



ASSEMBLEA PARLAMENTARE DELL'UNIONE PER IL MEDITERRANEO



**PRESIDENZA
ITALIANA**



Meeting of the Enlarged Bureau

(Rome, 12 November 2010)

Summary record

The second part of the meeting was then called to order, enlarged to include the Chairs of the Political, Security and Human Rights Committee, Tokia Saifi, the Economic, Financial and Social Affairs and Education Committee, Mohammad Abul-Enein, the Committee for the Promotion of the Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture, Eduardo Cabrita, the Committee on Women's Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Countries, Afifa Salah, the Energy, Environment and Water Committee, Stefan Schennach, the Rules of Procedure Working Group, Gianni Pittella, the University of the Mediterranean (EMUNI) Working Group, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group for the Transformation of the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) into the Euro-Mediterranean Development Bank, Menaouar Khemila and Sergio D'Antoni.

The following persons attended the meeting as guests: Prof. Franco Bassanini, President of the Deposits and Loans Fund and member of the High-level Working Group on the Financing of co-development in the Mediterranean established by French President Sarkozy, and Dario Scannapieco, Vice President of the EIB, with responsibility for relations with the financial institutions in the Mediterranean, all of whom reported on the prospects for instituting a Euro-Mediterranean Bank. Lastly, Senator Antonio d'Alì, Chair of the Senate Environment Committee, reported on the protection and valorisation of the Mediterranean.

President Fini, chairing the meeting of the enlarged Bureau, began by congratulating Mr Enein, who had recently taken up the office of President of the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, and after the adoption of the agenda and the minutes of the meeting of 18 June 2010, he briefly illustrated what had been agreed at the previous meeting of the Bureau.

The Chairs of the Standing Committees and the Working Groups then took the floor, and reported on the results of the most recent meetings and announced the dates of the forthcoming meetings. The Chair of the Working Group on amending the Rules of Procedure and the Financing of the PA-UfM, Gianni Pittella, expressed his thanks for having been asked to address the question of the legal status of the Assembly with the Belgian government and, with regard to the installation of the Secretariat, he said that on 6 October 2010 the European Parliament's Bureau decided that the European Parliament will rent offices to house the headquarters of the PA-UfM Secretariat near the European Parliament.



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Messrs Bassanini and Scannapieco's reports on the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Development Bank were followed by Sergio D'Antoni and Menaouar Khemila, as co-Chairs of the Working Group on the transformation of FEMIP into a Bank. They expressed their support for the idea of creating a new financial facility, which was considered to be a driver for the growth of the Mediterranean area. President Buzek, recalled the position already expressed by the European Parliament, which considers that it is essential that projects in the Mediterranean area are implemented using both public and private sources of funding. Mr. Buzek underlined that an Euro-Mediterranean Development Bank would have to be established on the basis of a strong project. However, he pointed out that for the time being the member countries have to be encouraged to be more flexible and to finance the projects which were important for the area as a whole. The European Parliament would support for a Euro-Mediterranean Bank, but at this stage realism is needed and the effects of the economic crisis must be taken into account.

President Fini reported that he had just received news that the Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled to be held in Barcelona on 21 November had been postponed, expressing great disappointment that this decision had been taken, and hoped that it could be reconvened as soon as possible.

Vice President Pittella requested to emphasize, into the Declaration on the Union for the Mediterranean approved by the Bureau, the disappointment of the PA UfM Bureau on the postponement of the Summit and the hope that it could be convened again very soon.

President Fini then announced that the next meeting of the Bureau would be hosted by the Senate on 21 January 2011, and that the Plenary would be convened at Palazzo Montecitorio on 5 March 2011, following the meetings of the Committees on 4 March.