



PAM IVth PLENARY SESSION

ISTANBUL (TURKEY) 23-24 OCTOBER 2009

CONRAD HOTEL, ISTANBUL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Executive Report of the IV Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean is compiled and published with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



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

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At the official opening of Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), IVth Plenary Session, held in Istanbul (Turkey) on 23 and 24 October 2009, the Plenary was honoured to hear the inaugural address by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey, and the welcome address by H.E. Hon. Mehmet Ali Sahin, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT). PAM President Hon. Rudy Salles (France) welcomed the members of the national PAM delegations and the distinguished guest speakers, and thanked the Turkish delegation and the GNAT for hosting the Session and for their warm hospitality.

Turkish Prime Minister H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid tribute to PAM for its contribution in to the Middle East Peace Process and for working towards uniting the peoples of the Mediterranean. He shared Turkey's aspirations to enter the European Union (EU) and alluded to the utility of holding a multilateral conference on the future of Cyprus. H.E. Mehmet Ali Sahin, GNAT Speaker also pleaded in favour of Turkey's EU membership in order to strengthen relations throughout the Mediterranean basin.

Six guest speakers representing different regional parliamentary organisations were also invited to speak at the opening session, namely: Hon. Robert Walter, President of the European Security and Defence Assembly (Assembly of WEU), Hon. Abdirahin Abdi Speaker, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Hon. Carlos Jiménez Macías, Member of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) & President of the IPU Latin American and Caribbean Geopolitical Group (GRULAC), Hon. Nuri Amal Safal, MP from Libya representing the Pan-African Parliament, Hon. Mehmet Cicet, Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), and Hon. Tayseer Quba'a (Palestine) representing the Interim Arab Parliament. All welcomed a deeper relationship with PAM and highlighted potential areas for future collaboration.

Having heard their speeches, the **PAM President** proceeded to the adoption of the agenda.

1. Overview of the 2009 work of the 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security-related Cooperation

The work of the 1st Standing Committee was presided by PAM Vice President and President of 1st Standing Committee, Hon. José Junqueiro, (Portugal), who invited H.E. Serge Telle (France), Ambassador of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), to inform the Plenary of the latest developments in President Sarkozy's project for. Among others, he confirmed that a **collaboration**

framework needed to be instituted between UfM and PAM to provide a basis for mutual exchange of information and best practices.

The PAM President, Hon. Rudy Salles, then briefed the Plenary on the September/October 2009 PAM Bureau mission to the US where meeting took place with UN Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon and high-ranking UN officials in New York and with the US Administration in Washington (US Congress, US State Department and the White House). During the mission, it was confirmed that the UNSG looked favourably at PAM's request for **Observer status** at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The US authorities commended PAM as the only pan-Mediterranean organisation dealing specifically with Mediterranean problems. President Salles also informed the members that PAM will shortly meet with the heads of the various political groups at the **European Parliament** in Brussels.

Rapporteurs for the 1st Standing Committee presented their draft reports and resolutions for adoption by the Plenary. The report and resolution of the **Ad hoc Committee on the Middle East, rapporteur chaired by Hon. George Vella (Malta)** were adopted. Syria asked that its preference for the terminology "Arab-Israeli conflict" (rather than "Israeli-Palestine conflict") be recorded. The report and resolution of the **STF on Organised Crime drafted by Hon. Mrs. Angela Napoli (Italy)** were unanimously adopted. The report and resolution of the **Reflection Group on Terrorism co-drafted by Hon. Askin Asan (Turkey) and Hon Tayseer Quba'a (Palestine)** defining terrorism were adopted. France registered, as it had done in Lisbon, its reservation about the legal implications of acts of terrorism committed by States.

2010 Agenda for the 1st Standing Committee:

- The *Ad hoc* Committee on the Middle East will continue its work;
- The STF on Organized Crime will focus its work on **human trafficking and the dumping of toxic waste**;
- The Reflexion Group on Terrorism will focus on **the root causes of terrorism**.

Meetings

- Joint PAM/UN Parliamentary conference on the Middle East Peace Process, **Malta, 11-12 Feb 2010**
- STF on Organized Crime **Nice (France), 16-18 March 2010** (*exact date tbc*)
- STF on Root Causes of Terrorism **Nice (France), 16-18 March 2010** (*exact date tbc*)
- Meeting of all three Standing Committees **Belgrade (Serbia), 24-27 June 2010**

2. Overview of the 2009 work of the 2nd Standing Committee Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation

PAM Vice President and President of 2nd Standing Committee, Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat (Jordan), invited keynote speaker Dr. Sima S. Bahous, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS) for social affairs to address the Plenary. He then invited the rapporteurs of the Special Task Forces to present their work. The report and resolution of the **STF on Energy drafted by Hon. Mohamed Abou El Enein (Egypt)** were unanimously adopted. As part of the debate that followed delegates heard a presentation on the Regulatory approach and Climate Change challenges

by **Mr. Carlo Crea, Secretary General of the Consortium of the Mediterranean National Authorities for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG)**. The report and resolution of the **STF on Water drafted by Hon. Jacques Blanc (France)** were adopted, and it was agreed that special reference should be made to the water scarcity in the OPTs as stated by Syria and Palestine during the debate should be recorded. The report and resolution of the **STF Environment and Climate Change drafted by Hon. Elissavet Papadimitriou (Greece) and presented by Hon. Jacques Blanc (France)** were unanimously adopted. Hon. Bernard Marquet (Monaco), Member of the Environment, Agriculture, Local and Regional Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (PACE) was invited to take the floor to present the findings of a his PACE report on Water and a PACE recommendation on Ocean Governance. Hon Ghneimat informed the delegates that PAM would be attending the forthcoming Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change as observer, and would host - in the build up to the World Summit and in collaboration with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) - a parliamentary roundtable on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Malta on 23-24 November . The report and resolution of the **STF on Disaster Management prepared by Hon José Junqueiro (Portugal)** were unanimously adopted as were the report and resolution of the **STF Small and Medium-sized Enterprises presented by Hon. Juri Franco (Slovenia) on behalf of Rapporteur Hon. Ridha Bouargoub (Tunisia)**.

Agenda for the 2nd Standing Committee for end of 2009 / 2010:

- The Special Rapporteur on Water will continue his work;
- The Special Rapporteur on Energy will continue his work;
- The **Malta meeting on Climate Change Adaptation** will be part of the work of the STF on Climate Change;
- **Updates on the Copenhagen Summit** will be organised;
- The STF on SMEs is being replaced by the **Panel on External Trade**.

Meetings

- Joint PAM/UN ISDR Roundtable of parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
Malta, 23-24 November 2009
- Follow-up meeting to Copenhagen Summit
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France), tentatively end of February 2010 (TBC)
- Special Task Force on Water
Special Task Force on Energy
Nice (France), 16-18 March 2010
- Update on follow-up to Copenhagen Summit and UNESCO meeting
Ljubljana (Slovenia), 15-16 April 2010
- Panel on Foreign Trade
Lisbon (Portugal), (exact date tbc)
- Meeting of all three Standing Committees
Belgrade, 24-27 June 2010

3. Overview of the 2009 work of the 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights

Hon. Abdelkader Fedala (Algeria), PAM Vice President, deputising on behalf of President 3rd Standing Committee Hon. Titna Alaoui (Morocco), presided over the Committee, and invited Mrs Karen Abuzayd, UNWRA Commissioner General, to give a keynote address. Mr. Maxwell

Gaylard, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) and UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory also addressed the Plenary on the humanitarian situation in the OPT and on the recent developments in the Middle East Peace Process. Hon. Fedala then informed the Plenary that the STF on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions, compiled by Hon. Sonia Sanfona (Portugal), in spring 2009 had been received by Pope Benedict XVI and met with leading religious figures in Rome and Assisi. The report and resolution of the **STF on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions were presented by Hon. Justyne Caruana (Malta) on behalf of Rapporteur Hon. Sonia Sanfona (Portugal)** and were unanimously adopted. Further progress had been achieved under the Fez Programme instituting among others **Mediterranean Day on 21st March**, and the delegations were invited to sign a *Letter of Engagement* inviting parliaments to work on the issue of inter-cultural dialogue locally. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kilic, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of OIC (and former University Professor of Philosophy of Religions) was invited to take the floor on the concept of a Mediterranean cultural heritage. The report and resolution of the **STF on Migrations, drafted by Hon Mahmoud Muhaidat (Jordan)** were unanimously adopted as were the report and resolution of the **STF on Gender and Equality Issues co-drafted by Hon Mrs. Askin Asan (Turkey) and Hon. Mrs. Houda Bizi Blaiech (Tunisia)**. Mr. Michele Capasso, Director of Fondazione Mediterraneo (Observer to PAM) and Mr Joseph Mifsud, President of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) were also invited to briefly take the floor.

2010 Agenda for the 3rd Standing Committee

- The STF on Gender and Equality Issues will continue its work;
- The STF on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions will continue its work, **with specific focus on the Balkans**;
- The STF on Migration will continue its work;
- And a new STF on Education will be created to examine how the work of PAM can be supported by **Universities** located in PAM Member States.

Meetings

- STF on Gender and Equality Issues
Nice (France), 16-18 March 2010
- Celebration of the **Mediterranean Day**, 21 March
Each national parliament to commemorate this event
- STF on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions
- STF on Migration in the Mediterranean
Ljubljana (Slovenia), 15-16 April 2010
- STF on Education
Piran, EMUNI University (Slovenia) 15-16 April 2010
- Meeting of all three Standing Committees
Belgrade (Serbia), 24-27 June 2010

4. The PAM Prize

PAM President Rudy Salles announced the winners of the respective categories of the PAM Prize. The following prizes were presented to:

- Mrs Karen Abuzayd, on behalf of **UNWRA (The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees)**, for its contribution to development of mutual understanding and respect for human rights;

- the **Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI)**, Italy, which also hosts the CIHEAM (*Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes*), for its contribution to the development of the Mediterranean area through new approaches to research. Senator Learco Saporito received the prize on behalf of MAI;
- the **Jordan Military Field Hospital in Gaza**, for its dedication to the local population, and humanitarian mission for the region. Hon. Mahmoud Muhaidat received the prize on behalf of the hospital;
- **H.E. Daniel Rondeau**, writer and French Ambassador to Malta, for his continuous promotion of dialogue throughout the Mediterranean Region and his contribution to the drafting to the PAM Charter of the Mediterranean.

5. Financial situation of the Assembly and 2010 Budget

The PAM Secretary General, Dr. Sergio Piazzì reminded the Plenary of PAM's outstanding achievements in less than three years of activities, but also of its currently grave financial situation, with an accumulated debt and a current budget that was not sufficient to pay social security and pension emoluments for its staff, let alone set up a reserve fund, as had been already agreed by the Assembly in Monaco in 2008, as well as strongly recommended by the IPU. The budget required would be in the order of 900,000 Euros, but due to the global financial crisis, the Secretary General submitted a core budget to the Plenary of 755,000 Euros, divided as follows: 95,000 for arrears in payments and the remaining 660,000 broken down into 47,000 for external services, 174,000 for operational costs, and 439,000 to cover staff costs. Furthermore, it was decided that the original budget of 900,000 Euros, which includes the setting up of the reserve fund, would be implemented in 2012.

