



**ASSEMBLEA PARLAMENTARE  
DELL'UNIONE PER IL  
MEDITERRANEO**



***PRESIDENZA  
ITALIANA***



Rome, 3 March 2011

---

---

**Bureau Declaration**

At its meeting, under the Italian Presidency, on 3 March 2011, the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean:

- expresses its wholehearted solidarity with the aspirations to freedom of the peoples of the Mediterranean region, reaffirming the universal value of democracy which is embodied in the sovereignty of the people as the source from which political institutions derive their legitimacy and expresses its heartfelt condolences for the innocent victims of the recent events in the Mediterranean region;
- firmly condemns recourse to violence and any other forms of repression of protest movements in Libya, and joins in the initiatives taken by the United Nations, the Arab League and the European Union to achieve the aspirations of the Libyan people to freedom, democracy and social justice;
- furthermore expresses its concern for the deterioration of the humanitarian crisis at the borders of the North African country and, in welcoming the prompt beginning of humanitarian initiatives by international organisations and a number of governments in favour of the peoples and foreign workers, urges that efforts be multiplied with a view to relieving the hardships and sufferings of the stricken populations;
- supports the political processes of democratic development which have begun in the region, so that they can take place in total compliance with the principles of the rule

of law, through dialogue between all the political and social forces, and with the free dissemination of information, looking ahead to future and well-prepared elections;

- urges that direct negotiations for peace in the Middle East will resume as soon as possible in a climate of mutual trust, based on the principle of two States living side-by-side in peace and security, guaranteeing the continuity of the agreements signed;
- recalling that the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM is the representative dimension of the UfM and the only UfM institution that has worked without solution of continuity, strongly appeals to the UfM governments to demonstrate their ability to measure up to this historic challenge and to relaunch the role of the UfM as a forum for global partnership between the northern and southern shores; requests that the Summit of Heads of State and Government that has been postponed several times already be convened as soon as possible; recommends that the activities of the UfM be intensified to achieve greater social and economic integration in the region, so as to raise the well-being of the people and notably youth employment; calls for the enhancement of the relations between civil societies as an underlying dimension of the partnership;
- expects that the extraordinary meeting of the European Council due to take place on Friday 11 March will give new impetus to the neighbourhood policy in the Mediterranean region through concrete orientations for policy action; requests that appropriate tools be implemented to accompany democratic processes as was the case in other geographical areas in the past;
- emphasises the role of the Parliaments, so that all the governments place themselves at the service of their citizens and peoples, and the general interests, fostering resource-sharing, combating corruption, and achieving the aspirations of peoples to democracy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sen. Renato SCHIFANI  
President of the Italian Senate,  
Co-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Hon. Gianfranco FINI  
President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies,

Co-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Hon. Abdelwahed RADI

President of the Moroccan House of Representatives

Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Hon. Jerzy BUZEK

President of the European Parliament

Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Sen. Abdelhadi MAJALI

Member of the Jordanian Senate

Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean