



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

## **10<sup>th</sup> PAM Plenary Session**

**Hosted by the  
Parliament of Albania**

Hotel Sheraton, Tirana

*18-19 February 2016*

# **REPORT**



**PAM TENTH PLENARY SESSION**  
**TIRANA, ALBANIA, 18-19 February 2016**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Tenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) was hosted by the Parliament of Albania, in Tirana on 18 and 19 February 2016. It was the first time that the PAM Plenary was convened in a country of the Balkan region. With more than 200 participants, presentations and discussions over the two days focused primarily on the most urgent challenges of the political and economic environment, with the populations in the Mediterranean region facing war, conflict, and terrorism.

In the Opening Session, the Prime Minister, Hon. Edi Rama, and the Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Ilir Meta, of Albania expressed their concern about the current situation in the region and beyond, in particular the migration flow resulting from conflicts in the Middle East. In a video message, the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, stressed the cooperation with PAM, and called for the participation in the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Istanbul in May 2016.

During the opening ceremony the formal endorsement of the appointment of the new PAM President, Sen. Lhou Lmarbouh, was confirmed by acclamation. The President augured that the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PAM would contribute to the promotion of peace and development not only in the Mediterranean region but also globally.

This being an Anniversary Session of the Plenary, the meeting followed a different format and concentrated on an open debate between parliamentarians and key speakers on current issues and cooperation between parliaments and regional institutions.

Following the Opening Ceremony three sessions were dedicated to political developments; economic and environmental challenges; and migration, inter-cultural dialogue and other social issues. In total 18 keynote addresses were given by representatives from the Governments of Albania and Morocco, United Nations and UN Special Agencies, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The sessions were chaired respectively by Sen. Dr. Mohammed Halaiqah (Jordan), Hon. Pedro Roque (Portugal) and Hon. Bilal Qasem (Palestine)

During the debates there was a general agreement that only through close cooperation, the Mediterranean can overcome the current stalemate and design a new road map for the future generations.

The recurring views at the 10<sup>th</sup> PAM Plenary Session were:

- The problems of terrorist acts, mass migration, war, and tensions between states, affecting all countries in the region, must be addressed through confidence building and mutual comprehension between states.

- The fight against illicit trafficking of humans, drugs, arms and contraband products, terrorism and corruption requires a profound change in thinking.
- Cross border, regional and international cooperation is needed to establish the rule of law to fight terrorism and unlawful migration.
- To manage the large migrant flow, greater coherence and solidarity are needed to find a balance between the respect for the individual rights and challenges of xenophobia and rising nationalism.
- Greater cooperation is also required to reach a strategic approach with European countries willing to work together to address the challenges of the migration flow that cannot be met by Greece or Turkey alone.
- Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and creation of climate change capacity require active involvement of Parliamentarians and adequate financial resources.
- Parliaments must promote allocation of funds to development rather than armament.
- Climate change is threatening food security and causing land degeneration, and will affect human health through the spread of diseases, threats to biodiversity, and destruction of various species of flora and fauna.
- International cooperation must aim at providing diversification and safer markets for electricity.
- As employment is a major challenge in the fight against poverty and efforts for economic growth, vocational training needs to be promoted as the only guarantee for dignified work and payment.
- The cycle of disintegration and reintegration of the region must be disrupted through a joint cultural foundation.
- A more coherent and collaborative approach is needed between political actors, development actors, and environmental practitioners to stop the growth of violent extremism.
- Legislation on migration and relocation needs to be better organised, with different trains of focus and policymaking joining forces to bring about a more holistic approach.
- A truly comprehensive approach is needed to offer protection and opportunities for legal migration.

As is customary during the annual PAM Plenary Sessions, the PAM President presented the PAM Awards to eight laureates in a brief ceremony. They received the prizes as a token of appreciation for their outstanding contributions to the realisation of the Mediterranean ideals as defined in the PAM Statutes and Mission Statement.

In his concluding remarks, President Lmarbough thanked all the participants and guest speakers for their active role in the Plenary works.

The PAM President also reiterated the Assembly's gratitude to the President of the Albanian parliament for the excellent organisation of the 10<sup>th</sup> PAM Plenary Session in Tirana.

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# **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

The 10th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) took place in Tirana on 18 – 19 February 2016, generously hosted by the President of the Albanian Parliament.

## **Day One**

### **Opening Session**

H.E. Mr. Ilir Meta, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, opened the event and, in his welcome note, expressed gratitude for being able to host such an important conference and to contribute in promoting the success of the mission of the PAM.

He welcomed the participants to Albania, which is at the cross roads of Western and Eastern cultures. This being the first time that the PAM convenes in a Balkan country, the great participation of delegations entails the expression of the value attached to the role of the PAM, not just in the regional but also in the wider interest of issues covered by the PAM. Despite the diversity of cultures, countries in the region must stand united to solve the problems facing its people. PAM, during the coming five years, will need to focus its efforts on solidarity and in achieving joint solutions, including peaceful co-existence of the region through dialogue and cooperation.

The macro region will need to overcome specific challenges to ensure a stable future. The massive movement of people, terrorism and climate challenges need, more than ever, inter-parliamentary cooperation to draft a concrete Plan of Action to find solutions for the region, in which democracy and tolerance will play important roles, including specific country situations, agreements with the European Union on trade, and coping with the refugee crisis and adopting effective strategies on counter-terrorism. There is currently great pressure on executive institutions with discussions focusing on the very existence of free movement of the Schengen area, while the United Kingdom is reviewing its EU membership. Particular attention must be given to the situation of Greece, which is faced with mass migratory flows, and PAM members must show solidarity vis-à-vis this unprecedented crisis and maintain cohesion.

PAM needs to be strengthened in all its dimensions, as its stakeholders are represented at all regional assemblies and fora, with a special meaning for the Middle East region, and to advance its agenda, including many economic challenges. There can be no safe Europe without a safe and developed Mediterranean region, which has a direct impact on European countries. He called for a joint plan to relate to the management of the crisis of refugees, environmental challenges, poverty and unemployment.

The existence and development of a Euro-Mediterranean space need progress and coherence between various fora, including being more active in joint efforts to strengthen Albania's

involvement and role in the European Union and PAM. He hoped that this meeting can generate concrete results for cooperation among all those involved.

