



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

**1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee on Political and security-related Cooperation**

Special Task Force on Organized Crime

**"Dumping of toxic and radioactive waste and Human Trafficking  
in the Mediterranean"**

**Rapporteur: Hon. Angela Napoli (Italy)**

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during the V<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session, Rabat*

1. Globalisation is a source of progress, it encourages the interdependence between States and the opening of borders, but it also has a negative side, that of facilitating trans-national organized crime, particularly drugs, arms and toxic waste trafficking, human trafficking, international terrorism and money-laundering.
2. While recognising the challenges faced by International Organisations, Governments and Parliaments of the Mediterranean states, which are meeting here today as PAM members (as well as the challenges faced by the police forces and the justice authorities), in dealing with the constant evolution of the means which the trans-national criminal organizations use (such as internet, GPS systems and other technologies of geographical information), it is necessary to look into additional legislative measures that could be adopted, beyond and above existing national and international legal instruments.
3. Among the number of illegal activities carried out by Organized Crime, today I would like to examine two of them specifically: the illegal disposal of waste (toxic and radioactive ones included), which are a source of pollution in our beautiful Mediterranean, and human trafficking.
4. According to some Italian and Greek newspaper articles dated October and November 2009, as well as to communications and studies carried out by WWF Italy (the Organization for the preservation of the environment) and Legambiente (the Italian Organization for the protection of the environment), and to statements made by police informants, several suspect individuals belonging to the Organization of the Calabria Region (known as 'ndrangheta) were identified for the sinking of some more than 30 ships carrying toxic and nuclear waste away from

the coasts; the potential devastating impact of such an illegal practice on the health of Italian, Greek and all Mediterranean citizens are easy to predict.

5. International treaties on the marine environment, as well as European environmental legislation, forbid the dumping of toxic and nuclear waste, and require that the transportation and disposal of this kind of waste must take place under strict control in the framework of protocol.

6. The Barcelona Convention does not allow the dumping of radioactive waste of any kind in the Mediterranean Sea. The sinking in the Mediterranean Sea of the above mentioned 30 ships by the Calabrese organized crime, carrying toxic and radioactive waste, seems to have happened with the consent and/or the help of national politicians, and seems to have been carried out in order to avoid stern procedures on the disposal of dangerous waste; it also seems to be related to the trafficking run by mafia groups operating at European level.

7. Investigations carried out by the Italian Government, by the Calabrese Government and the justice authorities, garnered incomplete and contrasting results, without having managed to identify the responsibilities of the various actors on the matter. The fact that, so far, no other Mediterranean State has been implicated is, in my opinion, also questionable.

8. Italian state television journalist, Ilaria Alpi, was killed in Mogadishu in 1994, together with cameraman Miran Hrovatin, while investigating on arms and illegal toxic waste trafficking.

9. Since illegal activities linked to waste disposal (including toxic and radioactive wastes) seem to be very lucrative for the various organised crime groups, and that they seem to be carried out in a regular manner, it would be advisable, for the Mediterranean countries, to become aware of the danger of this trafficking, as well as to define a cooperative action among the same countries, both in the operative and justice area.

10. It is equally important to underline in the context of this report, that the vast majority of piracy acts carried out at sea call for ransoms for the pirates to free the ships, its crew and its load. This practice is condemnable but the payment of such a ransom should equally be as it encourages the perpetuation of the criminal practice and the reinforcement of the criminal groups which commits such acts of piracy. This condemnation is valid for all other criminal activities for which a ransom is requested.

11. Generally speaking, it is desirable to reinforce the capacities of the States to fight against organized crime so that the official authorities cannot be marked to accept such practices tacitly, and even seen to support them.

12. The trafficking of human beings - and its unacceptable and serious violations of fundamental rights - is fully in the perimeter of these threats, and should be taken into account, as testifies to it the large number of decisions on the subject by many international organisations including the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

13. Human trafficking has, in fact, clear global characteristics in its dynamics, in the articulation of the exploitation network, the financial circuit, and its interconnecting with other criminal groups conducting illegal activities in other fields.

14. Human Trafficking supports an illegal market that provides criminal organisations with billions of dollars per year, an amount which is only inferior to drug and arms trafficking. Forced migration and the subsequent step towards slavery could represent, in some sensitive areas of the planet, also a form of transfer of the threat in the territories of those states that should be targeted.

15. The economic weakness of some countries, the critical social condition of the most vulnerable, the huge profits for traffickers and, ultimately, the low risks of handing down heavy sentences to the exploiters, represent an element of weakness in the international sphere, thereby increasing the level of the criminal activities and strengthening the networks that control this trafficking. The extreme capacity of adaptation of organised crime at an international level, is continuously evolving, and the dynamics in the establishment of contacts between criminal groups make trafficking a phenomenon that requires, equal capacity from the states to adapt to the extra-territorial context and, the need to promote forms of collaboration with the justice, police and secret services authorities of other countries in order to prevent and effectively fight a phenomenon which is deeply of a trans-national nature.

16. Unfortunately, human trafficking is increasing everywhere: all countries are affected be they countries of origin, transit or destination. Human trafficking should be considered as a specific and significant sub-system of a much greater phenomenon which is illegal immigration. This phenomenon is receiving an increasing interest and maximum attention from a number of authorities responsible - at national and international level – for security which will lead to enhanced prevention and repression strategies. It is therefore necessary to constantly monitor the evolution of this phenomenon, in order to implement in a timely manner the most appropriate measures to fight it in an efficient manner.

17. Policies of the countries aiming at confronting and combating human trafficking and especially children trafficking, should focus on countries of origin, transit and destination of the victims, targeting traffickers and intermediaries. Special importance should be given to public awareness through information campaigns in the countries of origin of the victims, explaining the dangers resulting from these crimes.

18. Furthermore, one hopes to have in place a concrete international collaboration framework that would allow a timely intervention in the countries of origin, transit and destination of the human trafficking flows. This is required to improve on the professional training of those who are responsible to prevent and fight organised crime in general and are called upon, in particular, to deal with trafficking. It is advisable to organize common refresher courses for the staff in charge in each country. It is also required to introduce legislative measures in the different

countries on the various crimes of corruption, dissimulation, holding, falsification of ID and travel documents, which are conducive to the execution and facilitation of crimes connected to the trafficking of persons.

19. Lastly, on 1st April 2010, in Bangkok, during the 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, where I had the honour and pleasure to represent PAM, a resolution on “Cooperation and shared responsibility in the global fight against organised crime, with particular reference to the trafficking of drugs, illegal sale of armaments, trafficking of human beings and trans-border terrorism” was approved. In this resolution, all forms of cooperation and law harmonization related to human trafficking, as well as the monitoring of the fight against this phenomenon, were stressed. It would be appropriate, but I leave this decision to PAM, that our Assembly promotes such a monitoring process among all the countries of the Mediterranean littoral.