



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

**Executive Report and Conclusions of the 3rd Plenary Session of the
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)**

Monaco, 13-15 November 2008

Fairmont Monte-Carlo Hotel

Executive summary

The 3rd Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, which took place from 13-14th November 2008, was generously hosted by the National Council of Monaco. The delegates were invited to an opening ceremony on the evening of 13th November.

The Plenary Session began on Thursday 14th November, after hearing the **welcome addresses** of Hon. Stéphane Valeri, the President of the National Council of Monaco, and His Serene Highness Albert II, the Sovereign Prince of Monaco, respectively. President Radi of PAM opened the session and read a **welcome message** from Mr. Ban-Ki Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Thereafter, the delegates heard **inaugural addresses** by the Hon. Niko Lozancic, Speaker, House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr Alexander Dzasohov (Vice President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)).

The delegates also appreciated the **guest speeches** by Mr. Maxwell Gaylard (Deputy Special Coordinator, UN Special Coordinator Office for the Middle East Peace Process –UNSCO) talking on the UN commitment to achieving peace in the Middle East, Professor Carlo Rubbia, Nobel Prize Laureate from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) on alternative and sustainable energy.

As to **PAM substantive issues** before the Plenary, the Presidents of the three Standing Committees reported on the activities of their respective Committees and defined their respective Action Plans for 2009, before the draft reports and resolutions of the Special Task Forces and *Ad Hoc* Committee were presented to the delegates for their adoption.

Accordingly, the PAM Plenary adopted the reports and resolutions of the **First Standing Committee** on political and security-related cooperation, prepared by the:

- The Special Task Force on Energy on the Energy-securing strategy in the Mediterranean;
- Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East on the Middle East.

The PAM Plenary also adopted the reports and resolutions of the **Second Standing Committee** on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation prepared by the adopted reports and resolutions of the:

- Special Task Force on Environment and Climate Change *on the Environment and Climate Change;*
- Special Task Force on Integrated management of Resources *on Integrated Management of Resources (Water);*
- Special Task Force on Free Trade *on Free Trade in the Mediterranean.*

The PAM Plenary further adopted the reports and resolutions of the **Third Standing Committee** on Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights, prepared by the:

- Special Task Force on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures *on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures;*
- Special Task Force on Gender and Equality *on Gender and Equality Issues;*
- Special Task Force on Migration, Rapporteur *on Migration in the Mediterranean region.*

Based on a proposal of the Third Standing Committee, the delegates unanimously agreed on the establishment of **The Mediterranean Day**, to be celebrated on 21st March every year.

During the Plenary, the draft **Charter of the Mediterranean**, embodying the guiding principles and spirit of PAM - based on an idea of President Radi and drafted by the French delegation headed by Hon. Rudy Salles - was presented to the Assembly and unanimously adopted.

The delegates also discussed and agreed on their **2009 Programme**, which contains the following key date:

- **Reflection Group on Terrorism** in Turkey at the end of January;
- in February, there will be a STF meeting on **climate change and disaster management** , (probably in Cyprus);
- in March focus shifts to the **dialogue of cultures/religions and migration** in the Mediterranean, with meetings planned in Rome together with a meeting of the STF on **gender and equality**. On 21st March, PAM will celebrate the first Mediterranean Day;
- at the end of April, a meeting is planned in Egypt for the STFs on **energy and organised crime**;
- in May, a PAM delegation will make its **visit to the Middle East** concluding with a meeting in Amman (Jordan);
- at the end of June, the Standing Committees will meet at **Lisbon** in Portugal;
- **Turkey** will hold the 4th Plenary Session of PAM in Istanbul in November 2009.

The President also called for offers to host **future Plenary Sessions**: **Italy** offered to host the 2010 Plenary Session, **Morocco** proposed its candidacy for 2011 Plenary Session.

The delegates also dealt with the issues of **Membership of PAM**. The delegates agreed to accept **Romania's application** to be **Associate Member** of PAM, and **Observer Status** was granted to the **Parliamentary Union of the Islamic Conference**, the **Mediterranean Foundation** and the **MEDREG** (the Mediterranean Working Group on Electricity and Natural Gas).

The major event of the 3rd Plenary Session was the **election of the President**. Hon. Fabrice Notari (President of the Monegasque delegation) proposed Hon. Rudy Salles (France) as the future President of PAM, which was unanimously agreed upon.

The **members of the Bureau and Standing Committee Presidents and Vice Presidents** were also elected as follows:

From the North grouping:

Bureau: Vice Presidents, Francesco Amoruso (Italy), Elsa Papademetriou (Greece)

President 1st Standing Committee: José Junqueiro (Portugal)

Vice President 2nd Standing Committee: Jesmond Millet (Malta)

Vice President 3rd Standing Committee: Askin Asan (Turkey)

From the South grouping:

Bureau: Vice Presidents Quba (Palestine), Algeria (name to be given)

President 2nd Standing Committee: Suleiman Ghneimat (Jordan)

President 3rd Standing Committee: Titna Alawi (Morocco)

Vice President 1st Standing Committee: Chamel Mouzaya (Lebanon)

The **Secretary-General** presented the **Financial Report** for PAM during the 2008.

As points of **general interest**, it was agreed that PAM would apply to become a member of “Maison des Alliances”; Hon. Abou el Enein was appointed as “Roving Ambassador for PAM”; and the winners of the PAM Mediterranean Prize were announced.

Hon. Jesmond Mugliett, Malta, also addressed the Plenary Session on “PAM, Closer to our citizens” suggesting how PAM could become more visible and be more involved directly with the peoples of the Mediterranean.

Finally, the delegates agreed on a text defining and calling for the recognition of the status of “**environmental refugees**” at international law, to be circulated amongst international and regional organisations.

Friday, 14 November 2008 - Morning Session

1. Welcome speeches

The President of the National Council of Monaco, Hon. Stéphane Valeri

The President of the National Council of Monaco, Hon. Stéphane Valeri, welcomed the members of PAM to the Principality of Monaco on behalf of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, his Parliament and the people of Monaco. He referred not only to the historically strategic importance of Monaco over the centuries, as a port that had often been contended by the warring naval powers of the Mediterranean, but also to the centrality of Monaco in diplomatic relations for the region. In this respect, President Valeri referred to Prince Albert as being a strong supporter of PAM's mission, and any initiative for the Mediterranean deserved to be supported and strengthened by fostering understanding and by creating cultural and ethical dialogue. The Sea is essential to this understanding and its strength lies in giving the people of the Mediterranean a single unified voice.

Hon. Abdelwahed Radi, President of PAM

President Radi began by reading a message from H.E. Ban-Ki Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Ban-Ki Moon's message

To summarise, the message referred to the Mediterranean as an interdependent region offering a unique blend of cultures, experiences and worldviews. In this context, it was important to develop dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence between nations, and in recent months, important - albeit fragile - developments had taken place in this direction: indirect negotiations between Israel and Syria with Turkey's support, as well as the establishment of diplomatic relations between Syria and Lebanon, and the progress made between both sides in Cyprus. The UN Secretary-General pointed to the important role of the UN in collaborating with parliamentarians over the years, and encouraged PAM delegates to continue to play an active role in contributing to peace in the region, before wishing the PAM Plenary Session every success.

President Radi then welcomed the members to the Third Plenary Session of its Plenary Assembly, thanking the H.S.H. Prince Albert, Parliament, Government and the Monegasque people for their warm hospitality.

He reminded the members of the uniqueness of PAM: bringing together 25 parliaments and representing more than 500 million people, whilst being the only parliamentary forum exclusively dedicated to the Mediterranean Sea where its members are represented on an equal footing. He referred to the fact that PAM had achieved a lot in the three years since the CSCM (Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean) process had begun, meeting in Nafplion (Greece) 2005 to adopt the PAM Statute thereby opting to transform the CSCM into a Parliamentary Assembly, and holding its inaugural Parliamentary Assembly and electing its first President in Amman (Jordan) in 2006. PAM has set itself a challenging agenda and three Standing Committees to carry out the work of the Assembly (in the areas of security, social and economics and inter-cultural dialogue) and contribute to addressing challenges in the region. The President also referred to the work of the Bureau in steering and guiding the work of the Assembly, and prompted the delegations of the importance of honouring their financial commitments to guarantee the continuity and stability of the functioning of PAM.

President Radi proceeded to reiterate the mission of PAM in advising the members of their commitment to resolving the problems of the region, particularly as regards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, food crisis, and migration issues. Dialogue and openness in PAM needs to be strengthened with all parties interested in its discourse.

The President welcomed the news of the completion of the draft Charter of the Mediterranean laying down the moral precepts and long term ambitions of PAM in the Mediterranean region, which would be presented during the course of the Assembly, as well as the proposal to institute the Mediterranean Day on 21st March every year to promote peace, dialogue and understanding in the region.

Finally, President Radi concluded by commenting that parliamentary cooperation around the Mediterranean had become more institutionalised, and the Assembly had grown to be widely respected in such a short time because of its pluralistic character and intent to bring a new face to the Mediterranean issues. The work of PAM is to ensure that this Sea unites and no longer divides its people. He added that several non-Mediterranean countries, international and regional organisations are interested in collaborating with the Assembly.

Secretary-General

Dr. Piazzini took the floor to welcome and introduce on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, who was to address the Assembly.

His Serene Highness Albert II, the Sovereign Prince of Monaco

H.S.H. Prince Albert offered his warm welcome on behalf of Monte-Carlo. Prince Albert appreciated the richness of diversity and individuality of the countries of the Mediterranean region, but also spoke of the enormous potential and force to be achieved by uniting such diversity. He referred to Monaco's main political ambitions for the Mediterranean Sea, including, amongst others, its commitment to the environment, combating pollution and de-polluting the Mediterranean Sea in accordance with the Horizon 2020 goals, as well as scientific exploration, and sustainable development. Monaco is also committed to important social and cultural aims in the region such as defending human rights and the rights of children, combating poverty and conserving culture. From the perspective of political diplomacy, Prince Albert referred to the importance of Monaco as a neutral state in balancing the interests of the region, and finally he was proud that Monaco had also joined the Barcelona Euromed Process as of 13th July 2008, to become one of its 44 member states, taking another step in acknowledging the collective responsibility we have to bear for the future of the region.

Secretary-General

The Secretary General, on behalf of the Assembly, thanked Prince Albert for his illuminating speech.

President Radi

After pausing for a group photograph of the members attending the Plenary Session, President Radi resumed the Plenary Session activities with the adoption of the agenda.

The agenda was adopted and the distinguished speakers were invited to give their inaugural addresses.

2. Inaugural Addresses

Hon. Niko Lozancic, Speaker, House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Hon. Niko Lozancic expressed the solidarity, common commitment to cultural dialogue, furthering of cooperation and rule of law and democracy of Bosnia Herzegovina. He commented that by knowing each other better and exchanging our experience and information, understanding and trust among peoples could be bolstered. He referred to the recent bloody history of Bosnia Herzegovina just over a decade ago, which left thousands of people dead, injured and others distressed, and its aftermath of animosity and misunderstanding on a huge scale. Afterwards, the parties involved met and signed a peace agreement. Although many people are still unhappy with the solution to the conflict, we can all be happy that the death and suffering has come to an end. He stressed the importance of overcoming the burden of the past conflicts, and pointed to the importance of constructing a robust peace.

In this sense, Bosnia Herzegovina has successfully established democratic institutions. Refugees and displaced persons have returned and there is free movement of people and capital. There is a single army, and a single intelligence service democratically controlled by the parliament. There are no expulsions, nor destruction, and the country has embarked on a process of restoring trust and democratisation reforming the tax system, education, public broadcasting, a single police force and signed a stabilisation and association agreement with the EU and started a dialogue to join NATO.

Hon. Lozancic widened his discourse to the Balkan States and urged them to face the challenges ahead, stating that Bosnia Herzegovina was firmly committed to being part of the democratic western world, supporting democratic government and the rule of law, renewing its resolve to fight against terrorism and organised crime.

He saw PAM as an opportunity to strengthen ties, to move away from individualism and forge solidarity as a way to resolve our common problems.

Mr Alexander Dzasohov (Vice President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC))

Mr. Dzasohov referred to the increasing geopolitical importance of both the Black Sea and Mediterranean, both of which are regions with a rich history but today also regions with common problems of political conflict and migrations.

PABSEC was established in 1993 and currently has 76 members of parliament from 12 Member States. PABSEC discusses issues of economic cooperation that complement bilateral relations between States, and aims to contribute to achieving a higher degree of economic integration of Black Sea economy into world economy. The member countries of PABSEC are essentially regarded as transition countries and the organisations also addresses the issues of social protection of the most vulnerable groups of society, as well as dialogue among cultures and cultural diversity.

Relations with the EU are among the top priorities of PABSEC. In view of PAM and PABSEC's shared goals, Mr Dzasohov stated that emphasis should be put on strengthening the collaboration and the interaction at both parliamentarians and secretariat level. As a gesture of good will, a commemorative plate was awarded to the Parliamentary Assembly by PABSEC.

3. Guest speaker addresses

Mr. Maxwell Gaylard (Deputy Special Coordinator, UN Special Coordinator Office for the Middle East Peace Process –UNSCO)

Mr. Gaylard thanked the PAM for its invitation before informing the members about the Middle East peace process. He recalled that the UN was committed to the goal of ending occupation and establishment of two States, as well as to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions.

Since the Annapolis Conference in November 2007, which had laid down the Road Map to achieve peace by end of 2008, despite the fact that this deadline would not now be met, intensive negotiations between parties had resumed, setting up a solid negotiation platform. The peace process is not just about negotiating a text, but also about creating the right context: improving the situation on the ground. Mr Gaylard then described the situation in the occupied territories of Gaza and West Bank, where the living conditions were wretched, but he was nonetheless of the opinion that the major crisis was one of human dignity, since Palestinian people have no right to movement, nor self-determination and have no employment, and are therefore left totally dependent on outside assistance.

My Gaylard also referred to the internal political division within Palestine itself between Fatah and Hamas, and that the UN supports the reconciliation process spearheaded by Egypt and the Arab League. At the Berlin (2004) and Paris (2007) Donors' Conferences, there was renewed and strong donor support for Palestine. He noted that there was now strong determination to build from the bottom-up to establish institutions, a process of self-empowerment supported by the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban-Ki Moon. He also stated that the UN had drawn up a response plan for Palestine with five strategic areas of engagement: Governance, Food Security, Social Services, Human Rights, and Human Response.

Mr Gaylard concluded that the task ahead was difficult but that we can all do our part to ensure the parties remain committed and on track. He also offered the assistance of his offices for the planned visit by a PAM delegation to the region in 2009.

Prof Carlo Rubbia, Nobel Prize Laureate - European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Professor Rubbia confirmed that solar energy is a major asset to all PAM member countries, and that renewable energy is one of the fields of fastest growth. He stated that the key issue for the future of mankind was its future energy sources. At present, mankind is heavily dependent on fossil fuels for its energy sources, and although there are carbon resources (accumulated over millions of years) to provide energy, it is nonetheless finite, and its continued rates at such high levels will have drastic consequences for climate change.

By 2050, a progressive reduction of fossil fuels is planned to ½ the current emissions of CO₂. Professor Rubbia also pointed out the effects of greenhouse gas emissions will continue to persist in the Earth's atmosphere for thousands of years.

Professor Rubbia suggested that the future to man's energy needs lie in solar energy, and that we already have the technology to use this energy source. Solar power has a much greater energy production potential than other sustainable energy sources such as biomass, geothermal, wind and hydropower, and this is an enormous potential energy source for Mediterranean countries.

Spain is already producing solar energy on a considerable scale and similar plants have been developed in the US. The newly elected US President has expressed great interest in this new technology, and there are also plants being developed in China.

At European level, there are plans for a pan-European electricity interconnection network to be realised between 2020-2050. Professor Rubbia therefore felt that the time had come to seriously consider the alternatives for our future energy needs: these are solar and new nuclear energy (although the latter energy source still has the residual problems of storage, safety and disposal). Professor Rubbia concluded that technically developed societies should realistically foster this change to use of solar radiation.

4. Reports of the First Standing Committee and adoption of Resolutions

President Radi invited the Assembly to accept a change in the order of the agenda due to Hon. Abou El Enein's (Rapporteur for Special Task Force on Energy, Egypt) other work commitments. The Assembly agreed to hear Hon. El Enein's presentation of his report and draft resolution for the Special Task Force on Energy ahead of the general presentation of the work of the 1st Standing Committee by its President, Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat (Jordan).

Special Task Force on Energy, Rapporteur, Hon. Abou El Enein (Egypt)

Report and draft resolution: Energy-securing strategy in the Mediterranean

Rather than giving a detailed account and reading the substance of the report and draft resolution, the content of which had been agreed at the recent meeting of the 1st Standing Committee in Malta the previous month, Hon. El Enein focused on its major issues to be acted upon in the light of the conclusions drawn by Professor Rubbia.

In view of the recent oil crisis, Hon. El Enein argued that governments needed to act quickly to guarantee the security of Mediterranean countries when the cost of oil increases. This year's oil crisis had also led to a food crisis and certain governments shamelessly continued allow food prices to rise. All indicators show a movement towards a global economic crisis. In accordance with his report, Hon. El Enein emphasised the need to develop policies based on sustainable energy, so that they could become an effective alternative in the event of future oil crises. Such alternative sources could be solar or wind energy, and the rapporteur observed that certain Mediterranean States had already started to invest considerably in alternative energy. Hon. El Enein urged parliamentarians to move to ensure alternative policies are adopted by creating joint projects. Massive investments are required to create infrastructure to produce and distribute these forms of energy, but the energy source itself cost nothing and are entirely renewable so the long-terms costs are low, and would be centred largely on maintenance and renewal. The Rapporteur suggested that investors in the future policy would be private, but they should also include all governments, from producing or consumer countries (or both), with a joint objective of producing clean energy. It was therefore the prerogative of all PAM parliamentarians to urge their respective governments to act accordingly. Some countries currently spend up to 60% of imports on importing energy. Hon. El Enein concluded that it was therefore imperative to have a common strategy for the Mediterranean calling on governments to act, including by the setting up of a joint investment bank for the Mediterranean.

The Secretary-General

The Secretary-General suspended the morning session to enable members of the Bureau to depart to Nice to meet with Presidents Sarkozy of France, Medvedev of the Russian Federation and Barroso of the European Commission who had gathered in Nice on the occasion of the EU-Russia summit.

Friday, 14 November 2008 - *Afternoon session*

Continuation of Reports of the First Standing Committee (cont.) and adoption of the Resolutions

First Standing Committee, President, Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat (Jordan)

Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat reiterated that contributing to finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestine conflict was a priority for PAM, and that this was a major objective of the 1st Standing Committee on security-related and political cooperation. During the course of the year, there had been a number of important guest speakers, who had informed the Committee of developments in the peace process, notably, H.E. Molly Bordonaro, US Ambassador to Malta, and Sir John Holmes, United Nations Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs (addressing the Committee by videoconference), in addition to a UN International Meeting on the question of Palestine, held in Malta and attended by parliamentarians representing PAM, Hon. Tayseer Quba'a of Palestine and the Hon. George Vella, from Malta, respectively.

At its second meeting in Malta, in February, the Committee had also heard distinguished speakers, Mr Andrea Cellino, Deputy to the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO, and Mr Liviu Vadrasco, representative of the United Nations Pandemic Influenza Contingency. During the third meeting also held in Malta in September, the Committee heard Dr Alessandro Ortis, President of the Association of the Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG), and Mr Peter Cordina, Director General of the Maltese Civil Protection and Dr. Agostino Miozzo, Director of External Relations of the Italian Civil Protection, respectively.

The President informed the members that during 2008, a draft report was presented on the definition of terrorism by Hon. Mrs. Askin Asan, Turkey. It was decided that this report needed further work and would be considered as a working document, until its content was finalised during 2009.

The President of the Committee thanked the rapporteurs of the Special Task Forces and *Ad Hoc* Committee for their commendable contributions to consolidating the work of the Committee, and reiterated the main arguments of interest to the Committee, notably:

- Supporting the peace process in the Middle East and contribution to finding a lasting solution to the Palestine-Israeli conflict
- Combating terrorism through the examination of the root causes
- Considering the preparation of a report on 'Organized Crime' by the Committee in the 2009 agenda
- Developing the theme of access to sustainable energy as a human right
- Working to ensure energy security through: development of a regional energy strategy, the reduction of energy consumption, and the generating of energy through use of renewable and sustainable resources

Turning to the Calendar of Events 2009, the President of the 1st Standing Committee referred to the following key dates:

- Early 2009 - Reflection Group on Terrorism to meet in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Early April – Special Task Force on Organised Crime and

- Special Task Force on Energy, hosted by the Egyptian Parliament. In 2009, Energy will be handed over to the 2nd Standing Committee for them to look into the economic aspect of this very important matter.
- A key activity for the entire PAM will take place in mid May. The intention is to organise a Visit to the Middle East followed by a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Middle East. Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine have already welcomed the visit and indicated their readiness to facilitate it. The United Nations will facilitate the implementation of this visit and will make every effort to get the Knesset to join.
- At the end of June this Committee will join the Standing Committees in Portugal.

Delegates and guest speakers proposed a number of possible key topics for further consideration during the Committee's work during 2009, notably:

- PAM members should work in the direction of creating a pan-Mediterranean civil protection network.
- The Israeli-Palestine conflict to be the subject of a separate report following the visit of the PAM delegation to the Middle East.
- Creation of a Special Task Force to deal with the issue of Organised Crime.
- As requested by a number of members during the Standing Committee meetings in Malta a few weeks earlier, the First Standing Committee will also have to tackle issues related to positive developments in Cyprus, as well as the situation in Kosovo and of refugees in Serbia.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East, Rapporteur, Hon. George Vella (Malta)

Report and draft resolution: on the work of the Ad hoc Committee on the Middle East in 2008

Hon. Vella stated that he would not read through the contents of the report and resolution, as the Members were already aware of its contents. Rather he would refer to its principal substantive issues. The report did not intend to recall exhaustively the current and past initiatives for the peace process as the international community is well aware of the problems that exist today. He also reminded the members that the purpose of the draft report and resolution were not to find solutions to the Middle East conflict, but were intended to reflect upon the role PAM could play in contributing to facilitating the resolution of the conflict through monitoring, brainstorming, raising awareness, serving as a catalyst for new approaches and promoting the role of PAM as one of the primary actors in promoting civil peaceful cohabitation.

Hon. Vella was also of the opinion that future outcome also depends on resolving the rift between Hamas and Fatah, the policy adopted by the newly elected President of the USA, Barack Obama, as well as on the political situation in both Iran and Iraq.

Finally, the Rapporteur concluded that the long-term successful outcome to the conflict depended on the solidity of dialogue.

Second Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation, President, Hon. Mrs Dubravka Suica (Croatia)

The President of the 2nd Standing Committee apologised for not having been able to guarantee the continuity of her Presidency during 2008, due to Parliamentary elections in Croatia, and thanked her colleagues, Hon. Salah Tadzait (Algeria) and Hon. Mrs. Elsa Papademetriou (Greece) for having deputised for her during the year.

The President commented that during 2008, through its Special Task Forces, the Committee had produced a respectable number of resolutions and reports. More specifically, the Committee had listened to the distinguished speeches of its guest speakers, notably, Mr Paolo Garonna, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Mr Paul Mifsud, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan within the United Nations Environment Plan, the Maltese economist Dr John Grech, speaking about the proposal for the setting up of a Bank for the Mediterranean, Mrs. Asma Chraïbi, Counsellor to Mr. Mohammed Ameer, Minister responsible of the Moroccan community abroad.

Hon. Suica commented that at its September meeting, the 2nd Standing Committee had endorsed all the draft reports and resolutions of the three Special Task Forces, which would shortly be explained by their respective rapporteurs, namely in relation to:

- Environment and Climate Change (rapporteur Hon. Elissavet Papademetriou, Greece) ;
- Integrated Resources Management (water) – (rapporteur Hon. Paulette Brisepierre, France);
- Free Trade (Hon. Milan Cvikl, Slovenia)

The main points of discussion at the heart of the 2nd Standing Committee's work relate to:

- Bridging the economic gap and demographic disparity between North and South through attracting foreign investment and exchanging resources between North and South;
- Organization of a high-level Mediterranean forum in 2009 by the Secretariat (possibly in collaboration with the World Bank);
- Water management must be developed from a long-term perspective and seen as a strategic issue, including trans-boundary water management and taking into account demography and population concentrations;
- Make the environment a priority issue on the national agendas of governments;
- Make efficient use of the renewable resources (especially wind and solar) available in the Mediterranean and invest in the necessary technology;
- Development of a recommendation to be submitted to the EU and UN recognizing "environmental refugees" in international conventions.

As regards its action programme for 2009, the Committee has identified the following key dates:

- At the end of January 2009, the Task Force on Environment and Climate Change with the participation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (probably to be held in Cyprus);
- At the same date, the first meeting of the Special Task Force on the Management of Disasters (probably to be held in Cyprus);
- Mid-February, the Special Task Force on Trade in the Mediterranean with new topics: Maritime Transport and/or Small and Medium Enterprises (probably held in Slovenia).

Special Task Force on Environment and Climate Change, Rapporteur, Hon. Mrs. Elsa Papademetriou (Greece),

Report and Draft resolution: on the Environment and Climate Change

Rather than present in detail the substance of the draft report and draft resolution, the terms of which had already been presented in the Athens meeting and refined during the meeting of the 2nd Standing Committee in Malta in September, Hon. Mrs. Papademetriou, made specific reference to the amendments incorporated into the final draft text based on the comments of the members attending the 2nd Standing Committee meeting in Malta in September.

As to the substance of the draft report and resolutions, the Rapporteur made specific reference to the valid contributions of the guest speakers at the Athens meeting, notably, Paul Mifsud, Coordinator for United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) speaking on the Mediterranean Action Plan, Dr Michael Scoullou, Professor of Environmental Chemistry at Athens University and President of the Mediterranean Information Office – ECSDE speaking on the energy challenges for the Mediterranean, and Prof. Osman, President of the Egypt Energy Association and member of the World Energy Institute, Professor of Electrical Power, speaking on the subject of alternative energy in the Mediterranean. These interventions and debate surrounding them were instrumental to the drafting and content of the report and resolution submitted to the Assembly.

In particular, the Rapporteur referred to a small amendment – which had been adopted - asking for an open and sincere dialogue to be undertaken on the issue of nuclear energy, before the Committee unanimously endorsed the draft resolution.

The Rapporteur then read to the Assembly a definition of “environmental refugees” that she proposed PAM would circulate at the EU, UN organisations, urging them to recognize their international legal status. At present, environmental refugees have no recognition as they are not acknowledged by any international convention.

Special Task Force on Integrated management of Resources, Rapporteur, Hon. Mrs. Paulette Brisepierre (France)

Report and draft resolution: on Integrated Management of Resources (Water)

Hon. Jacques Blanc acted spokesman for Hon. Brisepierre, who was unable to attend the Plenary Session, and also thanked Hon. Ridha Bouargoub (Tunisia) who had deputised for Hon. Brisepierre in Cannes and Malta.

Hon. Blanc referred to the meeting and participation of the Special Task Force at the International Water Symposium in Cannes (June 2008), before focussing on some of the major issues referred to by the draft report and resolution. He commented on the fact that in parts of the Mediterranean (South and East) there had been a dramatic increase in demand for water due to demographic growth, mass migrations, irrigation for agriculture and tourism, placing an ever increasing burden on natural resources. This, combined with the consequences of climate change will result in major shortages by 2025. The report suggests that one way to confront this shortage is firstly to rationalise water demand management rather than find ways of increasing supplies. The resolution calls for action to improve water management at local and regional level, also incorporating use of waste water, decontamination and increased use of desalination where water is lacking. Saving can also be improved by awareness-raising.

Special Task Force on Free Trade, Rapporteur, Hon. Milan Cvikl (Slovenia).

Report and draft resolution on: Free Trade in the Mediterranean

Dubravka Suica (Croatia) deputising apologised for the absence of the Rapporteur, Mr. Milan Cvikl. Hon. Suica commented that the members were already well aware of the contents of the draft report and resolution, as the background paper to the report had first been presented to the Committee in March. Hon. Suica referred to the fact that the report weighs up the advantages and disadvantages of free trade and fully reflects the comments of the members at the previous meetings. It calls on governments to establish a free trade area, and set up a Mediterranean investment bank. Moreover, the resolution also calls for parliamentary control by governments reporting to the former on their initiatives.

Third Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights, Hon. Francesco Amoruso (Italy)

Hon. Amoruso invited the Assembly to thank Senator Saporito, who had not only carried out important work in presiding the Committee, but whose vision, dedication and wisdom had also been instrumental to setting up PAM itself.

Hon. Amoruso referred to the fact that during 2008 the 3rd Standing Committee had set up three Special Task Forces, on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures, on Gender and Equality Issues, as well as on Migrations. The President mentioned the numerous synergies in relation to these questions between the work of the 3rd Standing Committee and the remaining two Standing Committees, and through the Secretariat it would be important to continue the complementary nature of the work of the respective committees. During the meetings of the Committee, important contributions had been made by guest speakers, Mrs. Asma Chraïbi, Counsellor to Mr. Mohammed Ameer, Minister responsible of the Moroccan community abroad, Mr. Peter Schatzer, Director of the Regional Bureau of the Mediterranean Region, IOM), Mr. Charles Pace (Professor, University of Malta), and Mr. James Carabott (Researcher Analyst at the Maltese Parliament) and Mrs Fifi Benamou (Council of Europe, North-South Centre, Trans-Mediterranean and Intercultural Dialogue Programme Coordinator), as well as Mr. Guigui, President of the Israelite Committee of Fez, Oujda and Sefrou, and Mr. Nouredine Bouchkouj, Secretary-General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The main issues dealt with during the course of 2008 by the Special Task Forces were the following:

- The creation and launch of a network amongst young people of the Mediterranean as well as the founding of the Mediterranean Day on 21st March every year;
- As regards gender issues and equality, the main issues concerned parity of reproductive health between men and women, economic, political and educational “responsibilisation”, monitoring of the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Territories; the decision to set up a database on equality in the PAM Member States. This database will also include statistics on the participation of women in political life and progress made in the direction of the participation of women at high decision-making levels
- The adoption of the “Fez Programme” laying down a series of cultural and educational proposals to promote inter-religious and intercultural dialogue;
- As regards migrations, the issue should be considered in tandem with the general question of development, working towards co-responsibility with North Mediterranean countries,

protection of the human rights of immigrants, and the development of a regional policy to manage a migration that takes account of sustainable development in a long term perspective.

The action plan for the 2009 Programme involves the following meetings:

- Mid- March, meetings of the Special Task Force on Gender and Equality, of the Special Task Force on Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and of the Special Task Force on Migrations in the Mediterranean in Rome.

