



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

PAM VII Plenary Session

12- 13 October 2012, St. Julian's - Malta

Executive Report

Friday 12 October

Address by H.E. Fayez Al-Tarawneh. *PAM President and Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.* President Tarawneh inaugurated the 7th Plenary Session by welcoming all the delegates, speakers, observers and guests to the two day session. After thanking the Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, Hon. Michael Frendo, for his excellent organization and hospitality, he sent a message of condolence to the Croatian Parliament on the recent death of the Speaker, Hon. Boris Sprem.

President Tarawneh then proceeded to review the current political and economic scenario for the Mediterranean, which had changed dramatically in the past five years, especially since the conjuncture of the “Arab Spring Revolutions”, democratic reforms of Maghreb States and more recent implosion of Syria, on the one hand, with the protracted global economic and financial crisis, on the other. He argued that PAM now needed to develop instruments to be able to adapt swiftly to these new and volatile situations finding quick solutions and approaches to meet challenges as and when they arose.

The main part of President Tarawneh’s speech was dedicated to presenting the second five-year PAM Strategic and Action Plan for the period 2013-2017, which needed to reflect PAM’s consolidated institutional role in the Mediterranean, as well as lay down its ambitions for the forthcoming period. In this sense, President Tarawneh noted that PAM had been invited to attend the “5+5 Dialogue” Summit of Heads of State from Western Mediterranean countries, held in Malta on 5-6 October 2012, in its capacity as the depository of the parliamentary dimension. He also referred to PAM’s having been granted Observer Status to the UNGA in December 2009, reaffirming PAM’s legitimacy and vocation in developing the strategic importance of the Mediterranean as a region. At the 2012 UNGA, PAM had also been invited to become Friend of the Alliance of Civilizations, which focuses on building interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Moreover, at the diplomatic level, PAM organized biennial meetings of Secretaries-General of member parliaments, and annual meetings of PAM Ambassadors in

New York, Geneva and Malta. Further still, PAM had recently decided to set up three Permanent Representative Offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. And finally, following two visits to the Vatican State, the Holy See had become an Observer member of PAM. Thanks to its growing vocation as the representative voice of the region, PAM was now officially recognized at UN level as a facilitator for peace initiatives in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as a contributor to the constitutional reform of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and actor in the democratic reforms under way in the “Arab Spring” countries.

President Tarawneh referred to the rapidly changing geometry around the region, which was also reflected by Turkey’s initiative to re-launch the parliamentary dimension of the Southeastern European Cooperation Process (SEECP), in relation to which, he urged PAM to assume its Secretariat in order to avoid duplication of mandates and competition for resources, as 10 out of 12 SEECP countries are already members of PAM. The Assembly had made numerous contributions over the past five years to developing the strategic importance of the region, including its commitment to the establishment of a Mediterranean Free Trade Area (MFTA) in relation to which it had developed, among others, important synergies with the World Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) focusing on job creation and funding for investments in SMEs through its Panel for Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean.

In the next five-year period, PAM therefore needed to focus on three guiding principles, namely, to *consolidate*, *expedite* and *deepen* its role in the region, building on parliamentary dialogue through its multi-stakeholder approach and strengthening its coordination and cooperation platforms with other organizations active in the region. In particular, President Tarawneh called on PAM to develop immediate deployment capacity to reach hotspots in the region at short notice, in order to pre-empt and prevent escalation of potential conflicts.

The President informed the Plenary that Mauritania had applied to join the Assembly and called for Spain to reconsider its absence from the Assembly, especially given that PAM was the only pan-Mediterranean organization that was truly representative of the whole region. This was further confirmed by the fact that the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) still remained at an impasse. In the light of PAM’s growing institutional and diplomatic role in the Mediterranean region, the President appealed to the Plenary to consider increasing PAM’s budget to the original amount of 910,000 Euro agreed in 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey.

