



ASSEMBLEA PARLAMENTARE DELL'UNIONE PER IL MEDITERRANEO



Presidenza italiana



Rome, 12 November 2010

Bureau Statement on the Union for the Mediterranean

On the occasion of its meeting held under the Italian Presidency on 12 November 2010 in Rome, and recalling the Parliamentary Assembly's recommendation dated 12 October 2008 regarding the Assembly's role within the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), as well as the Bureau's Statements on the UfM dated 20 November 2009, 22 January 2010 and 18 June 2010.

The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean:

- Recalls that on its last Plenary Session in Amman on 14 March 2010 the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) changed its name to Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), thus emphasising the Assembly's role as an integral part of the Union for the Mediterranean's new institutional architecture and thereby formally consolidating its democratic legitimacy;
- Deeply regrets that the UfM's Summit of the Heads of State and Government has been postponed and hopes that it will be held as soon as possible. It also requests that the Summit - following up on the Joint Declaration issued in Paris on 13 July 2008 and on the basis of the Barcelona Process *acquis* - formally recognise the PA-UfM as the UfM's Parliamentary institution;
- Highlights the readiness of the PA-UfM to take on more significant responsibilities by being involved in consultation and through strengthening the democratic scrutiny of UfM activities;
- Invites the members of the UfM to remain firmly committed to further enhancing Euro-Mediterranean co-operation and allocating adequate resources to such end, including those destined to the UfM's Secretariat so that it may guarantee the UfM's effective functioning;
- Reaffirms its support to the programme of activities outlined by the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, requests that his mandate be better defined and enhanced and welcomes the appointment of the Deputy Secretaries-General of the Union for the Mediterranean; in this respect, asks to hold regular exchanges of views with the UfM's Secretary General and the Deputy Secretaries-General before the Committees and the Parliamentary Assembly,



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with the aim of allowing the PA-UfM to monitor the progress achieved in the projects under way;

- Invites the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean to co-operate closely with the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean;
- Expresses regret that the Ministerial conferences on topics such as Higher Education and Research, Food Security and Agriculture failed to take place, welcomes the holding of Ministerial conferences on Trade and on Employment and urges the establishment of a linkage and a regular exchange of views between said Ministerial Conferences and the Committees and Working Groups of the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM;
- Acknowledges the added value of sectorial initiatives such as the recently held Economic and Financial Forum for the Mediterranean in Milan (12-13 July 2010), which operate as a useful complement to the regular multilateral institutional events in fostering small- and medium-sized enterprises' involvement in increasing regional economic co-operation;
- In this respect, the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Bank could be a contribution towards a strong and efficient Union for the Mediterranean, capable of tackling global challenges, through investment enhancement and the realisation of concrete projects in the area;
- Expresses its support for all efforts aimed at resumption of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, recognising the important role played by the United States to that end, and underlines the need for a reinforced Quartet engagement; expects the EU to take a more prominent political role in the Peace Process commensurate with the level of its important financial involvement towards building the institutions of the future Palestinian State;
- Underlines that the Peace Process negotiations should bring about a two-state solution with a State of Israel and a contiguous independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State, living side by side in peace and security, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles (including the "land for peace" one), the Road Map, the previous understandings between the Parties and the Arab Peace Initiative;
- emphasises that concrete results achieved in the economic and social sectors in the Mediterranean region can contribute to creating a fertile ground for progress in the Middle East peace process;
- recalls that UfM projects were intended to respond to our citizens' expectations to see major political, economic, social and environmental challenges in the Mediterranean addressed through enhanced cooperation; hence insists that the



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implementation of selected UfM projects and the functioning of the UfM bodies must not be tied to progress in the Middle East Peace Process.

Senator Renato SCHIFANI –
President of the Italian Senate,
Co-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Hon. Gianfranco FINI –
President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies,
Co-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Hon. Abdelwahed RADI -
President of Morocco's House of Representatives
Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Hon. Jerzy BUZEK -
President of the European Parliament,
Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Senator Abdel-Hadi MAJALI -
Member of the Senate of Jordan,
Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean