Albania and its government has one of the main issues that of employment, in Albania we are finding new jobs but they require skilled workers, businesses provide jobs Albania is working but to elect professionals in certain areas. What prevents this employment? There is an answer, lack of professional formation and vocational training that is the only guarantee to have a saved and dignified work, with a dignified wage. Of course a problem this is being faced also more development wants to find a more global solution. Such conferences such as this today help us that by sharing our common issues find also common solutions being together part of this debate. We can exchange our best experiences and also learn from one another solutions. What we seek is dignified work for dignified citizens in a dignified Mediterranean and Europe.

Thank you