Further suggestions for the 2009 Work Programme include setting up a reference point to ensure that gender issues are dealt with as cross-cutting issues at all levels of work carried out by the various Committees. It was also suggested that separate attention should be given to the issue of forced migration, which would also include consideration of the situation of Serbia.

Special Task Force on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures, Rapporteur, Hon. Mrs Sonia Sanfona (Portugal)

Report and draft resolution: on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures

The Rapporteur informed the members that a first draft report had been prepared with the collection of inputs of the Special Task Force in Fez, and the current version report had been made possible thanks to the comments and insights of its members, which meant that the report had been unanimously endorsed by the 3rd Standing Committee meeting in Malta in September.

The underlying philosophy of the draft report and resolution is that the right to religious freedom has to exist and to be protected, and that all cultures are unique and have the right to co-exist alongside one another. Today, conflicts are caused by a basic ignorance and lack of knowledge of one another, and it is the responsibility of PAM to address this issue. As a priority, PAM should promote furthering reciprocal awareness of culture and religious beliefs through dialogue, and education should play a primary role in contributing to achieving a better understanding of one another.

The STF proposed a number of actions to improve common understanding and bridge this gap targeting education of children, the creation of a “Mediterranean day”, summer school, etc... including programs targeting the teachers. These actions are to be implemented as a PAM commitment now known as the “Fez Programme”. The draft resolution promotes a number of actions to be taken in this direction focussing mainly on youths but also educators themselves. It was also agreed that actions should be taken to make the media more responsible.

Special Task Force on Gender and Equality, Hon. Ms Askan Asan (Turkey)

Report and draft resolution: on Gender and Equality Issues

Hon. Asan mentioned that the draft report and resolution had been amended to reflect the comments of the members and had been unanimously endorsed at the September session of the 3rd Standing Committee in Malta.

The Resolution states that gender equality is a fundamental and unalienable human right, and access to education is a fundamental pre-requisite for equality and empowerment of women. Some women

have lack of access to knowledge particularly in the south Mediterranean. Women continue to be victims of violence and armed conflict. Action needs to be taken to give women more equal representation in parliament and public life. PAM supports actions to implement policies to empower women at national level, including at decision-making levels.

Special Task Force on Migration, Rapporteur, Mrs. Vasso Papandreou (Greece)

Report and draft resolution on Migration in the Mediterranean region.

Hon. Mrs. Papandreou thanks Hon Titna Alawi (Morocco) for having deputised on her behalf at the meeting of the 3rd Standing Committee in September in Malta.

The starting point for the draft report and resolution is that migration is an issue that concerns all countries of the Mediterranean whether as countries of origin, transit or destination. Mass influx of immigrants in recent years had witnessed an increase in xenophobia and racism, and it was felt that the Member States should do more to fostering a positive image of migrants in host countries. The Media could play an important role in this respect. A regional policy is therefore required to manage migration, which should ultimately take into consideration sustainable development as the long-term key to resolving the Mediterranean's migration problems. PAM members could play an important role in fostering tolerance and respect through their respective national parliaments. Regularisation of immigrants was also seen as a priority, as this leads to a normalization of lifestyles, contributing to the tax system of the host countries, and ultimately taking steps in the direction of giving migrants a better life, which is considered as the lowest common denominator for all migrants.

Mention was also made of the belief that in future there would be a new category of migrants: the so-called "environmental refugee", and that legal instruments needed to be developed to prevent this category from being treated as illegal migrants. Finally, the multicultural society is a reality for all Mediterranean societies and education programmes need to take advantage of this unique opportunity to promote multiculturalism amongst the younger generations.

During the explanation of the migration draft report and resolution, the Palestinian delegation asked why its specific request for the document to include reference to the forced migration situation with regard to Palestine had been omitted. The Secretary-General informed the members that Hon. Titna Alawi (deputising as Rapporteur) had made a special note on the question of forced migration on a general level (point 10 of the draft resolution) and it was to be included as a priority issue for the 2009 agenda.

All the draft resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Plenary Assembly.

5. Launching of the Mediterranean Day

Hon. Mrs. Papademetriou (Greece)

Hon. Mrs. Papademetriou informed the Plenary Session that in line with a recommendation included in the PAM Strategy Paper for the period 2008-2012, the 3rd Standing Committee decided to launch the Mediterranean Day, which would fall on the 21st March of each year.

A major objective of the Mediterranean Day is to push the positive characteristics of the Mediterranean, since PAM believes that parliamentarians represent people who are fundamentally convinced that peaceful integration of cultures, of ideas and of distinct aspirations, is not only a wish, but that there also exists a concrete potential to reach it.

Stating that the Mediterranean is gaining momentum again, Hon. Papademetriou added that this meant that the populations surrounding it were becoming increasingly important actors in the development of social and geopolitical affairs at regional, Arab, European and global levels.

She then announced that the theme for the First Mediterranean Day, to be celebrated on Saturday, 21 March of 2009, will be “Shared Values - Shared Aspirations,” as it reflects the philosophy behind PAM. This first celebration will address, as the primary target, the Mediterranean youth.

Hon. Papademetriou emphasized that this will be a day dedicated to integration, to unity and to diversity, which all characterize that strong thread of our legacies from which we are to learn the lessons that will inform our forward looking ideals.

As such, she then asked and invited every national parliament to believe in this message and translate it into original initiatives at the national level. She concluded her presentation by mentioning that the PAM Secretariat would, by early 2009, consolidate the ideas put forward and define a series of proposals to share with all member states in order to give this project further strength and visibility.

The Assembly adopted the projected unanimously, so launching the Mediterranean Day.

6. Presentation of the Charter of the Mediterranean

Hon. Rudy Salles said that it had been an honour to draw up the first draft of the Charter of the Mediterranean. President Radi had wanted to enshrine the founding principles of PAM through a more inspired document than simply restating their aims in a Statute, which is why he had proposed the Charter of the Mediterranean.

Hon. Salles proposed that Hon. Radi become Honorary President of PAM. The proposal was unanimously agreed by the Assembly.

Hon. Salles proceeded to describe the drafting process and thanked the Secretariat and member countries for their contributions. At the Bureau meeting in Rabat on 7 October 2008, it had decided to structure the document as a main Charter and an Annex, thereby distinguishing the principles from its application.

Mr. Salles also stated that some minor amendments had been suggested, agreed upon and incorporated into the draft Charter as a result of the meeting of the Bureau on the previous day.

As such, the Charter first gives thought to the history of the region, leading to the formation of a common man with common values: an evolutionary process leading to unity through diversity. It also highlights the continuous economic exchanges, political dialogue and social interaction, based around this shared heritage and unity of values. At the same time, however, it concedes that this unity has been eclipsed in recent times by a climate of tension, in particular in the Middle East, let alone the growing development gap between North and South, demographic pressures and

economic migration, and divisions based on religious and cultural prejudice, which needed to be addressed.

As an organisation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean sets itself the goal to take on these challenges to give new life to the Mediterranean heritage. The Charter therefore embodies the fundamental precept that any action taken by PAM will be based on democracy, subscribing to the values of the Charter of the United Nations, the IPU “Universal Declaration of Democracy”, as well as pledging its support for the IPU Declaration on the “criteria for free and fair elections”.

In its international relations, PAM respects and supports the following principles:

- Peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts;
- Respect for State sovereignty and the adoption of the “responsibility to protect and support” defined by Resolution 1674 of the United Nations Security Council;
- Support disarmament and non-proliferation treaties in the region, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- Universal condemnation of all forms of terrorism;
- Condemnation of all forms of occupation;
- Support for the peace process implemented in the region, in particular in the Middle East, where the objective is to achieve, on the basis of the principal resolutions of the Security Council, a fair and durable settlement to the conflict, through the establishment of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side with certain and mutually recognised boundaries;
- Adherence to the principles of the Carthage Charter of Tolerance in the Mediterranean, and support for initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations aiming to further mutual understanding and promote peaceful and constructive dialogue among cultures and religions.

The Annex to the Charter adopts a more pragmatic approach, which is equally important, and considered as a substantive part of the Charter itself. It spells out the goals and means of the Assembly. As such, PAM is the only parliamentary forum representing all the Mediterranean countries on an equal footing. Another aim of PAM is to make the Mediterranean an area of peace, understanding and prosperity. The document also focuses on equality between all members of PAM. Furthermore, the annexe states the scope of action of PAM.

In conclusion, Hon. Salles said that the Charter of the Mediterranean states the region’s heritage, its identity and where the region is heading.

Debate of the Plenary on the Charter of the Mediterranean

The Jordanian delegation commended Hon. Salles on his achievement for having drafted such an inspired and edifying text. However, he had a semantic question concerning the reference to the “three religions of the Book” or “Biblical religions” which had led to ambiguity in the translation of the draft Charter into Arabic. It was suggested that references to Biblical religions, the Book, and Koranic or Islamic religions should be changed to the “three monotheistic religions”, which was agreed upon by all the members.

Further, the Jordanian and Syrian delegations raised the issue of how to define and refer to the situation in the Middle East. The French translations referred to the “Near East”, but in English it is

common place to refer to the conflict in the Middle East. Moreover, it was questioned whether the conflict to be defined as the “Israeli-Palestine” question or “Israeli-Arab” question, especially as the Golan Heights and the territories in Lebanon (Sheba farms) are still occupied. It was agreed that the text should refer to the conflict in the Middle East, and avoid specific reference to Israel-Palestine/Arab issues.

The Lebanese delegation also asked for the draft to ask for the immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. It was argued and agreed, however, that this text should reflect the general aims of the member States, and remain on a general level which would make the text itself timeless. In this respect, Hon. Rudy Salles added that all the members were only too aware of the specific problems in the Middle East, and taking on the problems specific conflicts was the task of the Committees.

The Serbian delegation pointed out a mistake regarding a date in the draft Charter referring to the division of the Roman Empire, which was duly corrected.

President Radi proposed the draft Charter for its adoption by the members, and it was unanimously agreed to adopt the text of the “Charter of the Mediterranean”, the political manifesto of the PAM.

7. PAM 2009 Work Programme

The Secretary-General welcomed the interest shown by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in collaborating with PAM, which was important for PAM visibility and developing its role as an actor in the fields of parliamentary cooperation and inter-parliamentary diplomacy. In particular, two Parliamentary Assembly Committees (Migration and Environment) will hold meetings with PAM in 2009. At its 3rd Summit in Warsaw in 2005, the Council of Europe states its commitment to creating a new dialogue with the Mediterranean.

In 2009, the meetings of the three Standing Committees, their respective Special Task Forces and *Ad Hoc* Committees, will take place outside Malta. Stated briefly, there will be a Reflection Group on Terrorism in Turkey at the end of January; in February, there will be STF meeting on Climate Change and Disaster Management, as well as Gender and Equality; in March focus shifts to the dialogue of cultures/religions and migration in the Mediterranean, with meetings planned in Rome, and on 21st March, PAM will celebrate the first Mediterranean Day; at the beginning of April, a meeting is planned in Egypt for the STFs on Energy and Organised Crime; in May, a PAM delegation will make its visit to the Middle East concluding with a meeting in Amman (Jordan); at the end of June, the Standing Committees will meet at Lisbon in Portugal.

Moreover, thanks to the generous hospitality of Turkey, PAM will hold its 4th Plenary Session in Istanbul in November 2009.

President Radi called for further offers to host future Plenary Sessions, and the Italian delegation offered to host the 2010 Assembly in Palermo, and Morocco proposed its candidacy for 2011.

8. Membership of PAM

President Radi proposed that the members accept Romania’s candidacy under the Associate Member status of PAM, noting that it had previously been an observer member of the CSCM process

There had also been three requests for Observer Status: from the Parliamentary Union of the Islamic Conference (PUIC), Fondazione Mediterraneo and the MEDREG (the Mediterranean Working Group on Electricity and Natural Gas).

The members unanimously agreed to the applications for associate membership and observer status, respectively.

Saturday, 15th November 2008 - Morning session and conclusion of the 3rd Plenary Session

Hon. Jesmond Mugliett, Malta, "PAM, Closer to our citizens"

The Hon. Jesmond Mugliett gave a presentation on behalf of the Maltese delegation on how PAM could be more directly involved with the citizens of the Mediterranean. He noted that democracy is more participative and the people of the Mediterranean increasingly request empowerment. He suggested that three guiding principles should bind PAM and its members in their actions: openness, transparency and accessibility.

In order to ensure greater visibility, he argued that PAM should be more open and actively encourage the participation of the Mediterranean press. He noted that the PAM website received on average 15,000 hits per month, and that there had been a total of 200,000 visitors to the website. Other forms of communication were also important: email, letters and e-newsletters, DVDs, etc.

It was important, however, to focus on youths to involve them in the future of the Mediterranean. Hon. Mugliett stated that whilst it was imperative to increase visibility of PAM, involvement of its citizens also required actions. In this respect, he suggested holding public hearings, encouraging members of the public to attend for example meetings of the PAM committees. They could be directly involved in the preparation of reports and resolutions, and there should be a forum where the public can address its grievances to PAM. The Secretariat invites NGOs to our meetings, which is a good practice, but PAM could also think of holding PAM-NGO assemblies, and there should be even more involvement with academic institutions and networks; finally, he asked the members to submit their suggestions to PAM.

The suggestions were welcomed by the Assembly.

9. Election of the President

Hon. Fabrice Notari, President of the Monegasque delegation, informed the members that President Radi's term of office has come to close and proposed Hon. Rudy Salles (France) as the future President of PAM for the biennium 2009-2010.

The proposal was unanimously accepted by the members and Mr Salles was elected by acclamation.

Newly-elected President of PAM, Hon. Rudy Salles

The newly-elected President, Rudy Salles, extended his thanks to his colleagues and friends for his election, the Monegasque parliament for its warm reception, Prince Albert II of Monaco for his visit, outgoing President Radi, whom he congratulated as a founder member of CSCM process in 1992 (long before the Euromed Parliament was established in Barcelona) and for his pivotal role in setting up PAM.

He referred to the key historical dates in the process leading to the establishment of PAM: the decision to transform the CSCM into PAM at the 86th Assembly of the IPU in Santiago, Chile; the long negotiation process until 2005 in Napflion, when the PAM Statute were adopted, and 2006 in Amman, Jordan, where the Inaugural Plenary Session was held and President Radi elected, and then

Malta in 2007, where the PAM Secretariat was established and inaugurated and the 2nd Plenary Session (and first working session) of PAM was convened.

President Salles then stated his aims for the Assembly in his two year office, which included, namely, that Spain comes back to join the Assembly (Spain, formerly member of the CSCM, took part in all PAM preparatory work) and that of bringing Israel to actively participate in PAM discussions, as it is a member. We want all members to be active in a spirit of dialogue.

A further issue, which needs urgent attention, is the subject of relationship with the EU and the Euromed Parliament Assembly (EMPA). PAM's role is not to compete with Euromed but the two institutions are complementary. PAM represents the whole of the Mediterranean peoples, and needs to develop a trusting dialogue with respect and create synergies with Euromed. Hon. Rudy Salles noted that several members of the delegations attending PAM were also members of Euromed and they should seek to obtain the help of their respective national governments and parliaments to support both processes.

Moreover, Rudy Salles spoke of the importance of PAM achieving concrete results if PAM is to gain respect to and acknowledgment as an international organisation.

Finance is also a poignant issue for PAM, and is essential to its effective and professional execution of duties. Due to non-payment there was a 20% shortfall in the PAM budget in November 2008.

President Salles also extended his thanks to the outgoing members of the Bureau for the contribution during President Radi's two year term of office.

President Radi also congratulated Hon. Rudy Salles on his election and on the trust that had been placed in him, reminding the members that President Salles had also been a key player in the founding stages and drafting process. The choice was an extremely judicious choice and he felt enthusiastic about the future of PAM.

10. Election of the Bureau and Standing Committee Presidents and Vice Presidents

Representing the North delegations, Hon. Elsa Papademetriou announced the names of the new Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Standing Committees, respectively:

From the North grouping:

Bureau: Vice Presidents, Francesco Amoruso (Italy), Elsa Papademetriou (Greece)

President 1st Standing Committee: José Junqueiro (Portugal)

Vice President 2nd Standing Committee: Jesmond Millet (Malta)

Vice President 3rd Standing Committee: Askin Asan (Turkey)

Representing the South delegations, Hon. Taysir Quba, announced the new members of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Standing Committees, respectively:

From the South grouping:

Bureau: Vice Presidents Tayseer Quba'a (Palestine), Name to be confirmed (Algeria)

President 2nd Standing Committee: Suleiman Ghneimat (Jordan) (name may change)

President 3rd Standing Committee: Titna Alaoui (Morocco)

Vice President 1st Standing Committee: Chamel Mouzaya (Lebanon)

The Assembly congratulated the incoming Bureau members.

11. Financial Report

Secretary-General

Dr. Piazzzi was grateful for the commitment of the members' delegations to meeting their budgetary obligations. As Secretary-General, it was his responsibility to inform the Assembly of the financial situation. At the end of October, he had sent a note to all delegations asking for their assistance, not to increase the budget as it is sufficient, but to ensure that members pay their contributions in time. Due to the fact that three members, including one major contributor, had failed to pay in full their contributions during the last two years (2007, 2008), at 24th October 2008, the unpaid amount stood at Euro 89,000 (equivalent to 20% of the annual budget). The annual budget stands at Euros 480,000 (which will remain the same for 2009), and it also foresees the setting up of a reserve which will eventually total Euro 100,000. Due to non-payment of these Member States, the reserve budget had been totally used to bridge the emergency.

Dr. Piazzzi proposed that budget payments should be made within February of each financial year.

In 2008, the budget was spent in three areas, as follows:

Staff	Euros 300,000
Services	Euros 103,500
Operational costs	Euros 125,000

Staff

Due to the budget crisis, although there are enough resources to pay staff, only short-term temporary contracts could be offered, employment contracts are subject to availability of funds and can be cancelled at any time. This makes it difficult to attract and retain professional competent staff.

Services

Spending on services was higher than expected, due to the organisation of the Standing Committee meetings in February and in September, with the additional costs of conference facilities and interpreters, which were a considerable burden on the available resources. In future, PAM cannot afford such high expenses, and the Secretary-General indicated that hosting meetings and relative costs would have to be met by the member countries as duly agreed by the Bureau.

Operational costs

These related mainly to upgrading and maintenance of IT systems, telephone and photocopying, maintenance of equipment and the costs of auditing accounts. Very special thanks should be extended to Malta this year, which spent more than double on further restructuring the Palazzo Spinola this year.

Dr. Piazzzi stated that the 2009 budget was the same as for 2008, but that 2008 had really been the first operative year of PAM's functioning so there were no real parameters to use as a yardstick for spending. Additional spending for 2009 will be made in relation to the PAM delegation visit to the Middle East, which the Assembly aims to support, and some additional costs to promote the visibility of our activities and to enable PAM to secure a more solid financial position over the next 3-4 years.

Conclusions

Referring to lessons learnt from the first year of operations, the Secretary-General stressed the need to make early payments of budget commitments (end of February). There can be no flexibility in this sense. The Secretariat has to be able to rely on the availability of 6-months funding at any given time.

If needed the budgetary deficit is not closed in 2009, then in 2010 PAM should consider together how the gap can be filled.

12. General

President Radi made two further proposals:

1st proposal

He suggested that PAM become a member of “Maison des Alliances”. The arguments in favour of this proposal presented by Fondazione Mediterraneo have been set out in writing and made available for the members at the Plenary. This program has been set to create alliances and ensure complementarity of action between parliamentary assemblies and other regional and international institutions. Membership to this forum would be important for consolidating the standing of PAM at an international level.

The members supported his proposal.

2nd proposal

The second proposal concerned Hon. Abou el Enein of Egypt. The President suggested that Hon. Enein should be appointed as “Roving Ambassador for PAM”, given his very high profile in Egypt, his many contacts in the Arab world, but above all in acknowledgment of his devotion and contribution to the cause of PAM.

This suggestion was unanimously endorsed by the members.

Hon Quba suggested that the Roving Ambassador should attend the meetings of the Bureau (but without voting rights). This was approved by the members.

Mediterranean Prize

President Radi informed the members that the Mediterranean Prize has been awarded to conductor: Philip Bender from France.

Prize-giving

Under this agenda item, the Secretary-General proceeded to award mementos to the members of PAM who had distinguished themselves during the course of 2008 for the contribution to the work of PAM.

Gifts were awarded to President Radi for his devotion to the PAM cause in securing the transition from the CSCM process to laying the first foundation stones of PAM, as well as for his commitment and continuous work over the past two years.

Plaques were also awarded to members of the outgoing Bureau: Hon Quba, Hon. Rudy Salles, Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat and to Hon. Saporito.

Further mementos were awarded to the members for their contribution to the work of the respective standing committees: Hon. José Junqueiro (2nd standing committee); Hon. Salah Toma (vice president 3rd standing committee); Hon. Mrs Askin Asan (1st standing committee); Hon. Mrs Krigno Kanellopoulou (deputising for Vassiliki Papandreou)

Further commendations for their contribution/commitment to PAM went to: Hon. Mrs Sonia Sanfona; Hon. Mrs Bizid Bleich; Hon. George Vella, Hon. Titna Alawi, and Mr. Najib El Khadi (President Radi's cabinet)

Concluding remarks

President Radi closed the 3rd Plenary Session reiterating his warmest thanks on behalf of PAM to His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II, the Government of Monaco, the National Council of Monaco, as well as the Monaco delegation to PAM, and the citizens of Monaco.

He reminded the Assembly that it had adopted the Charter of the Mediterranean, launched the Mediterranean Day, on 21st March of every year, and elected a new President, Rudy Salles, and Bureau.

He also thanked the Secretary-General and his team for their selfless collaboration.

President Radi extended his thanks to Turkey, Italy and Morocco for their offers to host the future PAM plenary sessions.

He concluded stating: “My main concern for the future of the Mediterranean is that peace will reign throughout. I am confident for the future of the Mediterranean and for the future of the Assembly and the leadership of Rudy Salles.”

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3rd Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)

Monaco, 13-15 November 2008

Conclusions

1. Welcome speeches

The Plenary Session heard the distinguished welcome messages (in chronological order) from Hon. Stéphane Valeri, the President of the National Council of Monaco, Mr. Ban-Ki Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Hon. A. Radi, President of PAM and His Serene Highness Albert II, the Sovereign Prince of Monaco.

2. Inaugural Addresses

The Hon. Niko Lozancic, Speaker, House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, gave an inaugural address to the Plenary Session on behalf of the delegation from Bosnia Herzegovina vowing its commitment to the principles democracy and the goals of PAM.

Mr Alexander Dzasohov (Vice President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)) informed the Plenary Session of the aims of PABSEC and their interest in collaborating with PAM in furthering dialogue in the Mediterranean region.

3. Guest speakers' addresses

Mr. Maxwell Gaylard (Deputy Special Coordinator, UN Special Coordinator Office for the Middle East Peace Process –UNSCO) addressed the Plenary on the commitment of the UN to bringing about peace to the Middle East.

Professor Carlo Rubbia, Nobel Prize Laureate - European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) addressed the Plenary on alternative and sustainable energy.

4. Reports of the First Standing Committee and adoption of Resolutions

The Presidents of the three Standing Committees addressed the Assembly on the work achieved by their respective Committees, and the work programme for 2009, before handing the floor to the Rapporteurs their Committees, who presented their reports and draft resolutions for adoption by the Plenary.

