



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

2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation

“Financial development and MSMEs: Engines for the Euro-Mediterranean economic stability and growth”

Rapporteur: Sen. Aurel-Horea Soporan (Romania)

Resolution adopted by consensus on 20 February 2020 during the 14th Plenary Session in Athens

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *Alarmed* by the lasting political instability of many areas of the Mediterranean,
- b) *Concerned* by the increased frequency of extreme climate-related disasters, which raise uncertainty for businesses;
- c) *Convinced* of the need to take into account the special status of the Palestinian economy, which builds on small and medium enterprises operating in an unstable environment;
- d) *Convinced* that trustful and sustainable oriented policies would generate positive synergies and a greater involvement of the private sector;
- e) *Aware* that micro, small, medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the Mediterranean region generate more than 90% of new jobs;
- f) *Noting* that costly listing requirements, financial illiteracy, information asymmetries, a non-conducive business environment, and lack of access to finance are blocking a sound and thriving Euro-Mediterranean MSMEs ecosystem;
- g) *Convinced* that energy efficiency represents the single most important element to bring the world closer to a Sustainable Development Scenario;
- h) *Welcoming* the decision to make the PAM conference organized in Milan on “Alternative Capital Markets for economic growth in the Mediterranean”, an annual event of the Assembly, which will be connected to a second annual thematic event in another PAM member country;
- i) *Truly convinced* that the PAM “Start-up Market project” will be conducive for thriving synergies, will contribute to the raise of confidence in financial opportunities and will help MSMEs and start-ups in the early stages of their business life;
- j) *Alarmed* by the serious crisis threatening the WTO dispute settlement system;

- k) *Concerned* that such crisis might potentially generate severe repercussions on financial stability, and on national economies thus further aggravate the Mediterranean economic system;
 - l) *Underlining* that PAM MPs should evaluate possible parliamentary strategies to facilitate a coordinated solution to the WTO backdrop;
 - m) *Convinced* that parliamentarians play a crucial role in supporting MSMEs and Start-ups through smart and business oriented legislative actions particularly in transforming economies;
- I. *Invites* its member parliaments to implement public policies that are conducive to resilient and reliable economic policy frameworks;
 - II. *Calls* on its member countries to fully support the annual PAM economic conference on Alternative Capital Markets in Milan and, in parallel, to host a second thematic meeting in another member country;
 - III. *Reaffirms* that facilitating financial inclusiveness, using disruptive technologies and digitalization, shall be supported by all PAM members;
 - IV. *Invites* all members and partners of the Assembly to contribute and support the “Start-up Market project”;
 - V. *Encourages* its member countries to develop modern educational trainings for the young generations in order to match job offer and demand, and to enable a smooth transition of the current working force to become employable in new green and digital realities;
 - VI. *Recognises* that the WTO Appellate Body crisis must be carefully addressed, and *Encourages* interparliamentary dialogue, as a way of contributing to the ongoing settling discussions;
 - VII. *Stresses* the importance of the MoU signed with the OECD, and *Calls* on PAM Delegates to take advantage of and engage with the work of the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, to share and compare national experiences;
 - VIII. *Calls* for removal of obstacles that prevent the sustainable development and stability of the Palestinian economy;
 - IX. *Invites* the PAM Secretariat to reinforce ties with IFIs, the WTO, the WB, the UN and the EU relevant bodies, as well as to continue cooperating with UNCTAD and work towards signing a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding.