



**5+5**  
PARLIAMENTARY  
DIALOGUE



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE  
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

# ***Executive Report***

***Of the 5th High-Level Meeting of the Parliaments of the  
« 5+5 Dialogue » Member States***

***Hosted by the Portuguese Parliament***

***Lisbon***

***20 May 2014***

# **5<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting of the Parliaments of the « 5+5 Dialogue » Member States**

**Lisbon, Portugal, 20 May 2014**

## **Executive Report**

### **Background**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary meeting of the 5+5 Dialogue was held on the 15 April 2013 in Nouakchott, Mauritania, where representatives of Western Mediterranean parliaments and observers from the Arab Parliament, the Maghreb Consultative Council, the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean convened at the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritania, in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

On that occasion, participants highlighted the key role of the 5+5 Dialogue's parliamentary dimension in promoting cooperation toward integration and stronger democratic institutions in the region. They, moreover, declared that the initiative brings representatives of Western Mediterranean States closer together, enabling them to forge coherent approaches to issues such as political dialogue, regional security and stability, economic and social matters, education and youth, migration, as well as global issues. In the final declaration, issued by the 4<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary meeting of the 5+5 Dialogue in Nouakchott, the participants also addressed the issues of Syria, Mali, Libya and the Middle East. The following day, a parliamentary delegation reported to the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the outcome of the Parliamentary meeting of the 5+5 Dialogue, and received the support of the ministers on the importance of the Parliamentary dimension and the significance of holding the two meetings back to back every year.

### **The 5<sup>th</sup> High level Parliamentary Meeting**

The 5<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting of the National Parliaments of the Western Mediterranean Cooperation (5+5 Dialogue) was convened in Lisbon, Portugal, on 20 May 2014. The meeting was coordinated, at the invitation of the Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, by PAM, which is responsible for servicing the parliamentary dimension of the 5+5 Dialogue.

For the second consecutive year, and following the successful pattern of the Nouakchott meeting in 2013, the Parliamentary meeting of the 5+5 National Parliaments took place in conjunction with the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. This module is intended to achieve the utmost coherence and synergy between the work of the executive and legislative sides of the 5+5 Dialogue.

National parliamentary delegations from the 5+5 Dialogue Member States, the National Council of Monaco and representatives from relevant regional parliamentary institutions, including that of PAM, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Maghreb Consultative Council and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, addressed a number of key issues from the legislative perspective, namely; regional security, economic growth, climate change and the protection of victims of human trafficking and the fight against organized crime.

All participants expressed their concern on the issue of illegal migration in the Mediterranean, its exponential increase, and the resulting loss of lives, which is becoming almost an everyday tragedy. Highlighting the 800% increase in the number of irregular migrants to Italy in the first four months of 2014, compared to the previous year, there is a need for a concerted policy against organized crime and terrorist organizations, both responsible for the exploitation of migrants and asylum seekers. It is essential to fight these criminal acts, and to strengthen solidarity and the principle of burden sharing among the states involved, particularly those of the European Union.

In order to find a coherent approach to the region's issues, MPs from the Western Mediterranean region expressed their willingness to develop long-term strategies and a structured dialogue to collectively fight terrorism, prevent conflicts, assess risks and build peace. In order to promote economic growth in the region, Parliaments underlined the significance of job creation, trade facilitation, an investment-friendly environment, integrated infrastructures, support of SMEs and decrease of social disparities. Furthermore, delegates stressed the readiness of Western Mediterranean Parliamentarians to cooperate in protecting the environment and mitigating the effects of climate change, which entails the support for PAM's initiative to gather all national parliaments of the Mediterranean, other international assemblies and partners interested in climate change, in order to prepare for a common position to be presented at the 2015 Climate Change Summit in Paris. The representatives, moreover, recognized the need for a long-term strategy and legislative harmonization to assist migratory flows in the Mediterranean, as well as to combat human trafficking, organized crime and human smuggling.

In the concluding remarks of the 5<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting of the Parliaments of the 5+5 Dialogue Member States, the chairs stressed the importance of the parliamentary dimension and the value of the Malta Declaration inviting Parliamentarians to develop a fruitful, ambitious and pragmatic dialogue. At the end of the Parliamentary Meeting, France offered to host in Marseille, in the coming months, a dedicated PAM meeting to prepare for the Paris Summit on Climate Change next year.

Furthermore, three PAM vice-Presidents, namely, H.E. Ms. Maria da Coceição Pereira (Portugal), Sen. Mokhtar Youcef (Algeria), Sen. Lhou Lmarbouh (Morocco), and PAM Secretary General, Amb. Sergio Piazzzi also participated at the Economic Business Forum and the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs which followed.