First Standing Committee, President, Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat (Jordan)

The 2009 Calendar of Events for the 1st Standing Committee includes the following key dates:

- Early 2009 Reflection group on Terrorism to meet in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Early April – Special Task Force on Organised Crime and
- Special Task Force on Energy, hosted by the Egyptian Parliament. In 2009, Energy will be handed over the 2nd Standing Committee for them to look into the economic aspect of this very important matter.
- A key activity for the entire PAM will take place in mid May when we intend to organise a Visit to the Middle East followed by a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Middle East. Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine have already welcomed the visit and indicated their readiness to facilitate it. The United Nations have will make every effort to get the Knesset to join and facilitate the implementation of this visit.
- At end of June this Committee will join the rest of the Standing Committees in Portugal.

1) Special Task Force on Energy, Rapporteur, Hon. Abou El Enein

Hon. Abou El Enein's *Report and draft resolution: on the Energy-securing strategy in the Mediterranean* were unanimously adopted by the Plenary.

2) Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East, Rapporteur, Hon. George Vella (Malta)

Hon. George Vella's *Report and draft resolution: on the work of the Ad hoc Committee on the Middle East in 2008* were unanimously adopted.

Second Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation, President, Hon. Mrs Dubravka Suica (Croatia)

The 2009 action programme for the 2nd Standing Committee has identified the following key dates:

- At the end of January 2009, the Task Force on Environment and Climate Change with the participation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (probably to be held in Cyprus);
- At the same date, the first meeting of the Special Task Force on the Management of Disasters (probably to be held in Cyprus);
- Mid-February, the Special Task Force on Trade in the Mediterranean with new topics: Maritime Transport and/or Small and Medium Enterprises (probably held in Slovenia).

1) Special Task Force on Environment and Climate Change, Rapporteur, Hon. Mrs. Elsa Papademetriou (Greece),

Hon. Mrs. Elsa Papademetriou's *Report and draft resolution: on the Environment and Climate Change* were unanimously adopted.

It was agreed that the PAM definition of "environmental refugees" would circulate at the EU, UN organisations, urging them to recognize their international legal status.

2) Special Task Force on Integrated management of Resources, Rapporteur, Hon. Mrs. Paulette Brisepierre (France)

Hon. Mrs Paulette Brisepierre's *Report and draft resolution: on Integrated Management of Resources (Water)* were unanimously adopted.

3) Special Task Force on Free Trade, Rapporteur, Hon. Milan Cvikl (Slovenia),

Hon. Milan Cvikl's *Report and draft resolution on: Free Trade in the Mediterranean* were unanimously adopted.

Third Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights, Hon. Francesco Amoruso (Italy)

The 2009 action plan for the 3rd Standing Committee includes the following meetings:

- Mid-March meetings of the Special Task Force on Gender and Equality of the Special Task Force on Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and of the Special Task Force on Migrations in Rome.

1. Special Task Force on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures, Rapporteur, Hon. Mrs Sonia Sanfona (Portugal)

Hon. Mrs. Sonia Sanfona's *Report and draft resolution: on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures* were unanimously adopted.

2. Special Task Force on Gender and Equality, Hon. Ms Askan Asan (Turkey)

Hon. Mrs Askan Asan's *Report and draft resolution: on Gender and Equality Issues* was unanimously adopted.

3. Special Task Force on Migration, Rapporteur, Mrs. Vassiliki Papandreou (Greece)

Hon. Mrs Vassiliki Papandreou's *Report and draft resolution: on Migration* were unanimously adopted.

5. Launching of the Mediterranean Day

The members of the Plenary Session agreed that March 21st of every year will be Mediterranean Day. Accordingly, the first celebration of Mediterranean Day on Saturday, 21st March 2009 will take the theme "Shared values and shared aspirations".

6. Presentation of the Charter of the Mediterranean

Hon. Rudy Salles presented the draft of the Charter of the Mediterranean, which had been inspired by the vision of President Radi. Some minor amendments had been suggested, agreed upon and incorporated into the draft Charter as a result of the meeting of the Bureau on the previous day. The members attending the Plenary debated and agreed to those amendments.

The Charter of the Mediterranean was unanimously adopted.

It was also proposed and agreed that President Radi would become the Honorary President of PAM.

7. 2009 Work Programme

In 2009, the meetings of the three Standing Committees, their respective Special Task Forces and *Ad Hoc* Committees, will take place outside Malta. Stated briefly, there will be a think tank on terrorism in Turkey at the end of January; in February, there will be STF meeting on climate change and disaster management, (probably in Cyprus); in March focus shifts to the dialogue of cultures/religions and migration in the Mediterranean, with meetings planned in Rome, together with a meeting of the STF on gender and equality and on 21st March, PAM will celebrate the first Mediterranean Day; at the end of April, a meeting is planned in Egypt for the STFs on energy and organised crime; in May, the PAM delegation will make its visit to the Middle East concluding with a meeting in Amman (Jordan); at the end of June, the Standing Committees will meet at Lisbon in Portugal.

Turkey will hold the 4th Plenary Session of PAM in Istanbul in November 2009. Furthermore, Italy offered to host the 2010 Plenary Session and Morocco proposed its candidacy for 2011 Plenary Session.

8. Membership of PAM

Romania was accepted as Associate Member of PAM.

Observer Status was granted to: the Parliamentary Union of the Islamic Conference (PUIC) the Mediterranean Foundation and the MEDREG (the Mediterranean Working Group on Electricity and Natural Gas).

Hon. Jesmond Mugliett, Malta, addressed the Plenary Session on the subject of "PAM, Closer to our citizens" suggesting how PAM could become more visible and be more involved directly with the peoples of the Mediterranean

9. Election of the President

Hon. Fabrice Notari (President of the Monegasque delegation) proposed Hon. Rudy Salles (France) as the future President of PAM.

The proposal was unanimously accepted by the members.

The newly-elected President. Rudy Salles addressed the Assembly, thanking the members for their support, and spoke about the history and future of PAM. President Radi congratulated Rudy Salles on his election.

10. Election of the Bureau and Standing Committee Presidents and Vice Presidents

The following members were elected:

From the North grouping:

Bureau: Vice Presidents, Francesco Amoruso (Italy), Elsa Papademetriou (Greece)

President 1st Standing Committee: José Junqueiro (Portugal)

Vice President 2nd Standing Committee: Jesmond Mugliett (Malta)

Vice President 3rd Standing Committee: Askin Asan (Turkey)

From the South grouping:

Bureau: Vice Presidents Quba (Palestine), Algeria (name to be given)

President 2nd Standing Committee: Suleiman Ghneimat (Jordan) (name may change)

President 3rd Standing Committee: Titna Alaoui (Morocco)

Vice President 1st Standing Committee: Chamel Mouzaya (Lebanon)

11. Financial Report

The Secretary-General stated that agreed funding was sufficient to manage the current activities of PAM, but that it was essential for membership contributions to be made in a timely manner. Due to non-payment of membership fees by two Member States, 20% of the annual budget was now lacking (Euros 85,000).

He recalled that budget payments should be made within February of each financial year.

12. General

1) President Radi proposed PAM applied to become a member of “Maison des Alliances” to consolidate its international standing, which the members agreed to.

2) President Radi proposed that Hon. Abou el Enein should be appointed as “Roving Ambassador for PAM”, which was unanimously endorsed by the members.

Hon Quba also suggested that the Roving Ambassador should attend the meetings of the Bureau, but without voting rights, which was also approved by the members.

PAM Mediterranean Prize

President Radi informed the members that the Mediterranean Prize 2008 has been awarded to conductor: Philip Bender of France.

Special Prizes were also awarded to President Radi, the outgoing members of the Bureau, the Presidents of the three Standing Committees, and the Rapporteurs for their contributions and commitment to PAM during the biennium 2007-2008.