6. Miscellaneous and Conclusion

President Rudy Salles, on behalf of the Assembly, requested the Israeli delegation to convey PAM's serious concern to its government and authorities over the ongoing events in and around the holy sites in Jerusalem. He requested the Israeli authorities to ensure freedom of access to all, and reminded them of their responsibility to safeguard and protect all religious sites. President Rudy Salles then addressed both the Israeli and Palestinian delegations, reminding them that the spirit of PAM was to create dialogue and respect differences of opinion. No single Member State will ever be condemned under the auspices of PAM.

The President concluded referring to the unprecedented success of the Plenary, thanks to the participation of almost all delegations, the hospitality of the Turkish delegation and the hard work put in by the PAM Secretary General and its Secretariat staff. Special words of appreciation were extended to Hon. Askin Asan for her enormous contribution to the overwhelming success of the Plenary.

Dinners were hosted by H.E. Hon. Mehmet Ali Sahin, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in Ciragan Palace Kempinsky (Friday), and on a boat tour hosted by Hon. Askin Asan, Head of the Turkish Delegation to PAM (Saturday).

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EXECUTIVE REPORT

IVth PLENARY SESSION

ISTANBUL (TURKEY), 23-24 OCTOBER 2009

CONRAD HOTEL, ISTANBUL

Friday, 23 October 2009 - Afternoon

1. Official opening of the 4th Plenary Session

H.E. Mehmet Ali Şahin, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, welcomed the PAM delegates to Istanbul, and inaugurated the 4th Plenary Session, informing the members that the Turkish Prime Minister would be personally addressing the Assembly.

In his introductory address, PAM President Hon. Rudy Salles (France) thanked the Turkish delegation for its impeccable organization and warm hospitality. The President commented on the fact that PAM, in what was only its fourth Plenary Session (and third truly operative session), had already become an important player in parliamentary diplomacy. He was pleased that almost all PAM delegations were represented and welcomed representatives from sister parliamentary organizations to the Plenary. Indeed, we all needed to work together to address common problems, as today's world had become a global village. He noted that the Mediterranean as an entity with a distinct identity was fairly new in politics. It was important to support that collective consciousness in the region in order for its citizens to grow closer to one another. PAM has a simple but vast responsibility; i.e. to improve the quality of life in the whole region. He welcomed Prime Minister of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and paid tribute to his attendance and participation as an important gesture towards uniting the peoples of the Mediterranean.

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, expressed his honour at having been invited to inaugurate the 4th Plenary Session. He remarked that the meeting was being hosted in a unique location, Istanbul, a city that spans the great continents of Europe and Asia, and moreover, a city that has been host to some of the most important civilisations in the history of mankind. He commented that Istanbul was indeed a gateway to both the East and West, and a window looking onto the Mediterranean and Black Seas. In fact, under the auspices of PAM, which united different cultures, religions, social conditions and economies, there was a unique opportunity to transform the Mediterranean into a sea of solidarity, stability and welfare, by taking a common stance against the threats that jeopardise its future, be they terrorism, climate change, migration, human trafficking, xenophobia or intolerance. In particular, the Prime Minister referred to the deadlock in the Middle East Peace Process and terrorism as urgent concerns. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict directly affects Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, so we cannot afford to turn a blind eye in a Mediterranean basin, where we are all part of an extended family. Similarly, on opposing sides of the Sea, in countries such as Spain and Turkey, terrorism still poses a threat to the security of civilian populations and therefore action needs to be taken on a united front. Turkey, he added, is also very sensitive to finding a peaceful settlement to the Cyprus problem, and the Prime Minister vouched that this could be achieved by the end of the year. He stated that despite the fact that that accession of Cyprus to the EU has, in his view, been unethical, a source of injustice to Turkey and, to recall the words of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, "a mistake", Turkey is still as fully committed to resolving the

Cyprus question as it is to entering into the EU itself. **Prime Minister Erdoğan suggested that it might be useful to hold a multilateral conference on the future of Cyprus.**

The Turkish Prime Minister also stated that in 2008 Turkey was the 17th biggest world economy, and that by the end of this year it would be the 16th largest. Turkey is therefore a country of immense resources and potential, with a young and dynamic population. At present, Turkey has signed 15 free trade agreements, nine of which are with Mediterranean countries, and Turkey is also a key player in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, which has the stated aim of launching a Free Trade Area in 2010. Turkey's accession to the European Union, he added, is scheduled for 2019. Prime Minister Erdoğan concluded his intervention by emphasising Turkey's commitment to fulfilling all its international obligations, in a spirit of promoting and enhancing cooperation. He recalled that together with Spain, Turkey had set up an "alliance of civilisations". He concluded by affirming that "We will always be friends to our neighbours".

H.E. Mehmet Ali Şahin, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, observed that the foundations of PAM were laid in the nineties, and that it became an autonomous body in 2006. He considered it an important organization for the establishment of lasting peace and stability in the Mediterranean basin. 7% of the world's population lives in the Mediterranean, producing 11% of the world's GDP. Five of the top thirty economies are also found there. Each year, the Mediterranean hosts 320 million foreign tourists and conveys 30% of global maritime trade. The region offers numerous opportunities for cooperation, although we have yet to exploit them to their full potential. The Speaker of the Turkish Parliament also warned against the threats to the future of the Mediterranean Sea, referring, in particular, to climate change and global warming, stating that it was our responsibility to protect this common heritage for our children. As regards relations with its neighbours, he informed the Assembly that Turkey was trying to build on constructive and confidence-building measures with Greece, and was pleased to see that these were reciprocated. On the issue of Cyprus, he echoed the sentiments of Prime Minister Erdoğan. He added that Turkey had also made good progress in its relations with Syria, and wished to see a Middle East region that spends its resources on the welfare of its people rather than on weapons. As regards the EU, Turkey's membership will make an important contribution to strengthening relations throughout the Mediterranean basin. Turkey is currently undertaking reforms to improve the quality of life for all its people, emphasising that Europe also has its share of responsibilities on the matter.

The Speaker concluded by welcoming the PAM members once again to Istanbul.

There followed a "PAM Family Picture" session.

PAM President Hon. Rudy Salles (France) welcomed the guests attending the PAM Plenary Session as Observers, as well as the numerous regional parliamentary organizations present and invited the first guest speaker to take the floor.

Hon. Robert Walter, President of the European Security and Defence Assembly (Parliamentary Assembly of WEU), stated that for the past fifteen years, the WEU had been the sole inter-parliamentary forum to scrutinise the security policies of European states. It currently gathers all 27 EU Member States. European NATO member states which are not members of the EU take part as associate members, and he mentioned that the Russian Federation is now a partner. The Parliamentary Assembly of the WEU is a tool for discussion and the exchange of knowledge on security issues, and meets twice a year for plenary sessions, but its work is also pursued on a continuous basis through committees. Its members also meet for conferences and seminars, coming together with members of governments and representatives of the armed forces. They assist their governmental colleagues in generating debate, focusing their responsibilities and decision-making.

Although decisions are the sovereign prerogative of the member states, its delegates fill an important democratic gap. Indeed, governments are often inclined to sidestep parliamentary procedures in order to be able to take urgent decisions as crises cannot wait. He mentioned that parliamentary assemblies were going through a transitional period, as many pondered on their added value. It was therefore essential for interparliamentary fora to find the means to share the knowledge accumulated by the various national parliaments and draw on the strengths and experiences gained through the work done within interparliamentary framework. President Walter added that the EU Security and Defence Policy was, like PAM, committed to Africa and to tackling the Middle East conflict. He also mentioned the work done on maritime surveillance in the region. He was grateful for the invitation extended to him and this opportunity to develop deeper synergies with PAM so as to define a common security policy.

Hon. Abdirahin Abdi, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), thanked PAM for the kind invitation to attend and address the 4th Plenary Session and commended the Assembly for its commitment to tackling the problems and challenges particular to the region. He informed the members that the EALA wanted to be fully associated to the ideals of PAM and shared the same commitment to redressing the man-made disasters besetting the region and transforming them for the common good of the Mediterranean and East African region. As such, the EALA is the legislative arm of the East African Community (EAC), a regional inter-governmental organization gathering the 5 partner states of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi, and whose seat is in Arusha, Tanzania. The grouping has recently completed the initial integration phase towards a customs union and will shortly sign a common market protocol to serve a population of 120 million. Inaugurated in 2001, assembly membership runs for five years. For the period 2007-2012, there are 52 delegates (nine per country and seven ex-officio members). The EALA statute provides that membership should be representative of the political views of the national assemblies and reflect gender balance. The Assembly promotes liaisons with national assemblies and has the specific task of passing legislation to deepen the integration process. Like the European Parliament, the EALA has full legislative powers that take precedence over similar laws in the partner states.

Hon. Carlos Jiménez Macías, Member of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) and President of the IPU Latin American and Caribbean Geopolitical Group (GRULAC), thanked the hosts and especially PAM President Rudy Salles and PAM Secretary General, Dr. Sergio Piazzzi, for having invited him. Hon. Macías stated that he had been participating in the IPU for 25 years and that these were rapidly changing times. He argued for parliamentarians to play a central role in overcoming today's challenges, such as climate change, unplanned urban growth, pandemics, HIV, disorderly migration, food insecurity and lack of education. Both PAM and COPA were ideal meeting places for parliamentarians who are dedicated to development and advancing democracy. The current global economic and financial crisis is an opportunity to rethink how to reconcile wealth distribution, sustainable growth and social justice. Through their legislative powers, parliamentarians should strive to strengthen nations' finances to establish budgetary mechanisms to reach the Millennium Development Goals and, in particular, ensure poverty eradication, and overcome inequalities and exclusion.

Hon. Nuri Amal Safal, MP from Libya representing the Pan-African Parliament, expressed her deepest gratitude to the PAM President, Secretary General and delegates for inviting her. The Pan-African Parliament was inaugurated in March 2004 as the legislative arm of the African Union, gathering 46 States. Its headquarters are in Midrand, South Africa, and is currently comprised of 230 members. The Parliament is presided over by Hon. Dr. Idriss Ndélé Moussa (Chad). Economic, cultural and social issues fall within its purview, but the Assembly also acts as an advisory body to the national legislatures of its member states. This is the first time that the Pan-African Parliament

was participating in the meeting of another international parliamentary organization, and this opportunity was welcome for the exchange of goals and experiences. Hon. Safal hoped to benefit from PAM's experiences, and was hoping that both Assemblies could help one another by supporting each others' efforts. She mentioned that the Pan-African Parliament would organize a meeting in April 2010, to which PAM would be invited.