In his message, **H.E. Ban Ki-moon**, *Secretary General of the United Nations*, thanked PAM for its wide-ranging efforts in support of the UN and in working for peace and security in the region and considered PAM as the representative voice for the region. The Secretary General remained optimistic about the outcome of the democratic transitions in the Arab Spring states, but reminded the Plenary that elections on their own were not enough for the democratic transitions and that social-economic progress was the key to stability, alongside citizen participation and good governance. In particular, the UN Secretary General thanked PAM for its support to the UN-League of Arab States Joint Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and called for the international community to redouble its efforts for a political

process and dialogue to meet the legitimate aspiration of all Syrians. Finally, he thanked PAM for its active support of the UN's work in the Middle East Peace Process.

In his opening statement, **Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo**, *Speaker of the Parliament of Malta*, welcomed all delegations, speakers and guests on behalf of the Maltese people and reaffirmed Malta's commitment to the Mediterranean ideals. He referred to the need for pan-Mediterranean solidarity in overcoming the problems faced by the region.

In his welcome, **Hon. Jesmond Mugliett**, *Head of the Maltese PAM Delegation*, complimented PAM for having achieved its unique character as a regional parliamentary assembly in only five years of operational activities; its main challenge remained the Peace Process in the Middle East.

In his keynote speech, **H.E. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri**, *Chairman of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee*, complimented PAM on being the first international organization to adopt a definition of terrorism and called on States to adopt the UN Resolutions to combat terrorism, notably Res. 1373/2001 and Sec. Res 1963/2010. He called for a holistic approach to combating terrorism, and for States to comply with all international law in particular human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Enhanced cooperation was required at all levels, including better exchange of information, structured approaches to counter terrorism at national and international level and improved cooperation with Interpol. He also called for enhanced engagement at all levels of policing, the judiciary and border control authorities, and a strengthened legislative framework. Ambassador Singh Puri informed the floor that the UN had set up a counter terrorism committee adopting a ground-breaking document last year advocating a zero tolerance approach which would focus on preventing the financing of terrorism. To conclude he warned against the consequences of inaction and invited the PAM Bureau to New York for an in-depth consultation with his committee.

In his address, **H.E. Riccardo Migliori**, *President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*, spoke of the many challenges that lay ahead for the Mediterranean in the immediate future, and in particular warned against the inertia of the international community in facing up to its responsibilities in relation to Syria. He called for shared responsibilities for the region as common projects guaranteed our common security and our common future.

In his address, **H.E. William Ferdinand Shija**, *Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association*, gave an overview of the structure and functioning of the CPA, commenting that PAM and the CPA shared many common issues, and he looked forward to working together in the future.

Presentation of the work accomplished by the 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security-Related Cooperation, and planned activities.

Hon. Michel Vauzelle, *PAM Vice President (France)*, on behalf of *Hon. Abdelwahad Radi*, *President of the 1st PAM Standing Committee (Morocco)* spoke of the need to consolidate the

work achieved by PAM in its initial five year work period, especially as regards sustaining the democratic expectations of the countries to the South Mediterranean. In recent times, the Mediterranean had become a more volatile region and PAM therefore needed to assist in building cooperation and solidarity frameworks to consolidate peace, restore confidence and ensure emergency assistance where needed.

Hon. Vauzelle spoke of PAM's growing institutional role in the region, referring to PAM's excellent institutional relations with other international and regional Parliamentary Assemblies, such as those of the Council of Europe, IPU, NATO and OSCE, the Islamic Conference, the Arab Maghreb Union and PABSEC. PAM had become increasingly important in promoting peace and stability in the region, in particular, in the Libyan crisis. PAM was also closely following events in Syria and maintains regular contact with UN representatives and the Arab League. The Assembly is working to keep dialogue open with all international actors, especially to ensure the flow of humanitarian aid where needed. In the Balkans, PAM is promoting the constitutional reform process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. PAM is also committed to facilitate the Cypriot-Turkish negotiations over the issue of the reunification of the island.

In his keynote speech, **H.E. Tonio Borg**, *Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (Malta)*, illustrated how Malta continued to lend its full support to the Mediterranean region and outlined the major challenges for the region for the future, referring in particular to the need for peace and stability and urgent actions to tackle youth unemployment.

In his briefing (live broadcast to the plenary by video conference), **H.E. Amb. Robert H. Serry**, *UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process*, spoke of the "Arab re-awakening" rather than the Arab Spring revolutions, observing that there was cause for optimism. Having just returned from Cairo, he confirmed that Egypt was committed to creating the conditions for its people to work with greater dignity and participation. There was less cause for optimism, however, in Jerusalem, where the lack of negotiations was jeopardizing the very possibility of a two-State solution. With the "Oslo twenty-year deadline" about to lapse, the chances of reaching a settlement were very narrow. Israel and the US had boycotted Palestine's unilateral move to request UN membership, and that application was still pending before the Security Council. If the Quartet failed to resume meetings between the parties, then the international community would inevitably have to look for alternatives. While Israel is to hold general elections next February, on the Palestinian side we witness continued inner divisions. Such a situation is not conducive to the two-State solution, which is the only feasible option for a comprehensive and durable peace. PAM is the only forum where Palestinians and Israelis continue to meet, rendering it a key actor in peace building initiatives for the region.

In his keynote address, **H.E. Mohamed Emhemed Abdul-Aziz**, *Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya*, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the countries that supported Libya during the 17 February Revolution. Libya's first aim was to create a State in which the rule of law would be inviolable. Democratic elections had been held, but Libya still faced many challenges, such as internal security and religious radicalism. Freedom fighters had been fundamental to the revolution and deserved a place in the

construction of the new State architecture; religious laws and secular laws needed to be carefully balanced in rebuilding a democratic state that would respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and establish a fair and equitable judiciary and legal system capable of generating economic growth based on sustainable and equitable principles.

The difficulty for Libya lay not so much in what to do but how to do it. H.E. Abdul-Aziz therefore called on foreign states, holding Libyan assets, to unfreeze and return them to Libya in order to finance and rebuild its economy. Moreover, he specifically requested PAM to assist in guiding Libya towards democracy, calling for technical assistance to be provided to the Libyan National Congress in forming its staff and parliamentarians through study tours.

Vote on the Report and Resolution on “Middle East Peace Process & events in the Arab World”. Rapporteur **Hon. George Vella (Malta)** explained that the work of the ad hoc Committee on the Middle East had extended its mandate to cover events relating to the democratic transitions in the Arab Spring States, but reiterated that this would not overshadow the core issue, namely, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Accordingly, his report provided a State by State analysis of the current situation and PAM’s commitment to each of the Arab Spring States (Egypt, Libya, Syria and Tunisia). The report also spoke of PAM initiatives in Syria and its ongoing role in the Middle East Peace Process. An annex provided an update of recent developments on the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

The report and resolution were adopted by majority vote.

Sen. Benedetto Adragna then commended the inhabitants of the Italian island of Lampedusa for their solidarity in accepting boat people despite the harsh burden this caused and called on PAM members to organize a mission to the island in support of its people.

Vote on the Report and Resolution on “Eco-Mafias and their impact on the Mediterranean”. In her report, Rapporteur **Hon. Angela Napoli (Italy)** described how eco-mafias had penetrated the economic fabric of Mediterranean States and called for an international penal code with the specific crime of “organized waste trafficking”, and for urgent and wide-ranging powers to be granted to the police and judiciary, in combating these crimes at the international level.

The report and resolution were adopted unanimously.

Saturday 13 October

Presentation of the work accomplished by the 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation, and planned activities.

Sen Francesco Maria Amoroso, PAM Vice President and President of 2nd PAM Standing Committee (Italy) welcomed Tunisia back to the Assembly before presenting an overview of the activities of the 2nd Standing Committee over the past twelve months, particularly those of the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean. In fact, the Panel had

organized two important conferences: one on the energy challenges for the region regarding sustainable energy, secure supplies and affordable prices (held in Naples); and the other calling for the harmonization of the many uncoordinated initiatives in the region, as well as entrusting PAM with the establishment of a Mediterranean Energy Community (held in Ourzazate, Morocco). Sen. Amoruso also stated that PAM had participated in the 30th anniversary of ASCAME (The Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry), and made contacts with the UNDP and World Meteorological Organization on questions relating to water resources, and further, entered into a partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Council of Europe to collaborate on the issue of Food Security.

In his keynote speech, **Hon. Antonio Martino**, *President of the Italian Inter-Parliamentary Group*, spoke of the major challenges facing the region: democratic transition and soaring youth unemployment to the south, excessive public spending and financial speculation to the north, which required enormous sacrifices if they were to be overcome.

In his keynote speech, **Mr Riccardo Puliti**, *Managing Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*, illustrated the EBRD's financial commitment to the Mediterranean region and gave examples of the projects that were currently being financed there. He called on PAM parliamentarians to enact the necessary legislative reforms to facilitate investments in the region.

In her keynote speech, **Ms Manjula Luthria**, *Senior Economist, World Bank*, outlined the ways in which labour mobility could be improved for the economic benefit of the region. She also offered to host a PAM meeting at the World Bank in Marseille in 2013. PAM welcomed and accepted the invitation.

Vote on the Report and Resolution on “The Mediterranean environment in jeopardy: a call for urgent action”. **Hon. Evi Christofilopoulou (Greece)** *deputising for Rapporteur Hon. Nikolaos Nikolopoulos (Greece)*, outlined the major threats to the Mediterranean resulting from either man-made or natural hazards. The report called on all Mediterranean States to adopt the UNISDR (UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction). Moreover, the report called on all PAM Member States to set disaster reduction strategies as a top priority and align them with UN policies and programming related to sustainable development.

The report and resolution were adopted unanimously.

Vote on the Report and Resolution on “Activities of PAM Panel on Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean”. **Sen Lhou Lmarbouh (Morocco)** *deputising for Rapporteur Hon. Mohammad Zureiqat (Jordan)*, retraced the work of the PAM Panel and in particular that of its Energy Committee, which had launched the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED-TSO) at its 2011 meeting in Naples. The report also called for the establishment of a Mediterranean Energy Community and referred to the need for public-private investment partnerships to bring this about. The report also referred to the fact that energy policy could not be considered in isolation of other major resource issues befalling the

region, such as access to water and food security. He concluded by stating that Morocco would host a meeting of PAM Steering Committee on Energy in early 2013.

The report and resolution were adopted unanimously.

Address by Mr. Mohamadou - Mansour N'Diaye, *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat*. He spoke of the effects of drought and desertification and the need to enact appropriate legislative frameworks to rehabilitate and conserve agricultural land affected and/or threatened by land degradation and invited PAM to consider signed an MoU with his organization.

The **Serbian delegation** greeted the PAM Plenary on behalf of the Speaker of the newly elected Serbian Parliament. Moreover, in reaffirming Serbia's commitment to the goals of PAM, it **offered to host the PAM Plenary in 2014**. The Assembly welcomed and accepted the invitation.

Presentation of the work accomplished by the 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights, and planned activities.

Hon. Tayseer Quba'a, PAM Vice President (Palestine), *presiding on behalf of Hon. Teyfik Ziyaeddin Akbulut, PAM Vice President and President of PAM's 3rd Standing Committee (Turkey)*, presented the work accomplished by the 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights, and Activities for 2013/2014. He referred to the Committee's focus on education, unemployment and job creation, and in particular mentioned an international conference hosted by Jordan on "New Challenges for Skills Development in the Arab States of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean" at which €2 million EU project financing was pledged to improve policy governance as a way of enhancing employability, which was welcomed by PAM. He also informed the Assembly that since September 2012, PAM had become a "Friend of the UN Alliance of Civilizations".

In her keynote speech, **Hon. Justyne Caruana (Malta)** spoke of the challenges faced by youths in Malta with particular reference to education and gender equality in employment. She also referred to the need to develop special skills for the disabled and the need to make higher education more skills-oriented.

In his keynote speech, **Mr. Jean-Philippe Bayon, UNDP Senior Advisor**, reminded the Assembly that access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation was a human right. He called on PAM members to support and implement the work of the UNDP's "Global Water Solidarity" Platform, as cross-border cooperation platforms would be a major contributor to ensuring peace, development and stability in the future.

