



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

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Secretary General

St. Julians, 30 August 2012

I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Secretary-General, and convey to you my very best personal wishes for your new posting.

✓ PAM is a unique forum gathering parliamentarians from the Mediterranean region. We are an inter-state organization, with its own international legal personality and capacity, composed of 26 Member States, and many Observers and Partners. Our Assembly was born in 2006, in Amman, as the result of the maturation of a regional political process initiated within the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the late 80's, and known as the "Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM)". PAM is also a Permanent Observer to the United Nations General Assembly since 2009.

I look forward to establish with you, thanks to your unique experience, a structured and mutually beneficial dialogue to launch joint initiatives paving the way for concrete steps forward in the crises our region is going through, notably in the context of the political transition in many Arab countries.

Our President, H.E. Sen. Dr. Fayez Al-Tarawneh, Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and I, met with Ban Ki-moon in Amman, on 31 January 2012. On that occasion, we discussed options for cooperation, and agreed to put at the disposal of the UN the instruments of parliamentary diplomacy, entrusted to our Assembly by its States.

✓ A delegation of our Assembly will attend the high level segment of the 67th session of the GA from 24 to 27 September, and I think it would be an excellent opportunity to meet with you to discuss joint efforts in the MENA region and the Balkans.

PAM is at present fully mobilized to facilitate democratic transition, protection of civilians and delivery of humanitarian assistance, in close cooperation with the UN-LAS Envoys, in Syria.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Amb. Sergio Piazzi

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General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 169

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Sixth Committee (A/64/567)]

64/124. Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

1. *Decides* to invite the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

*64th plenary meeting
16 December 2009*





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

THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN - ORIGIN & OBJECTIVES

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) is an international organization established in 2005, following fifteen years of cooperation among States of the Mediterranean region. Cooperation focused on themes of common interest, such as political, socio-economic and environmental issues. The process, known as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM), and which began in 1990, developed under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The main objective of PAM is to forge political, economic and social cooperation among the member states in order to find common solutions to the challenges facing the region, and to create a space for peace and prosperity for the Mediterranean peoples.

PAM is the centre of excellence for regional parliamentary diplomacy, and a unique forum whose membership is open exclusively to Mediterranean countries, which are represented on equal footing. This is reflected in the composition of the Bureau and the alternating Presidency. The current President of PAM is Sen. Fayez Al-Tarawneh (Jordan)¹. Each national delegation has five members with equal voting and decision-making powers. Associate members and Observers do not have voting rights.

PAM conducts the bulk of its work within three Standing Committees². It may also set up ad-hoc Committees or Special Task Forces to tackle a particular topic (i.e. Middle East, Migration, Free Trade, Terrorism, Climate Change, Natural Resources Management, Energy and Gender issues, etc...). Although the reports and resolutions adopted by PAM are not legally binding per se, they are a “soft diplomacy” tool when dealing with parliaments, governments and civil society in the region.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE PAM SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat assists the PAM President, the PAM Bureau and all members in the execution of their mandate and is responsible for the follow-up on the decisions taken by the Assembly providing coordination, assistance and support to the work of the Committees and all other bodies established under PAM.

The Secretariat interacts with national delegations, as well as with regional and international bodies sharing an interest in the Mediterranean region. It stimulates the activities of the Assembly and also coordinates the awarding of the PAM Prize dedicated to individuals or institutions whose work is considered important for the Mediterranean region.

The Secretary General, assisted by international and local staff, directs the Secretariat. Amb. Sergio Piazzi is the current Secretary General³.

¹ Sen. Fayez Al-Tarawneh is the Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, former Head of the Royal Court and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Representatives. He assumed the PAM Presidency on 29 October 2011, on the occasion of the PAM 6th Plenary Session.

² 1st Standing Committee: Political and Security-related Cooperation and Regional Stability;

2nd Standing Committee: Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation, Development and Partnership;

3rd Standing Committee: Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights.

³ Italian-born, Amb. Piazzi worked successively as a diplomat and UN Senior official, mostly dealing with Crisis Management, EU and NATO affairs.

PAM – RELATIONS WITH NON-MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The membership criteria and the geographical location of its members position PAM as a central actor in the Mediterranean region.

The General Assembly of the United Nations granted the **Observer Status** to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, by Resolution A/RES/64/124, at its 64th Session on 16th December 2009, in recognition of its excellent work.

This further strengthens PAM's contribution to the region, in addition to that of other Parliamentary platforms, states and other international bodies which have a direct interest, or a specific role, in the region.

Today's challenges, including migration, climate change and most importantly the resurgence of conflicts, require a collective effort, good will and confidence building measures.

An essential link with civil society, parliamentarians are key to any political decision-making process. In order to ensure coherence and coordination in decision processes, including social peace, it is necessary that parliamentarians fully participate in today's regional debates thereby contributing to the elaboration of policies that bear both an immediate impact and a long-term impact for future generations.

Likely, the political dialogue established among members of PAM, in particular with respect to Middle East issues, is of vital importance.

In furtherance of its objectives, PAM encourages the inter-governmental support of the main actors in the region as well as regional institutions.

PAM MEMBERSHIP

The Member States of PAM: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Syria, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia and Turkey.

Associate Countries: Romania

Partner States and Organizations: San Marino, Bulgaria, Georgia, the Russian Federation, the Holy See, the UN System, the IPU, the League of Arab States, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Arab Parliament, UNESCO, CTBCO, the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe (PACE), OSCE, NATO, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, UfM, OIC, the Arab Maghreb Union and the Islamic Conference (PUIC), as well as the EBRD, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Association of the Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG), the Fondazione Mediterraneo and the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI).

HEADQUARTERS

The Headquarters of the General Secretariat of PAM were established in Malta in November 2007, in recognition of Malta's strategic role and commitment in setting up PAM.

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