H.E. Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania, expressed special pleasure with the impressive turnout in Tirana of the PAM national delegations and its partners. The past year had been full of colossal challenges, which all are facing as a great family navigating in a common boat in a tempestuous sea. Tirana can set a new step towards a more fruitful cooperation in the coming years. The past year ended, and the new year started with painful sights from Greece, the waters of the Mediterranean with hundreds of refugees having lost their lives in the common sea, and the exodus of thousands of people, which never stopped despite winter conditions. The first six weeks of 2016 already saw 409 lives lost, and ten times as many refugees trying to cross the sea, confirming the need to fight the common causes that led to the rise in violent extremism and death. These reasons can be addressed only through greater cooperation among us all towards a strategic approach, with Europeans willing to work together to address the challenges that cannot be met by Greece or Turkey alone. Albania is a small country that will work together with others to address this drama. Albania is not a part of the corridor to the heart of Europe, but is willing to contribute and do its utmost where everyone must do what is possible to help countries that are in need of assistance. Although certain countries are failing to assume the burden, Albania will always try to find new ways to work with PAM to find solutions to this crisis, and also in relation to climate change and environmental challenges. Albania will also work on the creation of a conducive business environment and a wider education platform, and of the necessity to educate children from a young age.

PAM has to promote awareness of and the international obligation to integrate democracy in the common responsibilities. The Prime Minister hoped that the meeting in Tirana would result in a new spirit to continue and strengthen cooperation, and delegates would also leave the country as content as possible. Tirana is proud of its hospitality, food and humour. Although it has problems like any other country, it is never a boring country, “maybe as it is not yet an EU member”.

Sen. Lhou Lmarbouh, PAM President, thanked Albania for its warm hospitality. The fact that the Assembly was held for the first time in a country of the Balkans reflected the efforts for integration and the growing interest of PAM member parliaments to work together in a spirit of cooperation. This could be also seen in the level of participation, the highest in the ten years of PAM’s existence. He also thanked all participants of the regional and national parliaments, the UN, OSCE-PA, NATO-PA, and other international parliaments.

At the 10th anniversary of PAM, the meeting would concentrate on debates between parliamentarians and key speakers, focusing on the challenges and the role of cooperation between parliaments and regional institutions. The difficult situation facing the region has reached global levels, in particular on issues such as crimes against humanity, terrorism and violence against civilians, with refugees falling prey to smugglers. Among the key challenges of the current days, there are the conflict in Syria, the political challenges in the new Libya, the price of transition in Tunisia, the efforts to guarantee social stability in Egypt, the lack of advancement in the Israeli – Palestinian peace negotiations, the new global financial and oil

crisis, and the threat to society of youth unemployment. The climate agreement adopted by 195 countries in Paris was now in need of substance as a priority topic, considering the ongoing major climate problems. The COP22, to be held in Morocco, requires PAM parliaments to prepare for a key role in the spirit of the Malta Declaration. All national parliaments must work together to face the challenges to peace and security of our time, and protect the most vulnerable people who flee their countries at war.

PAM enjoys excellent cooperation with the UN on several initiatives, including the fielding of several missions by PAM to Middle East countries to facilitate political dialogue, the protection of civilians, and the delivery of humanitarian aid, through high level and institutional contacts.

Good cooperation with the international community, ensured by the PAM Secretariat, was essential, and the PAM President was hoping for the Assembly to be able to contribute to the promotion of peace and development at the global level. Its collaboration with the UN for the delivery of humanitarian aid in the region was one example. Effective partnerships have been further achieved with national and regional institutions by ten years working in the context of the Assembly, and by being active in all issues challenging the Mediterranean region, as well as global peace and security. He counted on all members' contribution to make sure that PAM can meet its responsibilities in the years ahead.

In his video message, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, mentioned that cooperation with PAM members has never been more important. He summarised four points of key importance:

- PAM played a constructive role in the Paris agreement on Climate Change and the sustainable development agenda
- The Mediterranean is essential in the debate on refugees and migration
- Counter terrorism and a plan of action are needed to prevent violent extremism
- Participation in the forthcoming World Humanitarian Forum is important, as it is a critical moment to address the root causes of crises and improve response.

In line with PAM statutes, PAM Vice President and Head of Delegation of France, Hon. Michel Vauzelle, proposed the formal endorsement of the appointment, last December, by the PAM Bureau, of Sen. Lhou Lmarbough as the new President of PAM, which was confirmed by acclamation.

## **High-level debate on political developments and perspectives in the Mediterranean**

The Chair, Sen. Dr. Mohammad Halaiqah (Jordan), President of PAM 1st Standing Committee, congratulated the Egyptian and the Libyan delegations, both present for the first time in several years, and hoped that Libya will be able to maintain its stability and effectively counter-terrorism in the country. In opening the debate, he thanked all members of the 1st Standing Committee for the work done over the past year, which allowed PAM to be very active on the issues of counter-terrorism. The terrorist attacks in Paris had been followed by other terrorist acts, and mass migration, war and tensions between states were affecting all countries in the region. This global crisis must be addressed by confidence building and mutual comprehension between states, with 2016 going to be another critical and difficult year for the region.

In highlighting a few decisive landmarks of 2015, PAM's engagement on counter-terrorism, with UN institutions and the EC on legislative aspects of relevant issues, was very important. PAM organised a regional conference to launch the UN five-year initiative on Criminal Justice Responses to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF). While ISIS has not yet been defeated, the phenomenon of FTF is still increasing and facilitated by other criminal actions reaching far beyond the region. Radicalisation is particularly prevalent among those living at the margin of our societies. A PAM – UN joint meeting will be held in Rome, to evaluate the implementation, by national parliaments, of the UN Security Council's Resolutions on terrorism and the phenomenon of FTF.

In 2015, assisting Libya on its path to social and institutional stability has been a key focus of the work of the PAM, but the Middle East and delivery of adequate humanitarian assistance face new challenges for the entire region, with little progress in the Israeli – Palestinian dialogue, while the humanitarian situation caused by violence in the Gaza strip remains dramatic. The Chair expressed the hope for achieving soon a two-State solution, meeting the aspirations of the Palestinian population.

The failure of the Geneva process on Syria is alarming, but an end to the dramatic situation in Syria, based on integrity and stability, continues to be hoped for. The identity crisis faced by the European countries to deal with migrants and asylum seekers is both a humanitarian and a security issue. The EU, UN, NATO and others must be supported by concrete actions of diplomacy from the parliamentary community, and, in 2016, it will be critical for PAM to give a regional parliamentary dimension to the ongoing discussions on these important issues.

### **Keynote addresses**

In his presentation, the Director-General of the UN Office in Vienna (UNOV) and Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), H.E. Mr. Yury Fedotov, discussed key challenges facing the region, including the illicit trafficking of drugs, arms and human beings. He referred to the growing nexus between terrorism and fresh atrocities across the Sahel, with terrorists and criminals exploiting people in their areas of influence. Some of the most distressing developments in the Mediterranean region led to thousands of people dying in trying to cross the sea and falling in the hands of smugglers, especially women and children. These, often interconnected, activities pose serious threats to countries in the region.



He mentioned the UNODC response to politics among governments, strengthening of partnerships, and integrated support through field offices and regional programmes.

In 2015, UNODC drafted its own strategy for the Mediterranean region to better understand and address the scope of issues with trans-regional cooperation, and also including the Sahel region (Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso). These include anti-terrorism initiatives, measures to combat organised crime and smuggling of migrants in all geographical regions, including the southern Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. He highlighted the need for greater linkages between bodies focusing on terrorism and for building effective networks in support of countries in adapting to changing criminal behaviours, including smuggling of migrants and corruption. Organised crime exploits the weak and vulnerable, and is haunting the globalised world. A profound change in thinking about drugs, crime, terrorism and corruption, as well as greater awareness of the impact of crime in the region, is required. Countries must also work together to ensure progress in Sustainable Development, as laid out in the 2030 agenda.

H.E. Mr. Michael Moller, Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG), and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, reiterated that the considerable presence of UN officials shows that the meeting is an important event in its own right. Times have changed dramatically since PAM's beginning, with the region facing a number of serious challenges, and the difficulty of governance at all levels. At the onset of the Arab Spring, there was hope for a new approach, but some countries looked inward and missed the chance for democratic growth. Governance in the region is too fragmented to come to solutions for demographic stability, and its diversity is now being used to cause a split among the countries themselves, creating chaos and suffering. At the same time, as a positive sign, the Nobel Peace Prize was given last year to a group of leaders in Tunisia, showing that democratic progress is possible.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a framework for collaboration and integration to work on global improvement and address the problems of inequality.

Geneva is the operational hub of the international system, with key academic institutions and think-tanks, and home to at least 250 entities focusing on the different sustainable development goals. Further collaboration across Geneva institutions will be enhanced to promote progress and integration across the Mediterranean region. Geneva also hosts mediation talks on regional issues, and the Human Rights Council, which is engaged in the prevention of human rights violations, often the first warning signals of pending crises.

Disarmament is unfortunately also an area lacking political will, with more weapons falling in the hands of those acting outside international law. Technologically advanced weapons will soon decide on life and death on the battlefield, and yet the Conference on Disarmament has made no progress in the last 20 years. Parliaments must work on funding to go to development rather than being spent on arms. Parliamentarians have an important part to play in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, and each can act to ensure progress, demanding ministries to collaborate horizontally, across issues and across borders, at national and international levels, with stronger focus among governments to successfully implement the 2030 agenda. The UN is at the service of the constituencies and

there is hope for an even greater role of PAM in the issues being addressed by the international community in Geneva. We need to shoulder our shared responsibility to work together on meeting the challenges of the region through effective cooperation, Mr Moller concluded.

Hon. Andrea Manciuilli, Head of the Italian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism, stressed that the fight against Jihadi related violence, and against Daesh, requires for all international organisations to work together to meet this global challenge. NATO is dealing with Daesh not only as a group of terrorists, but with asymmetric warfare, at different levels, that needs to be fought, at appropriate levels, not just with weapons.

The three-headed threats of conventional warfare, and attempts to build a state, need to be fought, as is being done in Iraq and Syria, where we can witness that most of the victims of this violence are mainly from Islamic countries. A new type of war, through media and cultural means, is most insidious and tricky, and needs much more than conventional warfare, as its proliferation and the increased number of supporters have generated, in a relatively short time, far more adepts than Al Qaeda in ten years of war in Afghanistan. At that time, there were some eight to nine thousand foreign fighters, on an age average between 35-40, and now we count more than 40,000, many of whom are young, between 17 and 25 years, often culturally unsophisticated, with the new media wave infiltrating the cracks in our societies. The third aspect of the exponential growth of terrorism, in its new form, is the functioning of self-made, lone-wolf terrorists, representing individuals and so acting, also unpredictable threats. These wars cannot be fought just with arms. There is a need for a strategy on future needs to fill the cracks in the system, in those situations where the State is not strong both, geopolitically, culturally and socially. The non-positive outcome of the Arab Spring has played in the hands of Daesh, and efforts to build democracy, such as in Tunisia, are a threat to Daesh, which is basing its interventions on contradictions in Europe. Europe should lose part of its selfishness, while also in the Balkans the phenomenon is growing and has become a threat to Europe and the rest of the world. Daesh recently even made a 20 minutes video clip, in the Albanian language, with comparisons between wars and challenge of fighting against it, drawing inspiration from unhealed wounds in the region.

H.E. Amb. Florian Raunig, Head of the presence in Albania of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), pointed out that the long term relationship with the Mediterranean region goes back to 1993. Today OSCE's cooperation with its Mediterranean partners is based on a solid political framework with interaction taking place in many OSCE fora, including on security issues. The Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation with the Mediterranean Partners, adopted in Basel in 2014, is the basis for further partnerships, with priorities more aligned, the exchange of best practices and capacity building, with almost 20 cooperation projects being, or ready to be, implemented. These are in the areas of counter-terrorism, environment, energy, security, migration, and trafficking of small arms. Furthermore, a programme for two-year introductions of young diplomats from member countries has been relaunched.

In 2013, the new track II initiative “New-Med’ was launched with a network of researchers and academics from participating states and Mediterranean partners to promote a discussion on the OSCE model to strengthen the “OSCE – Mediterranean cooperation”. New ways for cooperation with other organisations in the Mediterranean region are being explored, where OSCE can act as a platform for cooperation between other regional and sub-regional organisations, e.g. on mediation and preventive diplomacy, justice and the rule of law.

In 2016, the region faces new and heightened tensions and old and new rifts, with issues being no longer only regional, but now part of the global agenda. An urgent task is to forge a powerful counter initiative for peaceful coexistence, and to prevent terrorism. The use of social media by the OSCE “United in Countering Violent Extremism” campaign resulted in a wide outreach. Public attention for the ongoing refugee and migration crisis has presented it as mostly a humanitarian crisis, but it must also be seen as a political issue needing a comprehensive multi-faceted approach in the fight against human trafficking, including with a link to the Mediterranean region. The Secretary General will organise “OSCE security days” in Rome, on 4 March, to stimulate a forward-looking and pragmatic dialogue.

Forty years after the Helsinki Final Act was signed, complex challenges affecting both the European and Mediterranean regions need further articulation of the added value of both the PAM and the OSCE, and strong interregional coalitions. He finally raised the question whether the Mediterranean Sea will be a dividing line or be a link between Europe, Africa and the Middle East, bringing about a common space of peace and shared prosperity. The question appears to be open.

## **Debate**

The general debate was open to all Speakers of Parliaments.

Algeria – H.E. Mr. Ould Khelifa Mohamed Larbi, Speaker of the People’s National Assembly – opened the debate by reminding that the Arab region has faced many problems for the national societies, with foreign interventions affecting economies and security. PAM works for prosperity and development, and needs cooperation within its regional area and on its borders in order to reduce problems and prevent the illicit migration phenomenon. The Southern Mediterranean is now an area faced with the loss of many lives and other calamities, despite the level of its ancient civilisations. The migration of the last years is unprecedented, and the present crisis must be recognised by all, in order to allow migrants to move in safety, and to prevent the repetition of further such dramatic situations. There is a need to work for reconciliation inside the countries affected by conflict, bringing a halt to the spread of terrorism and training of foreign terrorist fighters, who are subsequently being sent to the Middle Eastern region. This needs cross border and regional cooperation to put social justice and criminal justice in place in order to prevent terrorism and raise awareness. Algeria has taken measures to prevent terrorism and its threats, and has drafted a dedicated strategy to prevent and fight terrorism, maintaining all international principles and values. Changes in the Constitution on the division of powers and in the national laws have been made to ensure more democracy, prosperity and stability, and considerable funding is allocated to security measures. Support for national reconciliation in Syria and Libya is needed, far away from

foreign interventions, and the Palestinian issue needs closer cooperation to establish a sustainable State with all laws and standards adhered to.

Egypt – H.E. Ali Abdel Aal, Speaker of the House of Representatives, pointed out that his country was one of the founders of the PAM, but did not participate in the last three years in view of developments in his country. While the Mediterranean area has always been the cradle of civilization, there was now the need to find ways to best cooperate to overcome the shared challenges in the Mediterranean basin, especially to fight terrorism, which requires a unified solution. Egypt addressed the issue of terrorism for a whole decade, and now has to face inhumane barbaric violence after the Arab revolution. This requires a joint Mediterranean approach. Countries need to be united, and united must be the views to these joint challenges, as must be a priority to find a solution to the Syrian crisis, the issue of foreign fighters, and the unprecedented crisis of migration. Egypt stresses the need for respect of Syria's sovereign boundaries and the fact that the future has to be decided by Syrians themselves. Regarding the peace process in the Middle East, for the last 25 years, Europeans have participated in discussions to put an end to the Israeli – Palestinian conflict that, by now, has been ongoing for almost six decades. Egypt hopes that a solution is rapidly found with the existence of two States, as promoted by the Arab initiative of the last fourteen years. Egypt has always supported a dialogue in Libya and reiterated its position to preserve stability in Libya and the control by the government over all its territory, as well as to respect the division of power in Libya and to continue on the path of stability. He ended stating that to deal with migration is a very important issue. We know very well what its implication is key for the future of the region; therefore, migration must be seen as a human issue requiring a joint dialogue to help those countries from where refugees escape today, in order to have better policies and invest more and to create more employment to prevent migration of youth.

Israel – H.E. Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset, referred to the investments in the past years to ensure a better planet, with clean air and clean water, and stressed that regional peace cannot wait, and defining borders may not be part of this. Confidence building and peace supporting measures are needed to work on partnerships, climate, water, use of technology, and other advances. PAM can serve as a repository of this knowledge to have other countries benefit from it. There is a need for a plan of action and commitment for concrete benchmarks and target dates for achievement. He proposed a small committee in the PAM to explore these issues and the connected options, and invited all to join hands, despite the strife in the Mediterranean basin, to create a healthier and safer world.

Malta – H.E. Angelo Ferrugia, Speaker of the House of Representatives, referred to the military and political turmoil in the Mediterranean, with problems of increased unemployment, a sense of marginalisation for some minorities, and increased ethnic and sectarian conflict. Money laundered from human trafficking is increasingly used for drugs and arms, is now deposited in banks in contravention of international agreements, and is running into billions of dollars. The shift of power politics between citizens' perceptions of good governance and the loss of trust of the younger generation, are particularly worrisome. Fighting for Daesh / ISIS is resulting from the long-time ignorant or reckless approach of European governments, with crimes against humanity and breaches of human rights, and

terrorists exploiting these for their purposes. All must do more, together to address xenophobia and racism, as the real touch at the interpersonal level is being lost. There is a need to continue using all tools available to ensure regular international participation to address these challenges.

Syria – H.E. Mohammad Jihad Al Laham, Speaker of the Syrian People’s Assembly, mentioned that the challenges currently being faced have increased, and are requiring a joint commitment as cross-border terrorism is a global threat. The PAM meeting has to refer to issues relating to security in regional and world problems, created by criminal organisations. The occupation of Palestine, the situation in Libya, Iraq, and Syria are all issues contributing to instability in the region and increasing the emergence of groups like Al Qaeda and ISIS. These groups want to destabilise the countries and destroy human civilisation through terrorist acts and genocide. This terrorist threat requires a joint approach to stand up together to counter terrorism and to get common support. All countries need play a role in the Mediterranean to promote a common dialogue, with Europe facing many problems due to the huge migration from Syria and Iraq, as a result of terrorism. Cooperating with relevant organisations and institutions is needed to fight, through the Geneva conference, and to stop countries wanting to destabilise and create anarchy in Syria. Armed criminal groups must be prevented from carrying out their activities, and humanitarian aid must be provided to all refugees. Syria is open to support and protect all innocent civilians and their human rights, favouring a dialogue of civilisation, and wanting to stop extremism and find common solutions to prevent younger generations spreading terrorist ideas and negative views. He expressed the hope that PAM can play a greater role in the dimension of diplomacy, and can help strengthen the Russian – Syrian alliance for the benefit of stability and to fight criminal groups.

Libya – Hon. Ihmed Homa, 2nd Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, referred to the political conflicts facing Libya, requiring a political solution. This will come reality soon thanks to the international support that was initially given, but which was reduced later on. The spread of terrorism by ISIS and the illicit migration are at present the greatest threats. Libya is fighting terrorism on behalf of the Mediterranean region, and wants to stress the need to fight together the terrorism without which no security can be found. Libya wishes to collaborate with all regional and international organisations to establish the rule of law and fight terrorism and unlawful migration and support of the Libyan Army. He hoped that Libya’s views will be taken seriously.

Arab Parliament – H.E. Mr. Ahmed M. Aljarwan, President, speaking on behalf of the Arab Parliament, fully condemned terrorism, and stressed the need to find a common solution in close cooperation between all countries in all fields. He, in particular, condemned the violation, in the occupied territories and Jerusalem, of the rights of Muslims and Palestinians in line with international law and conventions. He expressed support for the Arab initiative of peace and the ban by Israel on airstrikes in Syria. He invited all parliamentarians in the region to find a political solution to protect the Syrian people and to support the Libyan people’s wish for prosperity and development and to fight illicit migration. At the same time, joint actions to fight terrorism and support the neighbouring countries in their hosting of Iraqi and

Syrian refugees are needed. He welcomed all countries of the world to help the migrants in all possible ways in line with the Geneva Conventions. The Arab Parliament wants to welcome cooperation and a joint approach with PAM to protect values and principles. Meetings such as this one allow for a cultural exchange in aims of security, peace and stability as ultimate goals. He hoped for more prosperity and development for all people in the problematic areas of the region, and committed to reinforce cooperation with PAM.

Palestine – Hon. Tayseer Quba’a, MP and Head of Delegation, reiterated that the Palestinian people seek peace, not only for Gaza or the West Bank, but overall peace, and for the killing of the Palestinian population by the Israeli army to be stopped and for a return to democracy and peace. Palestine will not surrender or raise the white flag until the rights of all Palestinians are ensured. Cooperation on technology and agriculture with Israel in fact has been prevented, and the Arab movement is unique in its unison, and will work to prevent the European and US plans and instruments against Syria, and he hoped that all plans will fail. With regard to the meeting of the PAM, he expressed the need to raise the debate to the level of real work and to dedicate proper time to treat these issues to come up with concrete remarks to respect the decisions at the benefit of all people.

Jordan – Hon. Abdulhadi Majali, MP and Head of the House of Representatives Delegation, expressed regret that despite all debates, no fundamental solution to the Palestinian issue and other issues arising from the Arab Spring has been found. Jordan is facing a problem of migrants with over 1.5 million Syrians and hundreds of thousands of refugees from Iraq. This is greatly affecting the economy, education and resources in general, resulting from migration. Over 70,000 Syrians, at the border, are trying to enter Jordan to escape the conflict. The issue of migration requires greater pressure on governments to deal with the problem. Refugees from Syria and Iraq have contributed to increasing the economic problems in Jordan, in particular in the cities in the North. He expressed hope that Jordan will continue to be supported and that peace will come soon.

Cyprus – Hon. Nicos Tornaritis, MP, pointed out that the geographical location of his country involves growing concerns for threats of terrorism by Daesh and other terrorist organisations. Daesh has to be contained and defeated militarily. Furthermore, hundreds of foreign fighters will return to their home countries, as this is a ticking time bomb, in the Mediterranean region in particular. The UNSC Resolution 2178 on foreign fighters has been approached reactively rather than in a proactive manner. Reintegration is important and must be pursued with policies, providing opportunities for girls education, trade to elevate social pressures caused by the flow of refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. The recent hydrocarbon discoveries in Cyprus, and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea as a whole, may provide a way out to have a cross border economic development and prosperity for countries in the region. A “tectonic” movement towards cooperation with more tangible results by next year is hoped for.

Greece – Hon. Eleni Avlonitou, MP and Head of Delegation, mentioned the wars of declarations resulting from mass movements and lack of compromise agreements in the EU as the most crucial issues in the region. The resulting flow of refugees will further destabilise the region, of which Greece, as a transit country, faces the greatest burden, trying to provide

dignified lives to those affected. Besides the solution to the crisis in Libya, a peaceful solution to the Syrian conflict must be reached, requiring peace, stability and investment.

Italy – Sen. Francesco Maria Amoruso, PAM Honorary President and Head of Delegation, conveyed appreciation on behalf of the President of the Italian Senate. He referred to Libya and terrorism as illustrations of the instability in the region. Serious exchange of views on global challenges is needed, including on climate change, migration, and the economic situation. He expressed hope for a peaceful exchange of views to identify new means to work together on the basis of solidarity, friendship and responsibility between the various countries of the Mediterranean region.

Morocco – Sen. Mohammad Alami, MP, feared that international organized crime has recently dangerously advanced, enabling terrorists to grow, penetrating and affecting security in the Mediterranean area and other countries. Morocco refuses to accommodate this trend and is willing to cooperate in all forms of fight against this dangerous phenomenon. Morocco is confident that this disease can be cured only through human development, to which it has subscribed since 2005. It accepts different religious beliefs and cultures, and is not in favour of exacerbation of religious contrapositions, but rather of tolerance and understanding. He stressed the need for unified stances in different areas to overcome this threat. Parliamentarians should exercise oversight as the main tool to eradicate all manifestations of extremism.

### **High-level debate on economic and environmental challenges in the Mediterranean**

Hon. Pedro Roque (Portugal), President of the PAM 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee, chaired the session. He thanked all members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee for their hard work in 2015, and pinpointed at its most relevant activities. These include participating in the Waste Management 2<sup>nd</sup> PAM event in Pavia; Climate Change Med-Cop 21 in Marseille; UN Climate Change meeting in Paris, among others. Economic growth, trade and investment in energy; protection of the environment; food security; and the fight against global warming will continue to be among issues of the PAM focus in 2016. A parliamentary meeting of MedCop22 and COP22 in Morocco will be co-organised and supported by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee. Job creation, investment and trade facilitation are to be the focus to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Keynote addresses**

H.E. Mr. Lefter Koka, Minister of Environment of Albania, welcomed the inclusion of the issue of environment in the agenda of the Assembly. Environment is a matter of greater importance, and, in particular, for the Mediterranean, as it is a hotspot of climate change, with threats of floods, drought and natural disasters, at a very high cost also to Albania. Climate change is threatening food security and is causing land degeneration, and will affect human health through the spread of new diseases, threats to biodiversity, and destruction of various species of flora and fauna. Although Albania has a decarbonised economy, it has contributed to the global agreement on hothouse emissions and is working to bring its legislation on environment, climate change and renewable energy, closer to the EU's. As

examples, he mentioned that Albania is working with, the support of international donors, on a strategy and a national plan on climate change, on greenhouse gas reduction, and air quality. Projects have been initiated to adapt to climate change, monitor river deltas, agriculture and the ecosystem, and adopt measures to protect nature and forests. Albania is reaching EU standards on the protection of biodiversity, and adheres to the Barcelona Convention on the assessment and control of marine pollution. These are clear objectives for Albania as well. The country is drafting a cross-sector coastal plan, including sewage and solid waste reduction through the use of new technologies for waste management. Albania aims at fulfilling its objectives by 2025 through transposition of the EU directives in its legislation, and good cooperation among its institutions.

H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, Kingdom of Morocco, referred to the challenges facing the Mediterranean area, in particular the use of natural, agricultural and human resources for the benefit of sustainable development. A major challenge for the region and the rest of the world is the climate change issue. International efforts aim at a carbon free world, reduction of temperature by 1.5 degrees, and of greenhouse gas emissions. Morocco is committed to energy transition in the world and it is a role model for many countries in this regard. The energy transition aims at reducing the use of traditional energy and increase by 2030 of 20% in the use of renewable energy, in line with the targets set by the Paris declaration, by the mix of electricity production from wind, solar and other renewable sources. These projects will, in particular, benefit from the involvement of the private sector.

The Moroccan Parliament has to be thanked for the quick approval of reforms to implement measures to reduce the use of fossil sources for the production of electricity, thereby reducing the emission of carbon gases. Morocco hopes for promising approaches through local, industrial integration and research development, and national measures. Objectives are to increase the economy by 12% through energy efficiency, e.g. by putting an end to subsidies to liquid fuels, but also by involving qualified human resources on the efficient use of renewable energy. Morocco has also signed a number of bilateral cooperation agreements on the promotion of better use of energy. Countries in the Mediterranean region are encouraged to foster international cooperation to provide diversification and safer markets for electricity, which calls for a standardised legal framework.

Morocco invited PAM to COP 22, that it will host in Marrakech in November 2016, and which is foreseen to focus on the implementation of the action points agreed upon in Paris.

H.E. Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, DESA, focused on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other issues with global impact. Paris was an illustration of the engagement of all countries and sectors of society to achieve a desired environment in 2030. The 15 years of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have shown the high relevance for the Mediterranean region as is the case for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in Paris, which span from social, to economic and environmental areas. The UN High Level political forum on Sustainable Development is the central platform building on existing regional and global level review processes. The next 15 years will pass by quickly and there is no time to lose. Parliaments have a critical “ROLE”, which he spelled out as follows:



- to represent **(R)** their constituents in laws and policies in the international development agenda;
- an oversight **(O)** function of checks and balances in order to ensure that public funding goes to priority activities and to confirm that public institutes work in an effective manner in poverty eradication;
- legislation **(L)** is needed to work on the SDGs and that a truly transformative agenda to include social development and environmental sustainability is in place;
- and elected **(E)** has a special meaning in society, to be closest to the people, to ensure their aspirations are adequately reflected in national strategies to fulfil the 2030 agenda.

Parliaments have a major responsibility to make the world a better place to live in dignity and without fear. This raises the issue of capacities, an issue for parliaments to be able to address this agenda. The Mediterranean region has a history of its own as crossroads between the global South and North in trade, and also in facilitating North – South cooperation. The theme “Nobody should be left behind” is, in particular, valid for migrants and refugees, so numerous across the region. The Mediterranean requires a new global partnership built on mutual trust that promises will be kept, and that is based on a new form of cooperation. The Parliaments of this unique region are urged to promote “A life of dignity for all”, and PAM has a special role to play to achieve this.

Mr. Eberhard Bömcke, Deputy Head of Division of the European Investment Bank (EIB), was pleased to hear that projects must be promoted to respond to the needs of all populations in the region. With the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC), the EIB wants to support modernisation and opening up of the economies, e.g. by providing support to investment in the private sector, and consider climate action as a priority through mitigation and adaptation. The EIB budget for the MPC amounts to Euro 12 billion for the period 2007-2014. Planned climate operations include mitigation and adaptation actions, to be integrated into all activities and projects. Examples include the Green Climate Fund, Climate Action for the MENA region, Mediterranean Solar-plant preparation, and power supply for the Gaza desalination project. In times of budgetary constraints, an abstract combination of start-up grant funding and long term funding is a priority also for the EIB.

Ms Virginia Cram-Martos, Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), stressed that the best way forward is to find common opportunities to seize upon as a group in the region. The views she expressed include those from the UN Regional Commissions for Africa, West Asia and Europe, where Parliamentarians can have a stronger voice, rather than at the New York level. Economic development is the foundation of many - if not all - SDGs as, without financial resources, the goals cannot be met. At present, the global megatrends of challenges and opportunities include: global connectiveness to provide information on regional issues (not just challenges but also opportunities); move of the centre of economic gravity from Europe and North America to low and middle income countries, with the Mediterranean region at the intersection between Europe, Asia and Africa; technological change and its adoption in support of education and health, e.g. through cheaper mobile communication; urbanisation and demographic trends, and how to build upon them to develop a network of urban economic hubs; and climate change and how to respond to it.

In the Mediterranean and African region, challenges include different levels of GDP, demographic trends, and opportunities for youth employment and the elderly in need of services. With positive economic impacts resulting from greater stability, the question is how to increase investment in post-conflict areas to create jobs, how to stimulate innovation-driven solutions, and to address erosion in market advantage. Finally, the question is how to regulate better to get a more efficient state, increase transparency and reduce corruption, and by facilitating trade agreements.

Mr. Christian Blondin, Director of the Cabinet of the Secretary-General and of the External Relations Department of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), elaborated on several facts justifying the focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and lowering of temperature increases of air and oceans. The effect of global temperature increase is the raising sea water level in several areas, with 2015 affected by the El Nino phenomenon. Although this is now being understood as a phenomenon, there are areas in need of more analysis. The Mediterranean countries have to face challenges for fisheries, and the influx of migrants, to avoid humanitarian dramas as a result. Climate change is a long-term topic, so national calamities are increasing, and further cooperation is needed to help affected countries to tackle the challenges. The Paris agreement engages all countries to reduce temperature increases to 1.5 degrees. MedCOP22 in Morocco, in June, will give a chance to PAM to develop a common regional position on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to include the climate perspective in the development agenda, and promote a climate-neutral infrastructure for renewable energy, e.g. solar and wind energies. He stressed that parliaments must insist that sufficient budgets are allocated for climate change capacity, and the exchange of data.

### **Debate**

Following the keynote addresses, the debate was opened, with Malta - Hon. Justyne Caruana, MP, Parliamentary Secretary and Head of the Delegation, expanding on the support for the “Elderly for active aging”, and participation on the strategy of aging. She mentioned that the World Health Organisation had recently classified Malta as the fifth best performing health system out of a total of 191 countries. Its geriatric services are of high standard. Malta’s three pillars in its activation strategy include to increase participation of older workers in the labour market; their participation in socio-economic, cultural and civic affairs; and perception of aging from dependency to active aging, stressing dignity for all. The care for dementia is part of the strategy, and PAM should pay more attention to the agenda of aging, and the social dimension and its economic consequences. For climate change and sustainable development, the Mediterranean is very important, and these are areas of focus for Malta. Malta chaired the Barcelona COP on behalf of the European Union, and supports the green economy policy and efforts to promote equality in the labour market. The delegate reiterated the statement in the PAM Malta Declaration that commitment to COP 2015 and beyond, and which is needed to represent the true voice of the populations, leading them through crises through innovative ideas.

