



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 Rapporteur on Water: Hon. Jacques Blanc (France)

***Resolution adopted on 29 October 2010,
during the Vth Plenary Session, Rabat***

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

- a) ***Noting*** that the issue of water is a major concern whose relevance grows in the minds of both leaders and people living in countries of the Mediterranean;
- b) ***Recalling*** the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000, which aim, in particular in the 10th target of the 7th Objective, at reducing by half the percentage of population which does not have sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation services by 2015;
- c) ***Considering*** that the challenge to offer access to quality water for all should guide public policies of each and every one of its members;
- d) ***Welcoming*** the recent initiatives taken by States of the region to increase access to clean water for their people and to preserve their resources;
- e) ***Bearing in mind*** that the Mediterranean region comprises 60% of the world's population considered as water poor, having less than 1000m³ per person per year;
- f) ***Regretting deeply*** that despite some efforts agreed by the States, situations of hydro-stress worsened in the Mediterranean region;
- g) ***Bearing in mind*** that that non-drinkable water is the first cause of mortality throughout the world;
- h) ***Welcoming*** the development of energy-wise and environmentally friendly techniques that increase water resources;
- i) ***Recalling*** the importance of investing massively in these techniques and of ensuring the maintenance of a quality water distribution network, avoiding leakages;
- j) ***Underlining*** the need for each State to have at its disposal, physical and human resources to ensure the respect of legislation protecting water resources and condemning the bad use that could be made;
- k) ***Aware*** that some human activities are highly water intensive, and in particular irrigation that represents 10% of the world's water consumption;
- l) ***Recalling*** the importance of favouring water-wise development and production choices;

- m) ***Underlining*** the growing concern of all members of parliaments on the necessity to improve information, education and awareness raising on the issue of water and the necessity to preserve this vital resource;
 - n) ***Convinced*** that the Mediterranean youth are, by no doubt, a key lever on which all efforts should concentrate;
 - o) ***Bearing in mind*** that water has already been the cause of many conflicts, in particular in our Mediterranean region;
 - p) ***Concerned by*** recent tensions that rose because of disagreements regarding the access and the use of water, particularly in the Near East region;
 - q) ***Bearing in mind*** that water shall know no political or administrative borders and must be managed at the level of water basins, in each countries, and internationally;
 - r) ***Bearing in mind*** that, transboundary water resources present a real opportunity for collaboration rather than a source of conflict and a constraint for development and such cooperation can be reached through confidence building measures and genuine cooperation among riparian states;
- I. Asks member parliaments of PAM to uphold in their countries all measures aiming at fostering education and information regarding water and its conservation;
 - II. Supports initiatives aiming at increasing public awareness among younger generations on the need to respect the scarce resource that water represents and welcomes any approach aiming at associating water to its actions, as does UMJAE¹;
 - III. Asks PAM member parliaments to act so that the right to access quality water for all is recognized as a human right as quickly as possible;
 - IV. Asks its members to relay to their own parliaments and to their competent Committees the need to promote legislation in favour of water savings as well as the necessary tools to ensure the effective implementation of this legislation;
 - V. Asks firmly governments of Mediterranean countries to set the modernization of water distribution networks as a priority;
 - VI. Encourages each of its members to reflect about which agriculture model they wish to promote and about the necessity to improve irrigation techniques;
 - VII. Notes with satisfaction the development of energy-wise and environmentally friendly water production processes in several countries of the Mediterranean basin;
 - VIII. Reiterates its calls for riparian countries to collaborate so that progress arises on the question of transboundary water issues ;
 - IX. Demands that regional cooperation aiming at concerted management of water resources among riparian countries be favoured;
 - X. Calls upon Israel to halt the unjust exploitation of water resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the other Arab territories Syria and

¹ *Mediterranean Union for Young Water Ambassadors*

Lebanon, and to halt the inequitable distribution of water between Palestinian and Syrian citizens and illegal settlers. This also applies to the unjust exploitation by Israel of the River Jordan with the appropriation of $\frac{3}{4}$ of its water derived by the Israeli “National Water Carrier”, and all other water resources;

- XI. Decides to study more in depth the progress that must be made on the connection between tourism and water conservation.