In his keynote speech, **Dr Mukash Kapila, Special Representative of the Aegis Trust, on the "Establishment of a World Parliamentary Group against crimes against humanity"** reminded parliamentarians that they were the tool by which governments were held to be accountable to their people for their actions. He suggested setting up a global parliamentary group dedicated to

the prevention of crimes against humanity, which would have the responsibility of ensuring that all parliaments had enacted all relevant laws for the prevention and punishment of genocide and crimes against humanity. PAM supported the proposal.

In his keynote speech, **Msgr. Joseph Farrugia**, *Holy See*, stated that it was important to reconcile and seek God's peace through education and illumination. Despite the differences in the cultural, social and religious dimensions, common features existed, and one should unite and rejoice in those differences for the good of all peoples.

In his keynote speech, **H.E. Prof Mahmud Erol Kilic**, *Secretary General, PUIC*, commented favorably on the positive response of Mediterranean States in universally condemning all forms of extremisms, following the recent dissemination of the film that had offended Muslims' religious beliefs. He called for respect for individual freedoms and commented that the Koran preached tolerance and respect of another person's faith. He also warned against brandishing freedom of expression as an instrument for offending. He also advocated for the adoption of laws to prevent the vilification of people's religious beliefs. He suggested that if religious and political authorities could unite against religious extremism, it would be productive for world peace.

Vote on the Report and Resolution on "Education". Rapporteur **Hon. Maria de Conceicao Pereira (Portugal)** advocated wider recognition of the role of education in social development and called for the implementation of the Mediterranean-wide student exchange programme similar to that of the Erasmus Programme for Europe. The report also spoke of gender equality to be promoted through education as a tool of empowerment for women. The report also spoke of the PAM-UNESCO partnership, through the Inter-parliamentary forum of Science, Technology and Innovation for the Mediterranean Region, and proposed the establishment of a regional Science Policy Forum. The report also mentioned the PAM/UNESCO "VADEMECUM" initiative, under which a roving school of governance had organized training and summer schools for senior officials in southern Mediterranean States following the Arab spring revolutions. This 1 million Euro project is at present being evaluated by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for funding.

The report and resolution were adopted unanimously.

Vote on the Report and Resolution on "Job Creation and Unemployment in the Mediterranean". **Hon. Tonino Picula (Croatia)**, *deputizing for Rapporteur Hon. Vural Kavuncu (Turkey)*, illustrated the relationship between unemployment, migration and demographic changes. The report urged national parliaments to focus on job creation and adaptable employment to meet the needs of labour markets. It also called for education policy to become more closely aligned with vocational skills. It also called for greater visa flexibility and work permits to facilitate inter-Mediterranean migration.

The report and resolution were adopted unanimously.

Nomination of new members of the PAM Bureau

Hon. Lou Lmarbough reported on the outcome of voting in the North and South Geopolitical Groups, respectively, for the election of the Members of the Bureau for the period 2012-2014 and the candidature for the PAM Presidency for the same period. The results were as follows:

Francesco Amoruso (Italy), PAM President; **Tayseer Quba'a** (Palestine) PAM Vice President; **Michel Vauzelle** (France) PAM Vice President; **Majallie Whabee** (Israel) PAM Vice President; **Mortar Si Youcef** (Algeria) PAM Vice President; **Fayez Tarawneh** (Jordan) Vice President and President 1st Standing Committee; **Lhou Lmarbough** (Morocco), Vice President and President 2nd Standing Committee; **Maria da Conceição Pereira** (Portugal) Vice President and President 3rd Standing Committee; **Geoge Vella** (Malta) Vice President 1st Standing Committee; **Svetislava Bulajic** (Serbia) Vice President 2nd Standing Committee; **Zuhair Sanduka** (Palestine) Vice President 3rd Standing Committee.

Tevfik Ziyaeddin Akbulut (Turkey) and **Chauoi Belassall** (Morocco) as PAM Roving Ambassadors.

Election of the PAM President

The Assembly unanimously elected **Sen. Francesco Maria Amoruso (Italy)** as the new President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean for the period 2013-2014.

