



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

3rd Standing Committee
on Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights

Special Task Force on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures

Rapporteur: Sónia Sanfona (Portugal)

***Resolution on Religious Freedom and Dialogue of Cultures [endorsed by consensus
by the 3rd Standing Committee at the 3rd Session of the Standing Committees,
19 September 2008, St. Julians (Malta)]***

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- Considering that the Mediterranean is a diverse area, of permanent exchange of experiences and contacts between different cultures, civilizations and religions;
- Considering that these contacts and experiences are not always peaceful and, apart from conferring to the Mediterranean a specific element in its characteristics, have been the focus of disagreement and distancing between the different peoples of the Mediterranean;
- Considering that this disagreement results from an enormous and profound ignorance concerning the different religions and cultures in the Mediterranean;
- Considering that the distancing can only be shortened through the joint action of the peoples of the Mediterranean, leading to mutual understanding and the promotion of tolerance and respect for the cultural and religious diversity;
- Considering that in order to develop appropriate and effective action, it is essential to undertake an exhaustive and neutral survey of the legislation and policies existing in each country, both in force as well as under preparation, in addition to the practices carried out;
- Considering that the survey and sharing of this information will provide the countries of the Mediterranean with a greater understanding of the cultural and religious

differences, as well as the development of an overall approach aimed at the harmonisation of legislation and policy, based on common values;

Agrees to:

- a) Visit PAM countries to foster understanding and partnerships;
- b) “The PAM Youth Assembly” to be hosted in rotation by PAM national parliaments;
- c) Organize a University Summer School of one to two weeks’ duration, to be attended by 3-4 students from each PAM country to meet and exchange with parliamentarians, academics and important figures from civil society;
- d) The creation of a PAM prize or scholarship to be awarded to students who have prepared academic research or a thesis on subjects relating to PAM activities, such as intercultural and inter-religious dialogue;
- e) Organize educational activities for primary school children;
- f) Celebrate the “Mediterranean Day” (visibility / awareness activities) with the collaboration of all PAM national delegations, including activities for the promotion of dialogue and understanding;
- g) Minister programmes for teachers on cultural awareness and inter-religious dialogue (with the aim of promoting the knowledge and the history of religions in schools rather than dogma);
- h) Make the media responsible by organising encounters to develop awareness and sensitivity;
- i) Promote a Special Task Force meeting with students and religious representatives in Rome and Assisi;
- j) Launch a regional competition “dialogue among cultures” to promote intercultural dialogue (literature, cinema, art, science, etc.);
- k) Refer to the above mentioned actions as the “Fes Program”.