



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

2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation
“Activities of the PAM Panel on External Trade
and Investments in the Mediterranean”

Rapporteur: Hon. Mohammad Zureiqat (Jordan)

Resolution unanimously adopted on 13 October 2012, during the 7th Plenary Session, Malta

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *convinced* that economic growth is fundamental to achieve social peace and political stability in the Mediterranean region;
- b) *underlining* the importance of economic integration in order to stimulate investments and generate employment;
- c) *underlining* the need of economic support to the Southern Mediterranean countries, especially the ones which experienced the Arab Spring;
- d) *highlighting* the numerous trade barriers still in place notwithstanding the targets of the Barcelona Process to establish a Free Trade Area;
- e) *considering* the Energy Sector as critical for economic development and stability of the region, and *convinced* that PAM has to play a key role in the Energy Sector, in close cooperation with MEDREG and other regional actors;
- f) *having regard* to the agreed conclusions of the First Meeting of the Energy Group of the PAM Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean (“Mediterranean Energy Highways”), held in Naples, Italy, on 17 November 2011;
- g) *underlining* the scarcity of water resources in the region, and the importance of sound water management practices, including non-conventional water systems management;
- h) *welcoming* the decision of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to operate in the region, through the financing of projects in 4 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, under the auspices of PAM;
- i) *having regard* to the conclusions of the 10th FEMIP Conference (Tunis, 8 March 2012), to which PAM contributed;
- j) *welcoming* the establishment of a fruitful cooperation process with FAO and PACE on the key issue of Food Security in the region;
- k) *recalling* that all Trade and Investment Agencies of PAM member countries are *de facto* members of the Panel, alongside the national parliaments of PAM, and that the Panel is a unique forum for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in the sector of regional economic cooperation;

- I. **Remains** committed to further support all initiatives focusing on economic growth and integration, through the realization of a Mediterranean Free Trade Area.
- II. **Reiterates** its call to all national parliaments to study the adoption of specific legislation in order to boost the SMEs' ability to generate employment;
- III. **Stresses** the need for new concerted agricultural and food policies in the North and South of the Mediterranean;
- IV. **Invites** all National Parliaments to work together and adopt quality and health standards, regionally recognized and targeted for identified food producers;
- V. **Calls** on all the Member States to consider the issue of food security as a key element to achieve stability in the Mediterranean area and to take all the actions, at the legislative and executive levels, needed to ensure long-term food security;
- VI. **Calls** all Mediterranean States to adopt the necessary measures to implement the agricultural hydraulic programs already launched throughout the region and to revise the internal water management procedures and strategies;
- VII. **Reiterates** its commitment to strengthen the fruitful relations with the EBRD and to continuing working in close cooperation with the UN, particularly the UNECE, and the other major economic and financial institutions;
- VIII. **Reaffirms** its commitment to actively contribute to the Euro-Med discussion on economy, finance and trade at the working group level;
- IX. **Calls** all member Parliaments to seek the active involvement of all relevant national economic and financial actors, such as Trade and Investment Promotion Agencies, banking institutions, Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations in the PAM Panel;
- X. **Notes** with satisfaction the results achieved by its Panel, which has proven to be an effective instrument to address current economic, financial and social challenges, and to provide political and technical guidance for long term solutions, and **request** it to continue working in cooperation with all relevant actors, namely in association with the UN Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. In this regard, more cooperation with UNECE is requested in view of the second High-level meeting to be held in Geneva in 2013.