In his address to the Plenary Assembly, the newly-elected PAM President, **Sen. Francesco Maria Amoruso**, spoke of the challenges facing the Mediterranean Region in the forthcoming period due to democratic transitions, economic uncertainty and political instability. President Amoruso pledged his commitment to continuing the work of his predecessors, especially in strengthening relations with the UN, which would bring added value to the work of PAM. He also spoke of PAM's interaction with other regional and international players in the Mediterranean, and in particular for the relations PAM had forged with the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). These were important to stepping up investments for economic and social development in the region. He also referred to the urgent crisis of youth unemployment and the need to drive for job creation through supporting SMEs. Other major issues for the region related to ensuring protection of Human Rights and ensuring gender equality at all levels from education to employment. In concluding, President Amoruso stated that the Mediterranean reality had changed dramatically over the past year and would continue to do so. In all our actions, member parliamentarians need to recall that PAM has one fundamental and unifying aim: that of ensuring the "well-being and peaceful coexistence of our peoples".

Amb. Sergio Piazzi, *PAM Secretary General*, in his update on PAM activities and finance, referred to PAM's increasingly important role and growing responsibilities for the region. More specifically, he was pleased to announce that PAM was now in the process to establish three Permanent Representative offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. He then reported on the difficult budget situation at the end of 2012. To date, this year only €554,000 of the temporarily reduced budget of €765,000 had been paid. Egypt and Libya would possibly default and

Tunisia's payment was still uncertain. He called on Italy and Bosnia-Herzegovina to complete their payments for the year and for FYROM and Montenegro to pay their arrears. He referred to the cuts made to the Secretariat budget and missions to enable PAM to remain operative with the cash at hand. The situation was critical.

Laureates of the "2012 PAM Award"

Prior to the presentation of the awards for the PAM Prize, mementos were given to the outgoing President and members of the Bureau, Presidents and Vice Presidents of the three Standing Committees, notably to:

PAM President 2011-2012: H.E. The Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Sen. Dr. Fayez Al-Tarawneh.

Bureau members and Presidents of the Standing Committees: Hon. Tayser Quba'a (Palestine); Hon. Majalliee Whbee (Israel); Hon. Abdelwahed Radi (Morocco) former President of PAM; Sen. Francesco Amoruso (Italy); Hon. Ziyaeddin Akbulut (Turkey).

The Vice Presidents of the Standing Committees: Hon. Fabrice Notari, (Monaco); Sen. Marwan Alhmoud (Jordan); Hon. Edgar Maalouf (Lebanon).

PAM Roving Ambassador: Hon. Abdelkader Fedala (Algeria).

The PAM Awards were given to individuals, organizations and groups of people for their outstanding contribution to the ideals of the Mediterranean:

The **People of Tunisia**, received on behalf of the Tunisian people by **H.E. M. Mustapha Ben Jaafar**, *Speaker of the Constituent Assembly of Tunisia*;

Hon. Anton Tabone, *Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Malta*;

Hon. Dr. Kjandeh K. Yumkella, *UNIDO Director-General*;

Sen. Titna Idrissi Alaoui (late), Morocco, *First President of the 3rd Standing Committee*;

Hon. Mavroudis Voridis, *Member of Hellenic Parliament*;

Dr. Jadranka Radovanic, *President of the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce*, and

Dr. Rodolfo Giampieri, *President of the Chamber of Commerce of Ancona, Italy*;

Mrs. Marilena Sokianou, *President of the 'House of Europe', Rhodes, Greece*;

Mrs. Alikí Moschis-Gauguet, *International President and Founder of FAM Network, Rhodes*,

In closing the VII Plenary Session of PAM, **Hon. Michael Frendo**, *Speaker of the Maltese Parliament*, thanked all the delegations, members, observers, guests, PAM Secretary General, the PAM Secretariat and Maltese parliamentary staff for having made the Plenary such a success, reaffirming PAM's ever increasing vocation as the representative voice of the peoples of the Mediterranean. He was also pleased to announce that Malta would host the Plenary every fourth year, which had been approved by the Plenary.

There being no further matters for discussion, the **VII Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean** was declared closed.