Hon. Mehmet Çiçek, Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), said that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and PAM are two very important organizations for the geopolitical development of their respective regions. Both represent two important seas and regions, and their surrounding countries have been transit countries for many centuries (both east-west and north-south) enjoying important relations with similar needs and challenges. Some PAM members are also members of PABSEC. The way East for Europe is through Black Sea, surrounded by both developed and developing countries. The territories close to the Black Sea have also been the centre stage for bloodshed and confrontation, in the Balkans and Caucasus, for example. Both regions bring together different cultures and witness the coexistence of the three monotheistic religions. Both regions also know unresolved conflicts. The Black Sea region hosts routes for trafficking in drugs, human beings and arms, which impacts the whole Mediterranean region as a whole, and therefore there is an urgent need for PAM and PABSEC to work together to resolve these problems. It is precisely because we live in a "global world" that problems can no longer be confined to one small neighbourhood. This autumn, PABSEC's meetings will focus on shaping ecological awareness, management of natural resources and the exploitation of water resources. The PABSEC General Assembly will be held in Moscow in November 2009 and an invitation was extended to PAM to attend.

Hon. Tayseer Quba'a (Palestine), representing the Interim Arab Parliament, was extremely pleased to witness the beginning of cooperation between the Interim Arab Parliament and PAM. Each organization is tackling very important issues of relevance to both parties. He wished for a Mediterranean region rid of problems and weapons of mass destruction. The Mediterranean basin is an area rich with natural resources, but one which is also prone to natural disasters and suffered from unresolved conflicts. PAM and the Interim Arab Parliament needed to address these challenges together.

Having heard the presentations by the guest speakers representing six different regional parliamentary organisations, the PAM President proceeded with the adoption of the agenda.

2. Overview of the work of the 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security-Related Cooperation during 2009

PAM Vice President and President of 1st Standing Committee, Hon. José Junqueiro, (Portugal), commended the efforts of 1st Standing Committee and excellent quality of the draft reports developed within the context of its Special Task Forces and *Ad hoc* Committees, but before discussing their work in detail, he invited H.E. Serge Telle, French Ambassador for the Union of the Mediterranean (UfM), to deliver his keynote address to the Plenary.

Ambassador Serge Telle referred to President Sarkozy's project for the Mediterranean Union as being based on the executive's desire to tackle important issues in the region, affirming that its origins lay in the Barcelona Process, which went on from 1993-95, leading to the formation of the EuroMed Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA). He conceded, however, that this process had not found all the answers to the conflicts of the region, although 2010 would be a very important year as it

foresees the establishment of a free trade area for the Mediterranean. Ambassador Telle then identified 5 major challenges for the region, as follows:

-Demography. There will be 455 million people in the Mediterranean basin by 2020 (+55m south + 5 north), which will place enormous strains on the South, in terms of water, energy and migration. It will exacerbate the problem of rural exodus, and create further geographic disequilibrium (250 million of Mediterranean people currently live in cities);

-The economic fracture between North and South. The average income per capita in the North is US\$ 30,000, while in the South it is merely US\$ 3,000 (a ratio of 1:10). Moreover, Europe spends only 2% of its GDP on direct foreign investments in the south, which compares very poorly with the US (25%) and Japan (20%);

-Water. The Mediterranean represents 7% of the world's population, but 60% of its people live with a water shortage. This will increase with demographic pressures;

-Energy. The increase in energy needs due to rising populations will be 230 GW in 15 years, which is currently twice the energy needs of France;

-Pollution. 60% of water pumped into the Mediterranean is untreated. The Mediterranean represents less than 1% of the surface area of the world's seas, but it conveys 30% of world maritime freight transportation, and 25% of world maritime petroleum transport. On average, the Mediterranean suffers eight ecological catastrophes each year caused by spillages from oil tankers.

The UfM was therefore conceived of as a multilateral executive framework to address those challenges. As such, according to the July 2008 Paris Declaration, it was to develop along three axes: political, institutional and substantive. Accordingly, the UfM shall meet at the level of Heads of States or Governments every two years, and it will institute a co-presidency system reflecting a north-south geographic distribution. Currently, the co-presidency was shared by France and Egypt. The Secretariat will be located in Barcelona, and there will be a Secretary-General assisted by 6 deputies. As far as the substance of its work is concerned, the Union will deal with problems that are at the heart of the Mediterranean, such as the Middle East Peace Process. A collaboration framework also needed to be instituted with PAM to provide a basis for mutual exchange of information and best practices.

Hon. José Junqueiro called on PAM President Hon. Rudy Salles to brief the Assembly on the Bureau delegation's visit to New York and Washington, DC, which took place from 29 September - 2 October.

Hon. Salles, who had led the delegation, summarised the outcome of the meetings with officials from both the UN (including the Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon) as well as the US Administration (US State Department and the White House) and Congress. He mentioned that the UN Secretary General looked favourably upon PAM's request for Observer status at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and had commended PAM as the only pan-Mediterranean organization dealing specifically with Mediterranean problems. The purpose of the visit to the United States was also to raise PAM's visibility and to acknowledge the important role played by the US in the Mediterranean. President Salles also informed the Plenary that PAM was organizing two meetings in Malta in cooperation with the UN: one in November this year in the build-up to the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change in December, and a second one to look at current issues affecting the Middle East Peace Process to take place in February 2010. **President Salles also explained that**

there would soon be a visit to Brussels to meet with the new President of the European Parliament in order to express the genuine will of PAM to collaborate with EMPA, and to meet with the presidents of the various political groups.

Hon. Abou El Enein, PAM Roving Ambassador (Egypt), who participated in the PAM delegation visit to the US, commented that the visit to the US had gone far beyond PAM's expectations and that PAM was seen as a potential true broker of peace in the Middle East. He highlighted the importance to act as a single entity and work in that direction.

Hon. José Junqueiro then introduced the work of the 1st Standing Committee before giving the floor to the Rapporteurs of the respective *Ad hoc* Committee and Special Task Forces so that they could present their work in detail.

a) Ad hoc Committee on the Middle East, Hon. George Vella (Malta)

Ad hoc Committee Chairman Hon. Vella stated that he would not go into detail about the report on the mission to Middle East, as this information had been previously shared with delegates present at the Lisbon Standing Committees meeting last June and by the PAM Secretariat ahead of the Plenary Session. The objective of the visit had been to conduct a fact-finding mission in Gaza in order to get a perspective on the consequences of the December 2008/January 2009 conflict, as well as to express solidarity with all innocent victims of the confrontation. It also sought to enhance PAM's visibility with key actors in the region (top officials in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories) and to present PAM as a serious trustworthy partner in the re-establishment of dialogue with the Knesset. On this note, he welcomed the attendance of a delegation from Israel during the 4th Plenary Session, as promised while in Jerusalem. Hon. Vella also briefly referred to the visit to the US and the **forthcoming conference on the Peace Process in the Middle East, to be held in Malta in February next year.**

The Syrian delegation thought that the report should refer not only to conflict between Palestine and Israel, but between "the Arab world" and Israel. The Algerian delegation commended the report, but asked if an additional item could be inserted to the resolution on the question of ransoms. Hon. Junqueiro suggested that this could be the subject of work for the forthcoming year and President Salles called a point of order, informing the members that the content of reports and resolutions could not be changed at this stage, as that was the responsibility of the Standing Committees.

Vote: the report and resolution were adopted. Syria voted in favour of the report but wished that its preference for the terminology "Arab-Israeli conflict" (rather than "Israeli-Palestine conflict") be put on the records.

b) Special Task Force on Organized Crime, Hon. Mrs. Angela Napoli (Italy)

Hon. Angela Napoli outlined the parameters of her report and resolution, affirming that combating organized crime is fundamental to the future stability and development of the region. She referred, in particular, to the increase in organized crime originating from the Balkans over the last ten years. **She also asked for particular attention to be given to the issues of human trafficking and the dumping of toxic waste in the Mediterranean Sea and suggested that these could be the subject of the follow-up work of the Special Task Force.**

Vote: the report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

c) Reflection Group on Terrorism, Hon. Mrs. Aşkın Asan (Turkey)

Hon. Aşkın Asan (Turkey) thanked all the individuals who had contributed to this report, especially the Co-Rapporteur Hon. Quba'a, as well as the invited guest speakers to the meeting of the Reflection Group on Terrorism (held in Istanbul in January 2009), as they each allowed for the reaching of a common understanding on the issue. Defining terrorism is an essential precursor to the fight against such acts. She noted that the UN has still, to this day, not yet succeeded in providing a universally accepted definition of terrorism. This is a particularly sensitive question in relation to the right to self-determination and when alleged terrorism relates to acts of States. It was also important to look into how organized crime networks finance acts of terrorism.

The Jordanian and Syrian delegations felt that the issue of terrorism needed further consideration. Hon. Junqueiro indicated that, as already agreed in Lisbon, the Reflection Group would look at the root causes of terrorism in the coming year. The French delegation complimented the Rapporteur on the outstanding quality of her work, but also wanted its remarks on the legal implications of so-called terrorist acts committed by states to be noted for the records.

Vote: the report and resolution were adopted.

The head of the Israeli delegation referred to the fact that the Knesset was present as an "observer" and therefore was not taking part in voting. He added that since the Knesset had not participated in the organization's debates over the last two years, it would not consider itself bound by PAM's *acquis* until this date. The Jordanian delegation stated that they respected Israel's position, but considered it illegitimate as Israel had been one of the founding members of PAM. As such, it could not absolve itself from taking responsibility on the grounds of convenience. This sentiment was echoed by the Algerian, Egyptian and Palestinian delegations, who stated that all the decisions of PAM would be applicable to Israel as they were founding members. President Salles regretted Israel's previous absence from PAM, which had been of its own choice, but reminded the delegates that PAM's spirit of dialogue and mutual respect should prevail. It was therefore of utmost importance to respect the views of all the members.

2010 Agenda for the 1st Standing Committee

Hon. Junqueiro presented the calendar of activities for the 1st Standing Committee for 2010:

- The *Ad hoc* Committee on the Middle East will continue its work;
- The STF on Organized Crime will focus its work on **human trafficking**;
- The Reflexion Group on Terrorism will focus on **the root causes of terrorism**.

Meetings

- Joint PAM/UN Parliamentary conference on the Middle East Peace Process,
Malta, 11-12 Feb 2010
- STF on Organized Crime
Nice (France), 16-18 March 2010 (*exact date tbc*)
- STF on Root Causes of Terrorism
Nice (France), 16-18 March 2010 (*exact date tbc*)

- Meeting of all three Standing Committees
Belgrade (Serbia), 24-27 June 2010

The 1st Standing Committee President, Hon. Junqueiro, then declared the session closed.

Saturday, 24 October 2009

3. Overview of the work of the 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation during 2009 (Morning)

Commending his members on the work achieved, PAM Vice President and President of 2nd Standing Committee, Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat, (Jordan), presented the work of the 2nd Standing Committee, which during the course of the year had taken them to Limassol, Cairo, Lisbon and Istanbul. He emphasised that the Special Task Forces under the 2nd Standing Committee had worked closely with experts in order to broaden and deepen their understanding of the subjects falling within their remit. Before discussing in detail the work carried out by the Special Task Forces, Dr. Sima S. Bahous, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States, was invited to take the floor and deliver her keynote address to the Plenary.

Dr. Sima S. Bahous, Assistant Secretary General, League of Arab States (LAS), conveyed the LAS Secretary General H.E. Amr Moussa's greetings, and mentioned that he regretted being unable to attend. She announced that she would be reading a statement on his behalf. She affirmed the LAS's commitment to achieving peace and security in the region before criticising the current Israeli Government's actions in Jerusalem and the OPTs. Dr. Bahous also described the tragic situation of the Palestine people and the hopes for achieving peace that had been vested in President Sarkozy's Mediterranean Union. She called on PAM and the national parliaments of the region to support the "Goldstone report" and to condemn Israel for blocking the road to peace. She recalled the main elements of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, which had been largely ignored by Israel. In that context, the Arab League had welcomed the change in US Administration, but witnessed little difference in practice. Dr. Bahous reaffirmed that the Arab League wished to see the establishment of a Palestinian State, with its capital in East Jerusalem, as part of a two-state solution. She stressed that the Arab side could not compromise on the status of Jerusalem and the right of return of Palestinian refugees. She added that the Arab League wished to see the creation of an international monitoring mechanism to assess progress on the ground once peace negotiations start again. She stressed that the issue of settlements had to be included in new negotiations. Finally, Dr. Bahous was appreciative of the stance taken by PAM during the Gaza war. She wished for a lasting peace that would bring prosperity as well as needed political change through reforms in the region. In concluding, the Assistant Secretary General reminded the participants that the Arab League and PAM had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the interests of achieving peace and stability in the region.

The Cypriot delegation asked to briefly take the floor in response to Prime Minister Erdoğan's opening address the day before. Hon. Ghneimat agreed to give the floor to Hon. Nicos Anastasiades, Head of the Cyprus delegation.

Hon. Anastasiades sincerely thanked the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for its hospitality. With regard to the achievement of a comprehensive settlement for Cyprus, he made a specific request to Prime Minister Erdoğan for him to use his influence to take into consideration the Greek Cypriots' concerns during the negotiations. While both parties agreed that there should be a single federal state, with a single legal personality, the Greek Cypriots were delaying this because the Turkish Cypriots had been suggesting that a "Confederation" be established. The Cypriot representative also extended this request to the Greek delegation, asking them to examine this question with urgency.

Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat then invited the Rapporteurs to present their draft reports and resolutions, respectively.

a) Ad hoc Committee on Energy, Hon. Mohamed Abou El Enein (Egypt)

Hon. Abou El Enein explained the nexus between energy and national security of every state, and how it was essential to find new and alternative energy solutions in the Mediterranean basin, where the demand for energy continues to increase, both due to demographic pressure and the fact that fossil fuels are a limited resource. He conceded that the initial cost of developing infrastructure for developing alternative sources of energy was high, but that this would be far outweighed by its long-term benefits. His report supported alternative energy sources, such as geothermal, solar and wind power, but warned against the dangers of resorting to biomass energy due to their negative impact on food availability. Additionally, his report referred to the urgent need to transfer to clean energy and sustainable use of energy to limit the damage of climate change. Finally, Hon. Abou El Enein commented on the need for governments to not only pledge their support through words, but also by their actions and by giving their support through investments in such projects.

The Jordanian delegation agreed on the need for investment in alternative energy resources, observing that the availability of water resources in the Mediterranean was declining rapidly.

Vote: the resolution and report were unanimously adopted.

Hon. Ghneimat invited Mr. Carlo Crea, Secretary General of the Consortium of the Mediterranean National Authorities for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG), to take the floor as Keynote speaker on the regulatory approach and climate change challenges. Mr. Crea was honoured to be representing MEDREG, an Observer to PAM. He considered that it was increasingly important, in light of the global crisis and rising cost of energy, to effectively regulate and monitor markets to prevent abuse of market power. He believed that the current crisis had been brought about particularly as a result of the lack of rules and regulations rather than because of the failure of the market model itself. He also noted that there was an inverse correlation between oil prices and world GDP. At present, market volatility is enormous, and this needs to be balanced through regulation. Mr. Crea affirmed that there was a social responsibility to regulate energy markets as well as ensure the availability of adequate and reliable resources and that these are safeguarded from abusive market prices; in other words, guarantee consumer protection. He therefore called for the adoption of appropriate rules, long-term investments, monitoring and institutional cooperation, in order to develop new regulatory strategies. At the G8 Summit this year, 70 national energy regulatory authorities were in attendance, and a statement was issued supporting the environmentally sustainable and efficient use of energy. This advocacy continued at the 4th World Forum of Energy Regulators, the International Confederation of Energy Regulators in Athens a week before the PAM Plenary Session (18-21 October), which acknowledged the key role played by MEDREG. The current problems facing energy regulation relate to the lack of financing, poor quality of information, poor energy efficiency and a dearth of renewable resources. In order to make progress, Mr. Crea wanted governments to

set realistic targets and also create certain and transparent rules, for example, by setting energy tariffs. PAM can contribute to this process by influencing national parliaments and governments of the region as well as advocating strong regulatory powers and supporting consumer protection, including the power to impose sanctions.

Hon. Abdelkader Fedala (Algeria), PAM Vice President, then took the floor to present a gift of a pin with the PAM logo to the President, Secretary General and all PAM members on behalf of the Algerian parliament.

b) STF on Water, Hon. Jacques Blanc (France)

Hon. Blanc complimented Turkey on its organization of the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, at which the UN had referred to there being a chronic lack of interest about water in the international community. He noted that this was not the case in PAM, nor in the French Senate, where water issues are taken seriously. Sen. Blanc commented that eleven PAM Member States are suffering from water stress, with five of them experiencing serious water shortages. Yet in 22 out of the 25 PAM Member States, the availability of water is worsening, and this would continue to be the case, due to demographic pressures and the consequences of climate change. Sen. Blanc suggested urgently taking a number of actions, ranging from rationalising use and reducing water waste, creating alternative sources, desalination, water treatment initiatives, sensitising the public, as well as creating cross-border synergies to develop a culture of cooperation. It was envisaged that prolonged water shortages could even become a future source of war. Hon. Blanc also stressed that the use of water for vital reasons by the populations takes precedence over any other use and he recalled that his report included a reference to the complex issue of water as a source of territorial conflict in our region, in particular, the Middle East and the OPTs, as was specifically stated during the Lisbon Standing Committees meeting. **Hon. Blanc considered that the question of water sustainability and tourism needed to be examined in greater detail, and that PAM should make a declaration advocating access to water as a human right.**

During the course of the debate preceding the adoption of the report on Water, the Syrian delegation expressed its wish that “the report include specific details of Israel's theft of water and abusing it contrary to international laws and humanitarian needs, and to emphasise that the situation in Occupied Palestinian Territories and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the Lebanese Shaba Farms is due to Israel's use of 80% of the water that originates from the occupied Arab territories”.

Furthermore, the Palestinian delegation stated, “It is recognised that the Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank consume 80% of the amount of water allotted for the use of the people living there. It is also noteworthy that 80% of the water sources in the occupied Golan Heights of Syria are consumed by Israel and the same is with the occupied Lebanese territories in Shaba”.

Both the Syrian and Jordanian delegations referred to the pressing question of water scarcity in their respective countries and in Lebanon, as well as the inequitable distribution of water in the OPTs, and the problem of cross-border water pollution. In particular, the Syrian delegation stated that in the OPTs, 80% of available water was used by Israeli settlers – to fill in their swimming pools - while the remaining 20% were made available to the Palestinian people. As a consequence, Palestinians were experiencing serious shortages. The Syrian and Palestinian delegations asked why reference to this situation - and the irresponsible use of water in general - had not been clearly spelled out in the report, as agreed in Lisbon during the meeting of the Standing Committees. The Jordanian delegation considered it appropriate to make more detailed reference to the situation in the OPTs. Hon. Blanc commented that page 8 of the report did indeed make reference to the

situation in the Middle East, but that he would be willing to further elaborate this aspect to address the concerns expressed by the members. Hon. Ghneimat, presiding over the debate, assured the members that their concerns would be duly reflected. It was agreed, as suggested by the Algerian delegation, that direct reference to the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories could be added in the form of a specific note in the Executive report of the Plenary.

Vote: the resolution and report were adopted.

Hon. Bernard Marquet, Member of the Environment, Agriculture, local and regional Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (PACE) and author of a report on Water, was invited to take the floor as a Keynote speaker. Hon. Marquet commented on how PACE had developed very close relations with PAM, in general and specifically in connection with water and energy issues. At its September Plenary, PACE made a monumental step by proposing the adoption of an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, which acknowledges access to a clean environment as a human right. Hon. Marquet's report is based on the singular fact that clean water has become scarce and thus more valuable. The report mentions the rise of temperature and sea level, the consequent loss of sea beds, and the pumping of untreated and polluted water into the Mediterranean. This can exacerbate conflicts among neighbouring states. The report therefore proposes that measures be taken to enable citizens to have access to water and treatment plants and bring about a culture which respects water through education. The report emphasizes the particular responsibility of local authorities on the matter. Besides Hon. Marquet's report on Water, PACE had also adopted a recommendation, "Towards a new ocean governance," which proposes steps to be taken in order to protect the oceans and coastal zones. Hon. Marquet mentioned that PACE would continue to reflect on the necessity to recognise the right to access water, in similar fashion to the right to access to a clean environment, as a human right as well as on the use of water to generate alternative energy. Hon. Marquet informed the participants that PACE will organize a follow-up conference to the Istanbul 5th Forum on Water towards the end of 2010-early 2011, ahead of the Marseille 6th Water Forum in 2012 and invited PAM to these events.

c) STF on Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Elissavet Papadimitriou (Greece) – Report and Resolution presented by Hon. Jacques Blanc (France)

Rather than summarising Hon. Papadimitriou's report, which had already been the subject of lengthy debate at the Lisbon meeting of the 2nd Standing Committee, Hon. Blanc informed the members of the developments that had taken place since June, in particular, that PAM had been granted Observer Status at the forthcoming World Summit on Climate Change. Moreover, implementing the stated objective of reducing CO2 emissions by 95% would require adequate financing to ensure that it would not create an obstacle to industrial development. However, there was immense global interest in the Summit, which has already been confirmed by the overwhelming success of this year's Earth Hour, organized by the World Wildlife Fund, in which hundreds of millions of people worldwide switched off their lights for one hour on 28th March. Despite unprecedented support for the December Summit, there are many unanswered questions, such as the extent to which developing countries are prepared to reduce their current emission rates. The Copenhagen Summit, which is strongly supported by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, will require commitments and concessions from both the developed and developing world if it is to succeed. Hon. Blanc suggested that the vulnerability of the Mediterranean environment imposed an obligation on PAM Member States to take an unequivocal stance. **Finally, he informed the members that PAM, together with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction will**

be organizing a parliamentary roundtable on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Malta on 23-24 November in the build up to the World Summit.

Vote: the resolution and report were unanimously adopted.

d) STF on Disaster Management, Hon. José Junqueiro (Portugal)

Hon. Junqueiro suggested that the question of disaster management in the Mediterranean region was a particularly pertinent issue in light of the 2008 natural disasters caused by fires in Greece and Portugal, and the most recent earthquake in Italy. The report deals with the issues of prevention, preparedness and response, and it has become apparent that the level of preparedness to respond to natural disasters varies greatly from country to country, but in particular from North to South. The question of joint civil protection initiatives needs to be examined in further detail, and parliamentarians can sensitise their respective parliaments and governments on the need to be prepared and the benefits of sharing best practices and information. Collective efforts can be an advantage to natural disasters, even if the ultimate responsibility for disaster management remains sovereign. Member States should always remember that they have a collective responsibility to support the protection of the Mediterranean environment.

Vote: the report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

The **PAM Secretary General** informed the Plenary that in 2009, Syria had requested, for the second consecutive year, international assistance to deal with the consequences of drought. The PAM Secretariat had disseminated all its members the appeal issued by the UN to face the consequences of this disaster. Moreover, subsequent to the Israeli military intervention in Gaza, international aid had been mobilised thanks also to the work of the members of the PAM, who also received the UN appeal for urgent humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

e) STF on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Hon. Ridha Bouargoub (Tunisia) - Report and Resolution presented by Hon. Juri Franco (Slovenia)

Hon. Franco greeted the Plenary on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia. The activities of this STF follows from work of Hon. Milan Cvikl, former PAM delegate from Slovenia. Hon. Franco explained that private enterprise was the main engine of growth in the Mediterranean, and that tools to further that had been created within the framework of Euromed, in particular through the Euromed Charter for Enterprise, which outlined ten major areas for intervention. Moreover, the report refers to the Euromed's intention of establishing a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area in 2010, and points to the existence of financing mechanisms in the area such as FEMIP (EIB), which has the priorities of supporting private investment and creating an investment environment, as well as the Mediterranean Exchange (UNIDO's regional initiative to promote foreign investment and SME development of the MENA Region), and the OECD centre for entrepreneurship. In June 2008, the Small Business Act for Europe was adopted, setting up coherent and fundamental initiatives to facilitate entrepreneurship. Due to the complexity of the issue, the report suggests a number of areas to be dealt with in more depth: in particular, following the European Charter for Enterprise, promoting investment to ease migration pressure northwards, as well as measures to ensure women and young businessmen are given access to instruments for their development and technology transfer. The report also supports the institution of transnational programmes to make the region more competitive at the international level, and the creation of a single patent for Europe and Mediterranean.

Vote: the report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

Hon. Ghneimat, President of the 2nd Standing Committee, presented the calendar of activities for the 2nd Standing Committee for the next twelve months.

Agenda for the end of 2009-2010:

- The Special Rapporteur on Water will continue his work;
- The Special Rapporteur on Energy will continue his work;
- The Malta meeting on Climate Change Adaptation will be part of the work of the STF on Climate Change;
- Updates on the Copenhagen Summit will take place next year;
- The STF on SMEs is being replaced by the Panel on External Trade.

Meetings

- Joint PAM/UN ISDR Roundtable of parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
Malta, 23-24 November 2009
- Follow-up meeting to Copenhagen Summit
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France), tentatively end of February 2010 (TBC)
- Special Task Force on Water
Special Task Force on Energy
Nice (France), 16-18 March 2010
- Update on follow-up to Copenhagen Summit and UNESCO meeting
Ljubljana (Slovenia), 15-16 April 2010
- Panel on Foreign Trade
Lisbon (Portugal), (exact date tbc)
- Meeting of all three Standing Committees
Belgrade, 24-27 June 2010

Hon. Ghneimat then closed the proceedings for the morning.

4. Overview of the work of the 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights during 2009 (Afternoon)

Hon. Abdelkader Fedala (Algeria), PAM Vice President, deputising on behalf of Hon. Titna Alaoui (Morocco), President of the 3rd Standing Committee, presided over the Committee, and after thanking the Turkish hosts, invited Mrs Karen AbuZayd, UNWRA Commissioner General, to take the floor, commending her on her work with Palestinian refugees.

Mrs. AbuZayd mentioned that as a humanitarian and protection agency, UNWRA draws its inspiration from the same source as PAM, i.e. the UN Charter (whose 64th birthday fell on that very day), laying down the universal human values on which the world is founded. She observed, sadly, that these values were of little meaning in the daily lives of Palestinian refugees. She informed the Plenary that there were particular conditions that the Palestinian refugees were facing that even today needed to be urgently addressed as they were worsening. In particular, she referred to the chronic poverty in the refugee camps in Jordan and Syria, and the limited movement of refugees outside the camps in Lebanon. She defined the greatest threat to the future of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territory as being caused by isolation and segregation, curtailing movement and preventing normal life from taking place, in addition to the daily threat of violence, and abject poverty of 300,000 of the 1.1 million refugees. In some places, especially Gaza, lives were also at risk.

Mrs. AbuZayd appealed for respect for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination as endorsed by the UN. She also commented that in the past, attempts to find a solution to the conflict had excluded important parties in the negotiations or that crucial items on the peace agenda had been omitted. Her primary concern, however, was that immediate attention should be given to the plight of refugees. She was pleased that PAM has become an important actor and urged its members to mount pressure on their national parliaments and governments to work towards a solution. Indeed, the 64th anniversary of UNRWA was certainly no cause for celebration.

The Palestinian delegation stated that despite the fact that the UN resolutions enshrined the right of Palestinian people to return to their homelands, and that certain Israeli politicians were still calling for the transformation of Israel into a Jewish State. The Syrian delegation emphasised the fact we are human beings regardless of geography, and agreed with the UNRWA General Commissioner that the starting point to resolve the conflict should be from the perspective of returning refugees and suggested that a statement be issued about what is happening in the West Bank/Jerusalem.

Hon. Abdelkader Fedala then invited Mr. Maxwell Gaylard, UN Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) and UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, to take the floor.

Mr. Gaylard informed the Plenary that despite renewed pressure from the Obama Administration and from the UN, peace negotiations had not yet recommenced in earnest and settlements had not ceased. In that context, there is no alternative but for parties to implement their commitments under the Road Map. Mr. Gaylard informed the Assembly that the UN had 22 agencies operating in the field contributing to the development of an institutional framework and empowerment of the Palestinian people, which involved intervention in four strategic areas, notably: governance and human rights; social services; food security, livelihood and employment; and infrastructure. He welcomed the efforts and commitments by the Palestinian Authority toward self empowerment and statehood through the adoption of their plan for reconstructing the institutions of a Palestinian State within 24 months and the Recovery and Development Plan (PRPD) for 2008-2010. M. Gaylard stressed that humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people remained critical and informed the delegates that an inter-agency UN appeal would be launched in the coming weeks. To conclude, he touched upon the issue of the degradation of the coastal aquifer of Gaza, as outlined in a recent UNEP report and which needed to be urgently addressed.

The Palestinian delegation commended the contributions of both speakers, thanking them for their objectivity and the depth of their addresses.

Hon. Fedala then introduced the work of the STF on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions, previously led by Hon. Sónia Sanfona (Portugal), who was no longer a PAM member. He informed the Plenary that PAM had made significant progress with dialogue and peace building initiatives, having met with leading religious figures in Rome and Assisi, and having visited the Vatican City in Rome and been received by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

a) STF on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions, Hon. Sonia Sanfona (Portugal) - Report and Resolution presented by Hon. Justyne Caruana (Malta)

Having accepted to present the report on behalf of the Rapporteur, Hon. Caruana explained that she would not delve into the details of the report as the members were already familiar with its contents. Needless to say, this report represented the continuation of the STF's work and implementation of the Fez Programme adopted in 2008, under the auspices of which, the **Mediterranean Day** had been established, on 21 March. The theme for this year's Mediterranean Day had been "Shared Values - Shared Aspirations". Moreover, a prize had been instituted for the promotion of cultural dialogue within the broader framework of the PAM Prize awarded to organizations and individuals contributing to the aims of PAM. Hon. Caruana commented on the efforts of certain Member States to increase PAM's visibility at the national level, such as Morocco, which had awarded a prize for a student dissertation on Mediterranean issues, and Italy, which had supported a journalism competition in the city of Bari. Moreover, the Secretary General had given a lecture on parliamentary diplomacy at the University of Naples in the spring of this year.

Hon. Mrs. Caruana emphasised the need to work even harder among Member States to further the exchange of knowledge about each others' customs and cultures, and urged the Member States who had not done so to complete their questionnaires prepared within the ambit of the previous report. Hon. Mrs. Caruana referred to the need to create cultural spaces for the Mediterranean, starting at a very early age, as well as creating links with other organizations with similar or shared goals. Hon. Caruana concluded by inviting the Heads of the PAM national delegations to sign a **Letter of Engagement** inviting parliaments to work on the issue of inter-cultural dialogue locally.

The Palestinian delegation emphasised the need for utmost respect for freedom of religion, which taught high moral values, respect and dignity, and that it was not acceptable for religion to be manipulated as a pretext to achieve political aims. It was suggested that PAM should issue a statement to this effect. The Syrian delegation thought that governments should invest more on religious dialogue. Sen. Learco Saporito (Honorary Member of PAM, Italy) commented that the focus of the European Union had moved northwards towards a Carolingian construction, and the PAM Assembly was an important organization in ensuring that Europe's focus was not unduly imbalanced towards the North. By focusing on the Mediterranean, PAM can guarantee that the south has an important voice, and Sen. Saporito urged the members to inject interest into the further development of PAM. The Egyptian delegation argued that Muslims respected all monotheistic religions, including Christianity and Judaism. It further stressed that the construction of walls in the Occupied Palestinian Territories divided cultures and religions, which they believed was intolerable, and called on the Assembly to issue a statement condemning Israel for this practice. Another member of the Egyptian delegation stated that dialogue should focus on cultural values rather than on religion, because the parameters of religious dialogue were already closely circumscribed. The Palestinian delegation argued that the report should contain a specific mention of the segregation of East Jerusalem.

Vote: the report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

Hon. Fedala then invited the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (PUIC) and former University Professor of philosophy of religion to take the floor as a Keynote speaker.

Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Secretary General of PUIC, observed that East and West were geographical locations, and that as such they were relative and not absolute. In fact, East depends on where you are standing and in what direction you are looking. In other words, it is an accidental qualification. Race, gender, identity and religion are equally accidental qualifications. We should not forget this very essential point in our modern civilisations because as human beings, the human race is our common denominator. Problems defined as being caused by religions, are misconceptions or miscomprehension of religions themselves by their followers, and the fact that different levels of understanding exist in the pyramid of knowledge. Prof. Kılıç argued that mutual understanding between men cannot be defined by day-to-day policies or commercial interests; rather, they require the persistent application of good work to move towards a world of positive human relations. This concept that has not yet received the urgent consideration it deserves. On the contrary, the inequalities that persist today are patent examples of wrong human relations. To confront and overcome some fundamental problems of our modern world, including intolerance, we should consider soliciting help from religious traditions and their dialogue.

b) STF on Migration, Hon. Mahmoud Muhaidat (Jordan)

Hon. Muhaidat explained that his report focused on the causes and definition of forced migration, as there is none which is universally accepted of the latter. The causes of forced migration can be divided into three categories: people fleeing to safety to avoid persecution or the effects of war or armed conflict; people migrating to find an alternative economic livelihood; and people migrating due to natural disasters such as floods and droughts, etc. The common denominator is that all such people need to be afforded minimum protections by international law. Hon. Muhaidat identified women and children as being particularly vulnerable, and often the victims of trafficking, and argued that it was of utmost urgency to reach a common definition on forced migration, to ensure that these people are guaranteed basic human rights, and to take actions to protect the forced migrants, whose precariousness makes them extremely vulnerable.

The Palestinian delegation was thankful for the report, which contributed to improving the condition of the most vulnerable members of our societies, and asked how paragraph 8 of the resolution, which states that the **question of migration of Palestinian people, its root causes, its impact on neighbouring countries and on the living conditions of the Palestinians themselves** would be carried out by PAM in future. **Hon. Muhaidat replied that it is one of the issues to be looked at by the STF next year.**

Vote: the report and resolution were unanimously adopted

c) STF on Gender and Equality Issues, Hon. Mrs. Aşkın Asan (Turkey), and Hon. Mrs. Houda Bizid-Blaiech (Tunisia)

In the absence of Hon. Mrs. Bizid-Blaiech, Hon. Mrs. Asan presented the joint report on the question of increased participation of women in political life. She argued that equality could only be achieved if women are equally able to participate in decision-making at all levels. There is a trend towards increased female representation but there are still few women leaders, and very few women in executive positions. In fact, no Mediterranean countries have achieved the ECOSOC target of

30% female representation in parliament. The report highlights the participation of women in political life, making specific reference to Turkey, Tunisia and Morocco. Hon. Mrs. Asan argued that the greatest challenge to be overcome relates to overcoming negative stereotypes in family and public life, which affect women's preparedness to participate in political life. The international community should also take specific action to assist women in Palestine. The reports found it important to encourage women and girls to participate in educational activities, and further studies need to be conducted on obstacles to female participation in society. The report calls on parliaments to reform family law as the starting point for increased participation and for the civil rights of women.

Hon. Fedala reminded the delegations that if they have not yet done so, to kindly compile and return their questionnaires on the participation of women in society in their countries to the Rapporteurs without delay.

The Egyptian delegation fully supported the report and reiterated that female participation in politics was extremely low in PAM Member States, despite the fact that all constitutions contain provision embodying the principle of equal opportunities. The delegation suggested imposing minimum quotas and positive discrimination to assure wider participation of women, as in practice only few women benefit from a similar status to those offered to men. The Palestinian delegation asked why the specific case of Palestinian women had not been included in the report, despite this having been agreed at the Standing Committee meeting in Lisbon. Hon. Fedala agreed that this was a legitimate request and asked the Palestinian delegation to draw up its proposals in writing, which could then be included in a future report. The Syrian delegation warned against developing a negative perception of women in the developing world, arguing that positive examples should also be given. The Cypriot delegation thought that it was more important to develop infrastructures to facilitate the participation of women than to prescribe quotas, and mentioned that Cyprus has developed a five year action plan to promote equal opportunities among women.

The Rapporteur, Hon. Asan, referred the Palestinian delegation to page 3 of the report, where a specific reference was made to the status of women in Palestine. She added, however, that the work was not finished and asked the Palestinian delegation for comprehensive information about the status of Palestinian women. This could also be done by filling out the questionnaire.

Vote: the report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

2010 Agenda for the 3rd Standing Committee

Hon. Fedala presented the calendar of activities for 2010:

- The STF on Gender and Equality Issues will continue its work;
- The STF on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions will continue its work, **with specific focus on the Balkans;**
- The STF on Migration will continue its work;
- And a new STF on Education will be created to examine how the work of PAM can be supported by **Universities** located in PAM Member States.

Meetings

- STF on Gender and Equality Issues
Nice (France), 16-18 March 2010

- Celebration of the **Mediterranean Day**, 21 March
Each national parliament to commemorate this event
- STF on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions
- STF on Migration in the Mediterranean
Ljubljana (Slovenia), 15-16 April 2010

- Seminar - *The role of Universities in support of PAM activities*
Piran, EMUNI University (Slovenia) 15-16 April 2010

- Meeting of all three Standing Committees
Belgrade (Serbia), 24-27 June 2010

Next, Hon. Fedala gave the floor to representatives of Fondazione Mediterraneo and EMUNI.

Mr. Michele Capasso, President of Fondazione Mediterraneo (Observer to PAM) briefly took the floor, thanking the Turkish delegation for its kind invitation, and informed the Plenary of the Foundation's commitment to building dialogue in the Mediterranean region, and in particular supporting every effort to achieve peace in the Middle East. He therefore invited the members attending to adhere to the peace initiative "Totem della Pace" (a Totem for Peace) whereby each participant in the initiative constructs a totem in their respective country as an important physical and visible symbol of their commitment to peace.

Hon. Fedala then referred to PAM's commitment to outreach and increase its visibility and develop dialogue with academic institutions, and invited Dr. Joseph Mifsud, President of the EMUNI University to briefly take the floor.

Dr. Joseph Mifsud, President of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), founded under the auspices of the EuroMed, in Piran, Slovenia, on 9 June 2009, referred to the importance of developing dialogue and furthering knowledge in the Mediterranean, and was honoured to be hosting, together with the Slovenian PAM delegation, a PAM meeting in 2010.

Finally, Hon. Fedala handed over the chair to Hon. Salles for the remaining items on the agenda.

5. PAM Prizes

PAM President Hon. Rudy Salles informed the members that before closing the session, four winners of the PAM Prize had been selected, and invited the laureates to collect their awards, respectively. The 2009 PAM Prize was presented to:

- Mrs. Karen AbuZayd, on behalf of **UNWRA (The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees)**, for its contribution to the development of mutual understanding and respect for human rights;

- **The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI)**, Italy, the Italian seat of CIHEAM (*Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes*), for its contribution to the development of the Mediterranean area through new approaches to research;
- **The Jordanian Military Field Hospital in Gaza**, for its dedication to the local population, and humanitarian actions in favour of the civilians in the region;
- **H.E. Daniel Rondeau**, writer and French Ambassador to Malta, for his continuous promotion of dialogue throughout the Mediterranean Region and his contribution to the drafting of the *PAM Charter of the Mediterranean*.

H.E. Rondeau took a brief moment to inform the participants of the “Ulysse 2009” Mediterranean voyage, during which a military vessel had toured the Mediterranean in the promotion of dialogue, and to which PAM took part and helped organize.

President Rudy Salles, on behalf of the Assembly, then requested the Israeli delegation to convey to its Government and Authorities the serious concern of PAM on ongoing events in and around the holy sites in Jerusalem. He requested the Israeli Authorities to ensure freedom of access for all and reminded them of their responsibility to safeguard and protect all religious sites.

The President informed the Plenary that the Secretary General still had to update them on PAM’s financial situation.

6. Financial situation of the Assembly

The PAM Secretary General, Dr. Sergio Piazzi reminded the Plenary of PAM’s outstanding achievements in less than three years of activities, but also of its currently grave financial situation, with an accumulated debt and a current budget that was not sufficient to pay social security and pension emoluments for its staff, let alone set up a reserve fund, as had been already agreed by the Assembly in Monaco in 2008, as well as strongly recommended by the IPU. The budget required would be in the order of 900,000 Euros, but due to the global financial crisis, the Secretary General submitted a core budget to the Plenary of 755,000 Euros, divided as follows: 95,000 for arrears in payments and the remaining 660,000 Euros broken down into 47,000 for external services, 174,000 for operational costs, and 439,000 to cover staff costs. Furthermore, it was decided that the original budget of 900,000 Euros, which includes the setting up of the reserve fund, would be implemented in 2012.

Hon. Rudy Salles then invited all the delegations to adopt the budget. The Assembly encouraged the Secretary General to continue with the excellent work provided by the Secretariat in Malta and adopted the budget.

President Salles then addressed both the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. He reminded them that the spirit of PAM was to create dialogue. Despite our differences of opinion, it is our duty to respect each others’ views. No single Member State will ever be condemned under the auspices of PAM. Dialogue is our objective and international passport.

7. Closure

The President concluded by referring to the unprecedented success of the Plenary, thanks to the participation of almost all PAM delegations and many of our international partners, to the organization and hospitality of the Turkish Parliament, and the hard work put in by the PAM Secretary General and the Secretariat staff. He hoped to see all delegates at the next Plenary Session in Morocco in 2010, when the new Bureau of PAM will have to be elected. He also thanked Croatia and Portugal for offering to host future plenary sessions. Finally, the President also thanked the interpreters for their invaluable support during the meeting.

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Annex: Participants list



4TH PLENARY SESSION
CONRAD HOTEL, ISTANBUL
ISTANBUL (TURKEY) 23 - 24 October 2009

List of Participants / Liste des participants

Albania/Albanie

Ms. Marbind Myftiu – Secretary general / Secrétaire général

Algeria/Algérie

Hon. Abdelkader Fedala – MP, Vice President of PAM /Député, Vice Président de l'APM(APN)

Hon. Ali Bussouf – MP / Député (APN)

Hon. Leila Etayeb – MP / Députée (Sénat)

Hon. Salah Tazdait – MP / Député (Sénat)

Hon. Slimani Djilali – MP / Député (Sénat)

Mr. Abdelhamid-Badis Belkas – Secretary General of APN /Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

Mr. Hafnaoui Amrani – Secretary General of the Conseil de la Nation /Secrétaire général du Conseil de la Nation

M. Noureddine Si-Bachir – Research Assistant / Chargé d'études APN

Ms. Dalida Redjal – Administrator (Senate) / Administratrice (Sénat)

**Bosnia and Herzegovina /
Bosnie-Herzégovine**

Mr. Aljoša Čampara – Secretary of the Joint Service of the Parliament /Secrétaire du Service conjoint du Parlement

Mr. Branka Todorović – Secretary General of the House of Representatives / Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants

Mr. Dejan Vanjek – Head of the International Relations Department / *Chef du Département des Relations internationales*

Ms. Enra Soldin – Senior Expert Assistant for Public Relations / *Conseillère Relations publiques*

Croatia / Croatie

Hon. Dubravka Šuica – MP / Députée

Hon. Gari Cappelli – MP / Député

Hon. Luka Denona – MP / Députée

Mr. Josip Sesar – Secretary General / Secrétaire général

Hon. Hrvoje Sadarić – Secretary / *Secrétaire de délégation*

Cyprus / Chypre

Hon. Nicos Anastasiades – MP, Head of Cyprus Delegation / Député, Chef de la délégation

Hon. Nicos Cleanthous – MP / Député

Hon. Dina Akkelidou – MP / Députée

Hon. George Varnava – MP / Député

Mr. Dionysios Kombos – Senior International Relations Officer / *Conseiller Relations internationales*

Egypt / Egypte

Hon. Mohamed Abou El-Enein – MP, PAM Roving Ambassador and Special Rapporteur on Energy / Député, Ambassadeur itinérant de l'APM et Rapporteur spécial sur l'Energie

Hon. Gorbet Kalini – MP / Député

Hon. Tarek Sabak – MP / Député

Mr. Abd El Rahman Barka

Mr. Mohamed Basyoni – Chairman of the Arab, Foreign Relations and National Security Committee / *Président de la Commission pour les Relations extérieures et avec le monde arabe et de la Sécurité intérieure*

Mr. Farag Hafez El-Dory – Secretary General / Secrétaire général

France/ France

Hon. Rudy Salles – MP, PAM President / Député, Président de l'APM

Hon. Jacques Blanc – MP, Senator, Special Rapporteur on Water / Sénateur, Rapporteur spécial sur l'Eau

Hon. Camille de Rocca-Serra – MP / Député

Mr. Alain Delcamp – Secretary General of the Senate / Secrétaire général du Sénat

Mr. Bertrand de Cordovez – Adviser (National Assembly) / *Conseiller (Assemblée nationale)*
Mr. Pierre-Henry Godshian – Adviser (Senate) / *Conseiller (Sénat)*

FYROM / ARYM

Hon. Safet Neziri – MP / Député
Hon. Vanco Kocev – MP / Député

Ms. Ana Kachakova – Secretary / *Secrétaire de délégation*

Greece / Grèce

Mr. Miltiadis Makrygiannis – Head of Department for Regional Cooperation and Partnerships at the European Affairs Directorate / *Chef du Département pour la Coopération régionale et les partenariats de la Direction des Affaires européennes*

Israel / Israël

Hon. Majalli Whbee – MP, Deputy Speaker / Député, Vice Président de la Knesset

Italy/Italie

Hon. Francesco Amoruso, Senator, Vice President of PAM / Sénateur, Vice Président de l'APM
Hon. Angela Napoli – MP, Rapporteur on Organised Crime / Députée, Rapporteur sur la Criminalité organisée
Hon. Maria Teresa AMICI, MP / Députée
Hon. Learco Saporito – Senator, Honorary Member of PAM / Sénateur, Membre Honoraire de l'APM

Mr. Roberto Sorbello – Secretary General of the Italian Inter-Parliamentary Group / Secrétaire général du Groupe interparlementaire italien

Ms. Daniela Delfino – Executive Secretary / *Secrétaire de délégation*

Mr. Sandro Sorbello – Secretary of the Delegation / *Secrétaire de délégation*

Ms. Roya Heideri – Delegation Assistant in Istanbul / *Assistante de la délégation à Istanbul*

Ms. Daniela Lepori – Interpreter / *Interprète*

Ms. Ezgi Unluer Baglieto – Interpreter / *Interprète*

Jordan/Jordanie

Hon. Fayez Tarawneh – MP, Head of Jordanian Delegation, Deputy to the President of the Senate/ Chef de la Délégation, Vice Président du Sénat

Hon. Suleiman Ghneimat – MP, President of the 2nd Standing Committee / Député, Vice Président de l'APM et Président de la 2^{ème} Commission permanente

Hon. Dr. Mahmoud Muhaidat – MP, Rapporteur on Migrations / Député, Rapporteur sur les Migrations

Hon. Marwan Al-Hmoud – Senator, Assistant to the President of the Senate / Sénateur, Adjoint du Président du Sénat

Hon. Dr. Saleh Al Jbour – MP / Député

Hon. Ibrahim Alhusban – MP / Député

Hon. Mohamad Taisir Al Zinati – MP / Député

Mr. Fayez Al-Shawabkeh – Secretary General (House of Representatives) / Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants

Mr. Amer Kharabsheh – Secretary of the Delegation / Secrétaire de délégation

Mr. Yarub Alhabashneh – Focal Point (P.R.) / Conseiller (Relations Publiques)

Mr. Sufian Nawafleh – Staff / Personnel

Lebanon/Liban

Hon. Edgard Maalouf – MP, Vice President of the 1st Standing Committee / Député, Vice Président 1^{ère} Commission permanente

Libya/Libye

Hon. Suleiman Shahoumi, Foreign Secretary of the General People's Congress, Head of Libyan Delegation / Secrétaire aux Affaires étrangères du Congrès du Peuple, Chef de la délégation

Hon. Imrajii Hamed Al Ubayid – MP / Député

Hon. Abid Alhamid Mohammed Al-Kaud – MP / Député

Hon. Layla Nuri Ihtiwaish – MP / Députée

Mr. Nesrallah Elshaibani – MP / Député

Mr. Moftah Abuzimita – MP / Député

Mr. Moftah Dho Omran – MP / Député

Mr. Nasrullah Al Kaddafi Ali – Head of International Relations Department

Mr. Mahmud Osman Abu Ghola – Head of Foreign Relations Department

Malta/Malte

Hon. George Vella – MP, Rapporteur of the *ad-Hoc* Committee on the Middle East, 1st Standing Committee / Député, Rapporteur sur le Moyen Orient, 1^{ère} Commission permanente

Hon. Justyne Caruana – MP / Députée

Monaco / Monaco

Hon. Fabrice Notari – MP, Head of Monaco Delegation / Député, Chef de la délégation

Hon. Jean-François Robillon – MP / Député

Hon. Michèle Dittlot – MP / Député

Ms. Karine Carlin-Marquet – Secretary of the Delegation / *Secrétaire de délégation*

Morocco/Maroc

Hon. Chaohi Bellassal – MP / Député

Hon. Mohamed Azelmad – MP / Député

Mr. Abdelhamid Khalili – Secretary General of the House of Representatives) / Secrétaire general de la Chambre des Représentants

Palestine

Hon Taysir Quba'a – PNC Deputy Speaker, Head of Palestinian Delegation, Co-Rapporteur on Terrorism / Vice Président du Conseil national Palestinien, Chef de la délégation palestinienne, Co-Rapporteur sur le Terrorisme

Hon. Zuhair Sanduka – MP (PNC) / Député

Hon. Nabil Marouf – MP (PNC) / Député

Hon. Walid Assaf – MP (PLC) / Député

Mr. Abdelraouf ALAlami – PNC General-Director / Directeur Général du Conseil national palestinien

Portugal / Portugal

Hon. José Junqueiro – MP, President of the 1st Standing Committee, Rapporteur on Disaster Management / Député, Vice Président de l'APM, Président de la 1^{ère} Commission permanente, Rapporteur sur la Gestion des Catastrophes

Mr. Adelina Sá Carvalho – Secretary General / Secrétaire générale

Ms. Rita Pinto Ferreira – Focal Point / *Conseillère*

Serbia / Serbie

Hon. Maja Laushevich – MP, Head of Serbian Delegation / Députée, Chef de la délégation

Hon. Micho Rogovich – MP / Député

Hon. Nikola Zutich – MP /Député

Mr. Stanko Blagojevich – Secretary of the Delegation /*Secrétaire de délégation*

Ms. Ana Milanovich – Interpreter / *Interprête*

Slovenia / Slovénie

Hon. Miro Petek – MP, Head of Slovenian Delegation / Député, Chef de la délégation

Hon. Juri Franco – MP / Député

Hon. Andreja Črnak Meglič – MP / Député

Mr. Matjaž Plevelj – Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly / Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale

Hon. Tanja Pandev – Secretary of the delegation / *Secrétaire de délégation*

Syria / Syrie

Hon. Suleyman Haddad – MP / Député

Mr. Mohammad Khaddour – Assistant of Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

Tunisia / Tunisie

Mr. Ahmed Laabidi – Director General of International Relations / *Directeur général du service des Relations internationales*

Turkey / Turquie

H.E. Hon. Mehmet Ali Şahin, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey / Député, Président de la GANT

Hon. Askin Asan, MP, Head of Turkish Delegation, Co-rapporteur on Terrorism and Co-rapporteur on Gender / Députée, Chef de la délégation, co-rapporteur sur le Terrorisme et Co-rapporteur sur le Genre

M. Ali Osman Koca, Secretary General of the Grand national Assembly of turkey / Secrétaire général de la GANT

Hon. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, MP (Antalya), Vice President of PACE, Député, Vice Président APCE

Hon. Kemalettin Göktaş, MP (Trabzon), PABSEC Head of Turkish Del. / Député, Chef de la délégation APCEMN

Hon. Tacidar Seyhan, MP (Adana), PAM Member of Turkish Del. / Député, membre de la délégation APM

Hon. Murat Yildirim, MP (Çorum), PAM Member of Turkish Del. / Député, membre de la délégation APM

Hon. Zeki Ertugay, MP (Erzurum), PAM Member of Turkish Del. / Député, membre de la délégation APM

Hon. Mustafa Çetin, MP (Uşak), PAM Member of Turkish Del. / *Député, membre de la délégation APM*
Hon. Ayhan Yılmaz, MP (Ordu), PAM Member of Turkish Del. / *Député, membre de la délégation APM*
Hon. Alaattin Büyükkaya, MP (Istanbul), OSCE-PA Head of Turkish Del. / *Député, PA de l'OSCE*
Hon. Mehmet Çiçek, MP (Yozgat), PABSEC Vice President / *Député, Vice Président APCEMN*
Hon. Vahit Erdem, MP (Kirikkale), NATO-PA Head of Turkish Del. / *Député, Chef de la délégation, PA OTAN*
Hon. Reha Denemeç, MP (Ankara), Vice President of Justice and Development Party / *Député, Vice Président du Parti Justice et Développement*
Hon. Fazilet Dağci Çiğlik, MP (Erzurum), UPU Head of Turkish Del. / *Député, Chef de la délégation UPU*

