



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 unanimously adopted during the IVth Plenary Session
On 24 October 2009 in Istanbul***

Noting that international efforts having as their main theme the issue of water management have multiplied through many conferences and meetings such as the 5th World Water Forum held in Istanbul in March 2009 and the many regional and local and civil society initiatives in the Mediterranean;

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000 which, in Target 10 of Objective 7, is aimed at, in particular, halving by 2015 the percentage of the population which does not have sustainable access to safe drinking water and to services for basic sanitation;

Considering that the challenge of quality water for all should guide the public policies of each of its members;

Welcoming that the World Water Forum has led to the conclusion of the Istanbul Pact on Water wherein local and regional authorities commit to developing water management strategies adapted to changes in climate and the economic crisis;

Recalling the objectives of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) about improving access to water sanitation and drinking water as well as to water management resources;

Deeply regretting that despite the efforts of many of the participants following the World Forum in Istanbul, the right to access to water and to sanitation has not been officially recognised;

Recalling that water knows no political or administrative boundaries, and must be managed at the watershed scale within each country and at the international level;

Recalling that non-potable water is the leading cause of death in the world;

Considering the non-entry into force of the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses for lack of having been ratified by at least 35 countries, and which aims, in particular, at their fair and equitable use;

Concerned with the many reports and analysis focusing on the increase in the number of conflicts to be expected from the fight for access to water, and noting that water has already been the source of many conflicts, in particular in our common Mediterranean basin;

Considering that the population growth and climate changes observed over several years, particularly in the Mediterranean basin, can no longer allow room for non-concerted actions;

Highlighting the growing awareness of all parliamentary actors of the urgent need to measure the impact on water usage by the human and economic activities which regulate it;

Convinced that the local authorities and local actors of each of its countries are effective players in this area due to direct contact with this issue;

Convinced that the Mediterranean youth is certainly the main lever towards which most efforts should be focused;

- I. Asks its members to assess the necessity of ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses and any instrument directed at a fair and equitable distribution of water;
- II. Asks PAM Member Parliaments to support all measures directed at the cleaning up of the common good which represents the Mediterranean Sea, and to act in a concerted manner in this area, in particular at the level of their legislation;
- III. Asks all PAM Member Parliaments to act so that the right to access to clean drinking water for all is recognized as a basic human right as quickly as possible;
- IV. Asks its members to relay to each of their parliaments and relevant committees the necessity to act to promote legislation that encourages water saving;
- V. Urges the governments of the Mediterranean littoral to foresee, within their respective reflation policies in response to the financial crisis, that a portion of the funds raised goes to the modernisation of water conveyance networks and research in environmentally compatible solutions to mobilise new hydric systems;
- VI. Strongly encourages each of its members to work together in order to move forward for progress to emerge on the issue of shared water resources at the international level;
- VII. Notes with satisfaction the steps taken by the Secretary General of PAM in order to establish a partnership agreement with the centers of activities of UNEP/PAM, and mainly the Blue Plan, to promote its work within our Assembly and to raise the concerns of the Mediterranean parliamentarians;
- VIII. Lends its support to initiatives aimed at educating young people to respect water, a rare resource in the Mediterranean, and welcomes any attempt to associate these actions in the image of the UMJAE¹;

¹ *Mediterranean Union for Young Water Ambassadors*

- IX. Supports with conviction decentralised cooperation in the field of the development of distribution systems and water management, and commits itself to developing a close collaboration with ARLEM² and its Mediterranean interregional group;
- X. Decides to further study in depth issues of further improvement in water-saving and on the relationships between tourism and water preservation.

² *Euro- Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly*