



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 Summary

#### Opening of the Plenary

The VII<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean was hosted by the Maltese Parliament. Its Speaker, **Hon. Michael Frendo**, and the Head of the Maltese delegation, **Hon. John Muggliett**, both addressed the Plenary welcoming all delegates, representatives, observers, keynote speakers and guests to the event. Later, **H.E. Tonio Borg**, the Maltese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, also addressed the Assembly. The Assembly approved Malta's offer of hosting the PAM Plenary every fourth year. Moreover, the **Serbian delegation** offered to host the PAM Plenary in 2014.

#### PAM President address

President **H.E. Fayez Al-Tarawneh** reviewed the activities and achievements of PAM in its first five years of operations before presenting the second five year PAM Strategic and Action Plan for the period 2013-2017. In particular, he noted that the political and economic scenario for the Mediterranean had changed dramatically over the past year, following the "Arab Spring Revolutions", democratic reforms of Maghreb States and more recent implosion of Syria, as well as the protracted global economic and financial crisis, which continued to affect all Mediterranean States.

He commented that PAM had Observer Status at the UN General Assembly since 2009, and that this year it had been invited to become a Friend of the Alliance of Civilizations at the top UN policy level to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue; moreover, PAM organized biennial meetings of Secretaries-General of its member Parliaments, and annual meetings of PAM Ambassadors in New York, Geneva and Malta. PAM had recently decided to set up three Permanent Representative offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Following two visits to the Vatican State, the Holy See had also become an Observer member to PAM. PAM was now officially recognized at UN level as a facilitator for peace initiatives in the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict, as an advocate for the constitutional reform of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and an actor in the democratic reforms under way in the “Arab Spring” countries.

For the next period, it was important for PAM to *consolidate, expedite* and *deepen* its role as the democratic voice of the peoples of the Mediterranean. PAM therefore needed to continue to build into its institutional role by fostering dialogue with all institutions active in the region and through parliamentary diplomacy. He also called on PAM to develop new instruments to be able to adapt swiftly to these new and volatile situations, suggesting that it should appoint a delegate for each country who could deploy at short notice to “hot spots” to evaluate situations and prevent their escalation. President Tarawneh suggested PAM should assume the parliamentary dimension of the recently relaunched Southeastern European Cooperation Process (SEECPP) in order to avoid duplication of mandates and strain on resources. PAM continued to support the establishment of a Mediterranean Free Trade Area (MFTA) and had developed 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 External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean.

To conclude, PAM was the only truly pan-Mediterranean parliamentary forum for the Mediterranean and its strategic importance to the region was all the more decisive given the impasse relating to the functioning of the intergovernmental Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). 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.

### **Addresses to the Plenary**

A message of goodwill to PAM from the *Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Ban Ki-moon*, was read to the Assembly, and *H.E. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee*, addressed the Plenary on the issue of combating international terrorism. The *President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Riccardo Migliori*, the *Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), H.E. William Ferdinand Shija*, the *Secretary General, PUIC, H.E. Prof Mahmud Erol Kilic*, also addressed the Plenary. The *UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, H.E. Amb. Robert H. Serry*, updated the floor on recent developments between Israel and Palestine. Sen. **Benedetto Adragna** called for a PAM delegation visit to Lampedusa as a gesture of solidarity to the people of Lampedusa who host thousands of migrants arriving at its shores every year.

Importantly, the *Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Libya), Mr Mohamed Emhemed Abdul-Aziz*, requested PAM’s assistance in releasing and returning frozen Libyan assets, as well as technical assistance and support for Libya’s democratic transition.

During the Plenary, delegates heard edifying speeches on wide-ranging issues of importance to the region from keynote speakers, among others: EBRD financing operations in the Mediterranean (Riccardo Puliti); the World Bank approach to labour mobility (Ms Manjula Luthria); the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (Mohamadou - Mansour N'Diaye);

UNDP Global Water Solidarity policy (Jean-Philippe Bayon); the Aegist Trust's approach to genocide and establishing a global parliamentary group for crimes against humanity (Mukash Kapila); unity by celebrating interreligious diversity (Msgr Josph Farrugia, Holy See).

### **Adoption of reports and resolutions**

The work of the three Standing Committees was presented to the Plenary, as a result of which the six reports and resolutions were adopted, namely, on:

- *The Middle East Peace Process & Events in the Arab World;*
- *Eco-Mafias and their impact on the Mediterranean;*
- *The Mediterranean environment in jeopardy: a call for urgent action*
- *The Activities of PAM Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean;*
- *Education;*
- *Job Creation and Unemployment in the Mediterranean*

### **Election of Bureau, Presidents and Vice Presidents**

At the Plenary, the new Bureau members, PAM Vice Presidents, Presidents and Vice Presidents of the three Standing Committees were presented to the Plenary, composed as follows: **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 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee; **Lhou Lmarbouh** (Morocco) Vice President and President 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee; **Maria da Conceição Pereira** (Portugal) Vice President and President 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee; **George Vella** (Malta) Vice President 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee; **Svetislava Bulajic** (Serbia) Vice President 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee; **Zuhair Sanduka** (Palestine) Vice President 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee; **Tevfik Ziyaeddin Akbulut** (Turkey) and **Chauoi Belassall** (Morocco) as PAM Roving Ambassadors.

### **Election of the PAM President 2012-2014**

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

In his inaugural address to the Plenary, President Amoroso spoke of the challenges facing the region and pledged his commitment to continuing the work of consolidating PAM's institutional role as strategic representative and voice of the Mediterranean.

### **PAM Secretary General: financial situation**

Amb. Sergio Piazzi updated the Plenary on the acutely difficult financial situation facing PAM in the coming months. Mostly due to the fact that the Arab Spring revolutions had resulted in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Syria to default. At the same time arrears from FYROM and Montenegro were due, while Italy and Bosnia-Herzegovina still had to complete the payments for the current year. As a result of this situation, only €554,000 of the current budget of € 765,000 had been paid in during 2012, and cuts had been made to Secretariat costs, travel and meeting had been reduced. It was vital for all Member States to meet their financial commitments for PAM to be able to function with the necessary cash flow.

### **PAM Awards 2012**

The 2012 PAM Awards were presented to: 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*; to **Hon. Anton Tabone**, *Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Malta*; to **Hon. Dr. Kjandeh K. Yumkella**, *UNIDO Director-General*; to the memory of **Sen. Titna Alaoui**, Morocco, *First President of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee*; to **Hon. Mavroudis Vouridis**, *Member of Hellenic Parliament*; to **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*; to **Mrs. Marilena Sokianou**, *President House of Europe, Rhodes, Greece*; to **Mrs. Alik Moschis-Gauguet**, *International President and Founder of FAM Network, Rhodes, Greece*.

Mementos were also awarded to the outgoing members of the Bureau, PAM Vice Presidents, Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Standing Committees, respectively.

### **Closure of the Plenary**

The VII Plenary Session of PAM was closed by **Hon. Michael Frendo**, *Speaker of the Maltese Parliament*, who thanked all the delegations, members, observers, guests, PAM Secretary General, the PAM Secretariat and Maltese parliamentary staff for having made the Plenary a resounding success.