H.E. Mr. Ahmet Rifat Ökçün, Ambassador, Chief Advisor to the Speaker of Parliament on Foreign Affairs / *Ambassadeur, Conseiller principal du Président de la GANT*

Mr. Ahmet Berat Conkar, Advisor to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

Mr. Ahmet Denli Tavat, Advisor to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

Mrs. Ece İleri, Advisor to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

Mr. Hasan Baytekin, Dr of Foreign Relations and Protocol / *Directeur du Service des Affaires étrangères et du Protocole*

Mr. Erdoğan Sakal, Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

Mr. Necati Öztürk, Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

Mr. Murat Dizdar, Chief / *Chef*

Mr. Mesut Arslanbek, Delegation Secretary / *Secrétaire de délégation*

Mr. Musatafa Durmaz, Staff / *Personnel*

Ms. Aylin Sav, Staff / *Personnel*

Mrs. Aydan Cenkeci, Staff / *Personnel*

Mr. Ahmet Sezen, Staff / *Personnel*

Mr. Resul Bumin Boydak, Staff / *Personnel*

Mr. Mücahit Arslan, Staff / *Personnel*

Mr. Hakan Ariburun, Staff / *Personnel*

Mrs. Buket Akdemir, Staff / *Personnel*

Mrs. Hande Deneri, Staff / *Personnel*

Ms. Tuğçe Müftüoğlu, Staff / *Personnel*

Ms. Derya Baykal, Staff / *Personnel*

Mr. Erdal Arslanoğlu, Staff / *Personnel*

Mr. Orhan Demirez, Staff / *Personnel*

**PAM Secretariat/
Secrétariat de l'APM**

Dr. Sergio Piazzi – PAM Secretary General / *Secrétaire général de l'APM*

Mr. Paul Passet – Special Assistant to the Secretary General/ *Assistant spécial du Secrétaire général*

Ms. Céline Cervi – Assembly Affairs Officer / *Suivi des Affaires de l'Assemblée*

Mr. Martin Micallef – Public Affairs and Communications/*Affaires publiques et Communications*

Ms. Courtney White – Research and Communications / *Recherche et Communications*

Mr. Simon Towle – Tabling office/ *Rédaction*

Associate Member /Membre Associé

Romania/Roumanie

Hon. Andrei Gerea – MP / *Député*

Mr. Gheorghe Barbu – Secretary General (Deputies) / *Secrétaire général*

Mr. Ion Moraru – Secretary General (Senate) / *Secrétaire général*

Mr. Constantin Gheorghe – Deputy Secretary General (Senate) / *Secrétaire général*

Ms. Irina Stupar – Advisor / *Conseillère*

Ms. Luminita Cercel – Advisor / *Conseillère*

Observers/ Observateurs

Maghreb Consultative Council / Conseil consultatif maghrébin

Mr. Said Mokadem – Secretary General / Secrétaire général

MEDREG (Mediterranean Working Group on Electricity and Natural Gas Regulation)

Mr. Carlo Crea, Secretary General / Secrétaire général

PABSEC / APCEMN

Mr. Mehmet Çiçek – Vice President / Vice Président

Mr. Murat Bakır – Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

PUIC/ Union parlementaire de l'Organisation de la Conférence islamique

Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kiliç – Secretary General of PUIC / Secrétaire général

Mr. Ali Asghar Mohammadi – Assistant Secretary General of PUIC / Secrétaire général adjoint

The League of Arab States / Ligue arabe

Dr. Sima S. Bahous, Assistant Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

Fondazione Mediterraneo

Mr. Michelle Capasso – Director / Directeur

Ms. Maria Pia Balducci – Director of the Youth and Creativity Programme / Directrice du Programme pour la Jeunesse et la Créativité

Guest Speakers / Intervenants

Turkey / Turquie

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan – Prime Minister, Premier Ministre

H.E. Hon Mehmet Ali Şahin – Speaker of the Grand National Assembly / *Président de la Grande Assemblée nationale*

France

H.E. Serge Telle – Ambassador for Union for the Mediterranean / *Ambassadeur pour l'Union pour le Méditerranée*

The League of Arab States / *Ligue arabe* **Dr. Sima S. Bahous, Assistant Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjointe***

UNRWA

Ms. Karen AbuZayd – Commissioner General / *Commissaire générale*

**European Security and Defence Assembly/
Assembly of Western European Union
(ESDA/AWEU)/ *l'Assemblée européenne de Sécurité et de Défense/Assemblée de l'Union de l'Europe occidentale*
(AESD/AUEO)**

Mr. Robert Walter – President / *Président*

East African Legislative Assembly/ *Assemblée législative de l'Afrique de l'Est*

Hon. Abdirahim H. Abdi – Speaker / *Président*

Confederación Parlamentaria de las Américas (COPA)

H.E. Carlos Jiménez Macias, MP / *Député*

Pan-African Parliament / *Hon. Nuri Amal Safal – Libyan MP/ Député (Libye)*

Invited Guests/Invités

Andorra / Andorre

Hon. Josep Dallerès – Síndic General / *Síndic General*
Hon. Valenti Martí – Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

Ms. Elisenda Vives – Protocol / *Protocole*

San Marino / San Marin

Hon. Angela Venturini – MP / *Députée*

Ms. Lucia Marfori – Secretary of the Delegation / *Secrétaire de délégation*

UNSCO

Mr. Maxwell Gaylard – Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
Coordinateur spécial adjoint pour le Processus de Paix au Moyen orient

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) **Mr. Maurizio Busatti, Chief of Mission (Ankara) / *Chef de Mission, Ankara***
Ms. Helen Nilsson – Project Manager / *Coordinatrice de projet*

EMUNI University

Mr. Joseph Mifsud – President / *Président*
Ms. Katja Kustec, Advisor of the EMUNI Foundation / *Conseillère à la Fondation EMUNI*

**Euromed Cities Network/
Réseau des Villes Euromed**

Ms. Farah Cherif, Director / *Directrice*

**(AICEP) Agência para o
Investimento e Comércio
Externo de Portugal**

**Mr. João Mota Pinto – Agency for Investment and External Trade for Portugal, Director for Turkey / *Agence
pour les Investissements et le Commerce extérieur du Portugal, Directeur pour la Turquie***

France

H.E. Daniel Rondeau – Ambassador to Malta / *Ambassadeur de France à Malte*

Istanbul Research Center

Ms. Esmahan Guven, General Coordinator / *Coordinatrice générale*

on Women

Morocco / Maroc

Mrs. Asma Chraïbi, Advisor to H.E Mohammed Ameer, Minister responsible for the Moroccan Community abroad / Conseillère au Cabinet du Ministre Mohammed Ameer, Ministre chargé de la Communauté Marocaine résidente à l'étranger

Turkey / Turquie

Mr. Mutlu Köseli – Police Major of the Directorate General of Security / Police de la Direction Générale

Georgia / Géorgie

Mr. David Darchiashvili – MP, Head of the Euro-integration Committee of the Parliament / Député, Président de la Commission pour l'intégration européenne

Regional Assemblies /Assemblées régionales

PUIC/

Union parlementaire de l'Organisation de la Conférence islamique

Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kiliç – Secretary General of PUIC / Secrétaire général

Mr. Ali Asghar Mohammadi – Assistant Secretary General of PUIC / Secrétaire général adjoint

PACE / APCE

Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu – Vice President, Chairperson of the delegation of Turkey / Vice Président, Président de la délégation avec la Turquie

Mr. Bernard Marquet, MP (Monaco), Rapporteur for the report “Water: a strategic challenge for the Mediterranean Basin” / Député, Rapporteur sur l'Eau

Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union / Union Inter-parlementaire arabe

Hon. Nour-Eddine Bouchkouj – Secretary General / Secrétaire général

Pan-African Parliament / Parlement pan-Africain

Hon. Nuri Amal Safal – Libyan MP/ Député (Libye)

**East African Legislative
Assembly/ Assemblée
legislative de l'Afrique de
l'Est**

Hon. Abdirahim H. Abdi – Speaker / Président
Mr. Alex Obatre – Adviser / *Conseiller*

**Confederación
Parlamentaria de las
pour Américas (COPA)**

H.E. Carlos Jiménez Macias, MP, COPA Honorary President, President of the IPU Latin American and Caribbean
*Geopolitical Group (GRULAC)/ Député, Président honoraire de la COPA, Président du Groupe géopolitique
l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes de l'UIP*

**European Security and
Defence Assembly
WEU of Western
European Union
(ESDA/AWEU)/
Assemblée européenne de
Sécurité et de
Défense/Assemblée de l'Union
de l'Europe occidentale
(AESD/AUEO)**

Mr. Robert Walter – President / Président
Mr. Paul Wille – Senator, Chairman of the Committee of Parliamentary and Public Relations Assembly of
/ Sénateur, Président de la Commission pour les Relations parlementaires et publiques

Mrs Marisa Nudda – Secretary of the Committee of Parliamentary and Public Relations / *Secrétaire de la
Commission pour les Relations parlementaires et publiques*

**Arab Transitional
Parliament / Parlement
arabe transitoire**

Hon. Taysir Quba'a – Representative / Représentant

Embassies and Consulates in Turkey / Ambassades et Consulats en Turquie

China / Chine

Mr. Jiangchuan – Consul / Consul

Croatia / Croatie	Mr. Damir Perincic – Consul General / Consul général
France	H.E. Bernard Emié – Ambassador / Ambassadeur Mr. Hervé Magro – Consul / Consul Mr. Stéphane Pailler – Second Counsellor / 2 ^{ème} Conseiller Mr. Julien Bouchard, Press counselor / Conseiller presse
Georgia / Géorgie	H.E. Teimuraz Sharashenidze – Ambassador / Ambassadeur
Israel / Israël	Mr. Moshe Kamhi, Consul General / Consul général Mr. Tal Gat – Deputy Consul General / Consul général adjoint Mr. Batia Keinan – Cultural Attaché / Attaché culturel Mr. Sivan Yotam – Security Officer / Officier de sécurité
Italy / Italie	Mr. Massimo Rustico, Consul General / Consul général Mr. Emilio Giribone – Deputy Consul / Vice Consul Mr. Leonardo Scardigno – Commercial Attaché / Attaché commercial
Libya / Libye	H.E. Ziad Adham Al Muntasser – Ambassador / Ambassadeur Mr. Ammar Diab – Consul General / Consul général
Malta / Malte	Mr. Simon Pullicino, Consul General / Consul général
Montenegro	Mr. Mehmet Akkan Suver, Honorary Consul General / Consul général honoraire Mr. Ogan Soysal, Consul General / Consul général
Morocco / Maroc	H.E. Lotfi Aouad – Ambassador / Ambassadeur
Romania / Roumanie	Ms. Stefana Greavu – Consul General / Consul général

Syria / Syrie

Mr. Safwan Ghanem – Consul General / *Consul général*

**United States /
*Etats-Unis***

Ms. Courtney Hood – Vice Consul / *Vice Consul*