Cyprus - Hon. Angelos Votsis, MP, stressed that the Mediterranean countries have been characterised, for too long, by instability and change, but now there is an opening of new options to explore possible synergies, thanks to newly found hydrocarbon reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean, and for parts of Europe to benefit from it. Cyprus enhances the

cooperation with the same principles and interest on the energy sector, with Greece, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, while it has signed agreements with international energy companies. Turkey can also be part of this arrangement, subject to its signature of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and its constructive involvement in a peaceful resolution to end its control of 40% of Cyprus. Energy production in the area may bring about hope for a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of the Mediterranean through stronger cooperation.

In response to previous remarks, Hon. Ahmad Nour Eddin Shlash, MP, Syria, referred to the need to stabilise the Syrian region, but he questioned the comments on strikes on Syria by the representative of the Arab Parliament. He expressed surprise about actions by the US, and stated that strikes by Russia and the Syrian State are against ISIS, and therefore in line with the UN Charter, and relevant to the independence of the sovereign State of Syria.

### **High-level debate on migration, inter-cultural dialogue and other social issues**

Hon. Nathalie Amoratti Blanc (Monaco), on behalf of the President of the PAM 3rd Standing Committee, opened and chaired the session by referring to the constant threat of terrorism, and of the political instability in the North African and Middle East region, as well as the deprived population in the Sahel region. Greater coherence and solidarity in managing the large migrant flow are needed for the longer term in order to find a balance between the respect for the individual rights and challenges of xenophobia and rising nationalism.

She indicated that the Mediterranean Day 2016, on 21 March, shall be dedicated to displaced people, migrants and all affected people in the region. She added that the fight against terrorism and extremism is a responsibility for all politicians to be able to provide opportunities to live in peace in their countries.

In 2015, the 3rd Standing Committee has been active through the Academic Platform since the Siena meeting on Food Security, and it has been working closely together with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to create a knowledge hub on Forced Migration and Employment for the Mediterranean.

Activities of the PAM 3rd Standing Committee in 2016 will include the World Day of Social Justice; a dedicated meeting in Rome on inter-religious dialogue in cooperation with the Morocco School of Imams; the PAM participation in the World Humanitarian Summit; and the organisation of a second induction course on Human Rights for PAM parliamentarians.

## **Keynote addresses**

H.E. Mr. Blendi Klosi, Minister of Youth and Social Welfare, Albania, elaborated on several 3rd Standing Committee issues with respect to his country. Albania has been historically a migratory nation with people moving in search of better lives, but, in the current situation, integration of the Western Balkans in the EU is needed for greater stability, wellbeing, and, most importantly, peace and coexistence between countries with different religious beliefs.

Albania, which has a high migratory population of over 20%, needs a comprehensive policy to better regulate the migration flux, regular employment, and reintegration of returning citizens in the framework of the return mechanism with the EU and other countries. This is needed to ensure sustainable return of migrants and their reintegration, irrespective of the form of return. The strategy designed to that effect is showing the first results. Challenges are posed for the prevention of illicit migration resulting from the visa-free regime, forceful migration and respect for human rights of all returnees. Albania's strategic objectives are the promotion of safe channels of migration to prevent illegal migration, greater sustainability of migration and support for returnees; and consolidation of migration rights, legal reintegration of returnees, and their labour options. Employment is a major challenge in the fight against poverty and efforts for economic growth, with new jobs for skilled workers who are currently lacking. The lack of vocational training needs to be addressed, as the only guarantee for dignified work and retribution. A more global solution must be found through debates and learning from each other. Dignified work for dignified citizens in a dignified Mediterranean and Europe is what is sought for all.

H.E. Mrs. Mirela Kumbaro, Minister of Culture of Albania, mentioned that her country is at the crossroads of civilisations. Culture needs to be highlighted as an important issue, as it is behind many crises, such as economic ones. If models and regimes change, culture remains behind. Therefore, we need to highlight cultures of the nations as a fixed point, and culture should not be treated as an issue of luxury. In the context of migration, as a result of war, culture must be put at the centre of the debate and not be treated just as the periphery. When the dictatorship in Albania was toppled some two decades ago, it was believed that democracy could be reached without further efforts. Geopolitics which developed over the years, placed Albania at the periphery, whereas now the focus is on the refugees from other regions. Albania is the best example in the region with peaceful cohabitation between different religions and cultural backgrounds. Cultural diplomacy has also been developed, and Albania must be introduced on the basis of the central role of its culture. As part of a EU programme, the Mediterranean project involves both East and West of the Mediterranean, to understand each other through culture. The place of terrorism in societies is not just a political problem, but it needs education through culture and building alliances as a priority for preserving cohesion.

H.E. Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Executive Director of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UN-CTED), agreed with the previous speaker on the link between culture and terrorism. Because of the common culture of the Mediterranean region,

it is possible to address difficult issues through cross-cultural dialogue. At the UN General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania, together with the Vatican and Jordan, proposed a debate, a dialogue on social peace. Harmony was mentioned as a rooted sentiment in the Mediterranean region, based on a common background on which it is possible to rely for the future. Disintegration and reintegration of the region have already been studied, but a way must be found to cut this spiral through a joint cultural foundation. It is important to be humble in cross-cultural and cross-religion relations and dialogue, and provide education about other parts of the world in order to all learn from each other's experiences. The dialogue should be held at the Parliamentary level, and identify the legislative incoherencies that help terrorism to flourish. Compatible laws are necessary to avoid minor cracks that help organisations such as ISIS. The present migration flux is showing the gaps of the system and it highlights the need for continuous collaboration, but Europe should be careful with the many immigrants. In view of social harmony, Parliamentarians must play an essential role, mostly with their own citizens and working with civil society organisations.

H.E. Mr. Toby Lanzer, UN ASG and Regional Coordinator for the Sahel, explained the reasons for his participation in this meeting. The large region of the Sahel is lying just south of the Mediterranean region, with a population of 150 million, in 20 years set to double. The population is trying to survive under a triple treat. Arguably, they are the poorest of the poor, with countries like Niger, and yet fast growing populations. Climate change is biting hard at all the communities trying to survive with 87% agriculture dependent economies. The third reason for concern is violent extremism, starting in the East with Al Shabab and with Boko Haram having already forced 2.8 million people away from their homes, out of the 4.5 million displaced people. Northern Cameroon in January experienced 63 suicide bombers; over half of them were women. Violent extremism in connection with these three points is of concern for us all.