### ***The 2<sup>nd</sup> Economic Business Forum of the 5+5 Dialogue***

On 21 May 2014, co-chaired by Portugal and Mauritania, as well as by AICEP and Fundação AIP, the second Economic Business Forum aimed at strengthening economic cooperation and development, was structured around the theme of sustainable development, focusing on subjects such as water, environment, infrastructure and project financing. There was a particular interest in business cooperation, SMEs and joint initiatives as a step toward regional integration. More than 400 representatives from enterprises, major companies and economic institutions assembled for this opportunity to talk about challenges facing individual states and opportunities for cooperation and common initiatives. PAM attended and its delegates substantially contributed to the relevant sessions.

### *The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Dialogue*

On the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the 5+5 Member States held on 22 May 2014, the Foreign Ministers of Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia, as well as the Minister of Defense of Spain, met in Lisbon to talk about the future scenarios for cooperation among the ten Western Mediterranean States. Observers from PAM, UfM, EU and UMA attended and contributed to the meeting.

The Ministerial Meeting discussed the common challenges and opportunities in the region. It also tackled three main topics namely: Regional security and stability, Economic and Social development, and Environment, Water, Energy and Climate Change.

On the security situation in Libya, the role of the UN and other regional organizations, such as the Arab League, as coordinators of international efforts, was promoted. Moreover, a meeting of special envoys for Libya in Tunis was agreed upon and the significance of facilitating a national dialogue was emphasized. The PAM delegation confirmed to the Ministers its commitment to work with the General National Congress, a PAM member, and concurrently develop a structured platform with the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all the other governments of the Western Mediterranean Dialogue (5+5), in order to strengthen the efforts aimed at reaching concrete results in the North African country.

With regard to the Syrian crisis, the heads of national diplomacies called for an end of violence and a political solution. They also rejected presidential elections, not in line with the Geneva Communiqué framework, and considered them as not credible. Furthermore, Ministers called on all parties to enable the supply of immediate humanitarian aid and expressed their appreciation to Portugal's aid to Syrian students, as well as the efforts by the UN and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in destroying Syria's chemical weapons stockpile. Regarding the Middle East conflict, it was reiterated that the settlement of major issues, through negotiations based on the pre-1967 borders, could lead to a comprehensive and lasting peace between two States. The Ministers also welcomed the efforts by US Secretary of State John Kerry, as well as the conclusions of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Al-Quds Committee and the inter-Palestinian reconciliation process.

The Ministers also showed their determination to address the security situation in the Sahel by supporting the region's states and tackle the root causes of illicit trafficking, organized crime and their links to terrorism. In their effort for increased security and development in the Sahel region, The Ministers welcomed the Regional Strategy for Partnership, Security and Development created in Algiers in 2010 by Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, as well as the efforts undertaken by the eleven states of the region, which participated in the Nouakchott Process. They, moreover, underlined their support for the creation of a regional security and development strategy for the Sahel by all concerned parties, and highlighted the significance of the EU and the UN strategies for the region.

Concerning the present situation in Mali, the Ministers expressed their support for inclusive peace talks and national reconciliation based on the Ouagadougou Accords. They appreciated the

contributions by MINUSMA and Morocco's work for reconciliation, and demanded international cooperation on the issue. The Ministers moreover welcomed the creation of an Algerian-Malian mechanism for the consolidation of the situation in Mali.

Another major point on the agenda was the issue of migration in the Mediterranean. The final declaration of the Ministerial Meeting includes the expression of regrets for the loss of lives in the Mediterranean and an appeal, especially to the EU, to implement measures necessary to prevent such catastrophes and to manage migration flows, as well as rescue efforts, more effectively.

The PAM delegation informed the Ministerial meeting that the Assembly and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will soon visit Tunisia to facilitate investments and the mechanisms related to the specific needs of the country. PAM vice-President Sen. Lhou Lmarbough (Morocco) told the Ministers, in his remarks on the economic activities of the Assembly, that PAM and the EBRD are cooperating on a far reaching project in the framework of the Deauville Partnership aimed at assisting four pilot countries of the MENA Region to develop further their financial and economic sectors and their infrastructure networks.

With reference to climate change and water issues, PAM vice-President Sen. Mokhtar Youcef (Algeria) recalled PAM's efforts to address the key aspects of water management in the Mediterranean region, where this fundamental resource is extremely vulnerable to climate change.

PAM Secretary General, Amb. Sergio Piazzini, finally briefed the Ministerial Conference on the outcome of the Parliamentary meeting, underlining that PAM Parliaments are committed to the 5+5 Process and are determined to strengthen it further in parallel with the governmental dimension. He also proposed, for future 5+5 Parliamentary and Ministerial meetings, to consider the possibility of finding an opportunity for MPs and Ministers to briefly meet and exchange views to further enhance the collaboration between the two dimensions of the Dialogue. The Ministers welcomed this suggestion.