



# ASSEMBLEA PARLAMENTARE DELL'UNIONE PER IL MEDITERRANEO



**PRESIDENZA  
ITALIANA**



**Meeting of the Bureau**  
*(Rome, 12 November 2010)*

## **Summary record**

The meetings of the Bureau and the Bureau enlarged to include the Committee Chairs were co-chaired by the President of the Senate, Renato SCHIFANI, and the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Gianfranco FINI, and were attended by Vice Presidents Abdelwahad RADI, for Morocco, Abdulhadi A. MAJALI, for Jordan, and Jerzy BUZEK, for the European Parliament.

President Fini called the Bureau meeting to order, recalling that on 4 and 5 March 2011 the Chamber of Deputies would be hosting the plenary session of the PA-UfM at Palazzo Montecitorio, and drawing attention to the meeting of senior government officials of the Union for the Mediterranean taking place at the same time in Brussels in preparation for the Summit of Heads of State and Government, scheduled to take place on 21 November 2010 in Barcelona, but still awaiting confirmation. He stressed the importance of the Bureau meeting, also for the purpose of reiterating the political will to relaunch Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

President Fini then gave the floor to President Schifani, who chaired the Bureau meeting.

The Bureau then adopted the agenda presented by President Schifani, and the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 June 2010 in Palermo.

In this regard, Abdulhadi A. Majali reiterated the criticisms voiced in Palermo by Jordan, the European Parliament and Morocco in the course of the debate on the Declaration on the Middle East peace process.

With regard to the follow-up of the 18 June 2010 meeting in Palermo, President Schifani said that the PA-UfM's request to play a full part in the work of the Union for the Mediterranean had been approved with regard to its participation to the Summits of Heads of State and Government and the ministerial meetings, and the preparatory meetings at senior official level. This was a decision that formalised the role of the Assembly within the institutional architecture of the UfM. The Italian Presidency then tabled an amendment to the draft final declaration of the forthcoming Barcelona Summit, to reiterate the fact that the PA-UfM is the parliamentary institution of the UfM, providing the basis for its democratic legitimacy.

In relation to the Secretariat and the financing of the PA-UfM, President Schifani recalled that acting on the decisions taken at Palermo, on 7 July 2010 the Italian Presidency had sent a letter to the Presidents of the Member Parliaments of the Assembly to update them on the implementation of the decisions adopted in relation to the institution of the Secretariat and stable financing, beginning in 2011. Not all the



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Presidents had replied to the letter, and it had not been possible to offer a summary of the replies.

He therefore proposed charging the Working Group to take further initiatives needed to set in motion the new financial mechanism. He also recalled the letter which the President of the European Parliament, Buzek, had written to the Belgian Prime Minister regarding the legal recognition of the Assembly, which was necessary in order to make the decisions adopted by the Amman Plenary fully effective in relation to the institution of a financially autonomous permanent Secretariat based in Brussels.

Vice President Buzek thanked President Schifani for having announced to everyone the decision to change the name of the Assembly, because he considered that it was vitally important to strengthen links with the UfM, pointing out the need to lobby the governments in order to incorporate the amendment presented by the Assembly into the draft declaration for the forthcoming UfM summit. He said that the EP Bureau had mandated the Vice Presidents of the European Parliament, Pittella and Isabelle Durant (responsible for relations with the Belgian authorities), to pursue all future discussions with the Belgian government in order to reach an agreement with it for installing the Secretariat in Brussels and obtaining recognition of its legal personality. The Italian Presidency endorsed this approach, and said that it would also be sending a letter to the Belgian authorities to support President Buzek's letter.

President Schifani then illustrated the draft declaration on the Union of the Mediterranean. At the request of Vice President Majali, a paragraph was inserted into the text reaffirming support for the programme of activities presented by the Secretary General of the UfM, whose mandate had to be enhanced.

The declaration was adopted.

Lastly, President Schifani recalled that the Chair of the Working Group on the Euro-Mediterranean University-EMUNI, the Vice President of the European Parliament, Rodi Kratsa, had written to the Italian Presidency requesting approval of the candidature of a representative of the Moroccan Parliament to serve as Deputy Chair of the Working Group. President Radi submitted the candidature of Hamid Narjisse.

The Bureau then resolved to institute the office of Deputy Chair of the EMUNI Working Group and appointed Hamid Narjisse to the post.

President Schifani then announced that the next Bureau meeting would be held on 21 January, while the Plenary would meet in Rome, at the Chamber of Deputies in Palazzo Montecitorio, on 4 and 5 March 2011.

President Schifani concluded by saying that the PA-UfM could not itself promote the incorporation of the Jordan Valley into the UNESCO World Heritage list, because a request of this nature could only be put forward by the countries concerned, which had



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to make the application through their Permanent Representative to UNESCO. He nevertheless reiterated the fact that the Assembly would support such an initiative if it were to be submitted by a country entitled to do so.