



**EURO-MEDITERRANEAN
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**



Rabat, 22 January 2010

Bureau Statement on the Middle East peace process

At its meeting on 22 January 2010 held in Rabat, Morocco, under the Presidency of the Jordanian Senate, the Bureau of the Euro Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) recalled its previous declarations adopted on 4 July 2009 and on 20 November 2009 and adopted the following statement.

The EMPA Bureau:

- is concerned by the continuous suffering of the Gaza civil population which is living under unacceptable humanitarian conditions;
- welcomes the recent decision of the Government of Israel temporarily to suspend, as a first step, all settlement activity, while considering this far from sufficient;
- categorically condemns attacks on Israel and on Palestinian Territories and calls on Israel to prevent settlers from committing acts of violence against Palestinian civil population as well urges the Palestinian factions to counter any form of violence;
- is seriously concerned by the absence of progress in the Middle East peace process and urges the parties to resume negotiations without delay in order to implement the two-state solution and to find a way, through negotiations, to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states; strongly invites Israel to reopen the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem according to its commitments under the Road Map, as an immediate step;
- calls for the parties to live up to the expectations of their populations by swiftly agreeing on the establishment of an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State, living side by side in peace and security with Israel;
- supports the recent reconfirmation of the EU's position regarding the permanent status issues and the ongoing U.S. efforts to re-launch the peace process in the region, and in this respect emphasises the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative;
- fully supports Egypt in its mediation efforts to achieve a meaningful and lasting reconciliation between the Palestinian political factions;
- recalls that the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly is a unique platform for ongoing dialogue between the representatives of the peoples in the region, thereby contributing to building mutual understanding and confidence.

Mr. Abdel-Hadi MAJALI -President of the Euro-Mediterranean
Parliamentary Assembly Senator of the Jordanian Senate

Mr. Antonio D'ALI – representing Mr SCHIFANI
President of the Italian Senate Vice-President of the
EMPA

Mr. Mustapha MANSOURI Vice-President of the
EMPA President of the Moroccan House of
Representatives

Mr. Gianni PITELLA - representing Mr BUZEK
President of the European Parliament Vice-
President of the EMPA