



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

**2nd Standing Committee on Economic,
Social and Environmental Cooperation**

Special Task Force on Environment and Climate Change

"Addressing Environmental Challenges Facing the Mediterranean"

Rapporteur: Hon. Dubravka Šuica (Croatia)

***Resolution unanimously adopted on 30 October 2010,
during the Vth Plenary Session, Rabat***

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

- ***Stressing*** that the Mediterranean region is, today, faced with specific environmental challenges ranging from desertification to sea-level rises, salination of soft water and the degradation of the Mediterranean coastal areas and eco-system;
- ***Underlining*** the stress caused by unsustainable industrial/tourism policies on the eco-system and the global environment of the PAM countries ;
- ***Stressing*** the high cost of environmental degradation in relation to GDP but underlines the even greater costs to economies if no action is taken to address the impact of climate change;
- ***Concerned*** with the impact that Climate Change will have on the poorest segments of the populations living in Mediterranean countries;
- ***Concerned*** with the potentially important migration of people due to environmental issues;
- ***Having regard*** to the fact that 2010 has been declared "International Year for Biodiversity" by the United nations;
- ***Having regard to*** PAM report and resolution "On the road to Copenhagen" adopted at PAM's IVth Plenary Session in Istanbul in October 2009;
- ***Having noted*** the concerns expressed during the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day held in Rabat (Morocco), in April 2010, in particular on Water management issues;
- ***Having regard*** to the EU Environmental Strategy, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development of UNEP/MAP, the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Programme of the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the environmental objectives of the Union for the Mediterranean, the environment strategy for the Middle East and North African Region and the thematic work programme of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development
- ***Having regard*** in particular to the 2009 UNEP/MAP report on the State of the Environment and Development in Mediterranean;
- ***Convinced*** of the need to conclude with a successor Treaty to the Kyoto Protocol;

- **Recalling** the “Malta Declaration of the Commitment by Parliamentarians to COP 15 and Beyond” unanimously adopted on 24 November in Malta, as the outcome of an International roundtable on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation jointly organized by PAM and the UN ISDR, and which was delivered at COP 15 by PAM;
 - **Seriously concerned** with the lack of agreement at the Copenhagen Summit in December 2009,
1. **Urges** Heads of States and Governments to work towards a successful outcome of COP 16 to be held in Cancun, Mexico in November 2010 and requests the Assembly to send a representative to the event,
 2. **Reaffirms** its willingness to work, alongside governments and civil society to ensure that the specific challenges facing the Mediterranean region are taken into consideration, that the voices of the citizens of the region are properly heard and their concerns properly addressed,
 3. **Reaffirms** its willingness to work together with the IPU and other regional parliamentary assemblies (as it did during International roundtable on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation hosted by PAM in Malta on 23-24 November 2009) to provide citizens of the world yet another channel to voice their concerns,
 4. **Supports** the transition to low-carbon economies, especially in times of global recession,
 5. **Calls** for increased technical cooperation between Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries in sustainable environment programs including desertification prevention projects,
 6. **Calls** for rational management of water by urging Governments to encourage the use of modern techniques for water-saving irrigation, and encouraging the exchange of experience and expertise in this area,
 7. **Reiterates** its call for the recognition of the status of “environmental refugee” in international law,
 8. **Endorses** the workprogramme presented in the annexed report “Addressing Environmental Challenges Facing the Mediterranean”,
 9. **Is committed** to continue to work together with all the actors involved in the region such as the WMO, the UNEP/MAP and its programmes including the Blue Plan and the REMPEC, as well as to strengthen its relations with the Union of the Mediterranean and the Marseilles Centre for Integration in the Mediterranean, in addressing the specific challenges facing the Mediterranean region.