A more coherent and collaborative approach is needed between political actors, development actors, environmental practitioners, e.g. on Lake Chad, which has lost over 80% of its water, and with the humanitarian actors. The population of the Sahel can have a better future at home, if all actors better collaborate. The trek of 4,000 young men per week, through CAR to the city of Agadez in Niger, and North from there to the Mediterranean needs to be stopped. Parliamentarians have a key role to play by travelling to Senegal, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Nigeria, and sharing the experience from their own country, investing more in education, health and agriculture to allow for survival. However, preventive measures need investments, e.g. to help farmers in tough times. The Sahelian belt populations can have a better future thanks to these investments. Across Europe, more can and must be done to assist in the migration challenges. All sectors must come together and preserve all our common interests.

Mr. Hakim El Ghissassi, Advisor, Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Morocco, shared his experience in the field of management of issues of culture and religion in Morocco. In a recent meeting in Marrakesh, delegates from the four parts of the world issued a joint declaration in which they agree not to instrumentalise religion in Islamic countries to prevent minorities from their rights. A legal framework is necessary in the context of the role

of women in the fight against radicalism and extremism. Societies have become more complex, and the new 2011 Morocco Constitution opposes any form of discrimination on the basis of faith, and allows for religious freedom. One concern is the role of the State, its influence on religion, public policies, and how to define the religious domain. In Morocco, none of the 26,000 imams can act independently, and women also participate in the religious education, which has been instituted centrally. Morocco has seen an increased demand from other African countries for education of their imams, such as from Mali, Niger, Senegal and Guinea, including religious sciences and languages, philosophy, human rights and political institutions, education, mental health, and history of their country, as well as current Islamic trends. To contrast the discourse of violent extremism, more than a thousand imams were trained on basic rights. In conclusion, the speaker pointed out that Jihadism is ruled by beliefs and positions that are in contradiction to those of the rest of the world.

Mr. Andrew Mayne, Regional Representative for South Eastern Europe of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), conveyed the wishes of the new High Commissioner for a successful continuation of the work of PAM. He stressed that the current refugee situation in Europe and the Middle East needs a package of measures, including border controls, with hotspots, a relocation plan for Europe, legal travel to Europe, all of them equally needed. Slow progress on hotspots and control measures are not keeping pace with the problem, and only few measures have been implemented so far, and some are going in the opposite direction, while rumours of impending border closures are numerous.

The extraordinary response of ordinary people in the western Balkans is a real exception and will be remembered as one of the defining moments of the refugee crisis. At the same time xenophobia increases in otherwise tolerant and liberal societies, while more than 2,000 people a day continue to try to reach Europe, 58% of whom are women and children. Restrictive policies have been and are being put in place, and it is clear that it is not the time to stop and do less.

The EU, its Member States, the PAM and UNHCR, all have to do more and better, with more consistent collaboration, and to even adopt higher standards. More is needed to make sure that no one country is left alone to address the problem, identify protection needs, in situ or in agreed countries equipped for the purpose, and explore avenues such as enhanced protection, humanitarian assistance, family reunion, private sponsorship and work visas to make sure people do not have to take excessive risks. Now is the time to work together to do better, and the core values of hospitality and solidarity of the PAM are needed. The PAM countries and Europe together have to strengthen the European response to the crisis, in a rich and important dialogue between PAM countries and Europe, to make sure the asylum regime is not undermined. UNHCR applauds the PAM for its work on migration and inter-cultural dialogue.

Mr. Peter van der Auweraert, Senior Regional Expert on Humanitarian Affairs and Transitional Programme of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), reiterated that the only way forward is working together to face challenges, the reason for which PAM is a very relevant forum. Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey need to be congratulated for accommodating the many Syrian refugees, with often very limited resources and limited

support from the international community. The burden of the Syrian crisis clearly lies in the surrounding countries and not in Europe. These countries need to be assisted to help the refugees better.

In Europe legislation on migration needs to be better organised, keeping in mind that building a fence or relocation is not going to solve the problem. The Mediterranean countries need to think about this migration beyond this particular crisis and as a problem, but also on longer term solutions through a joint dialogue on how migration policy can be developed together, to benefit both aging societies in Europe and young ones on the other side of the Mediterranean that have a lot of talent to offer.

Mr. Donato Kiniger-Passigli, Coordinator Fragile States and Disaster Response, International Labour Organization (ILO), touched upon issues of refugees and other migration populations. In 2015, over a million migrants arrived in the Mediterranean region by sea, 34,000 over land, and 3,700 persons went missing. This massive displacement has a major impact on hosting and transit countries, with the search for decent work and dignified life as a major priority. It is important to distinguish between the needs of those forcibly moved and refugees vs other migrants. The need for a more effective collaboration between humanitarian and development actors is clear. ILO works to identify ways to strengthen various forms of collaboration, including facilitating policy guidance on labour market integration, employment service management as well as entrepreneurial skills training. This will also focus on forced displacement and the rights of refugees to employment. Obtaining and sharing more data on the impact on labour markets is important to rapidly create employment opportunities.

An Observatory on Employment and Forced Migration for the Mediterranean region has been proposed to serve as a knowledge hub and technical resource to create employment opportunities in host countries. Employment intensive opportunities and programmes are essential for integration of refugees, and the ILO stands ready to support frontline states hosting the largest number of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons.

### **Debate**

Hon. Antonis Balomenakis, MP, Greece, referred to the urgent need for a peaceful solution for Syria. He pointed at three critical conditions for such peace agreement, including non-incorporation of Syrian territory by any of its neighbours, self-determination for the Syrian people, and support to restoration of its state structures within a reasonable period. Humanitarian and technical aid must be provided following a specific long-term plan, immediately after the permanent cease-fire has started. All foreign navy forces in the Eastern Mediterranean should leave, while NATO should remain to prevent traffickers' actions from the Turkish region.

Mauritania - Hon Adama Sy, MP, welcomed the chance for a common approach on sensitive common topics of concern. As part of the Mediterranean and Saharian region, he addressed two interlinked phenomena. Mauritania is developing strategies to fight terrorism and illegal migration, creating necessary conditions for addressing them. Migration can be seen as an issue that can be stopped, but not as it is now. We need time to reflect and to use culture as

one of the ways to help us find a solution to this phenomenon. Mauritania is aware of these topics and challenges and trying to find solutions crucial on interconnecting problems exceeding its territory and to better understand and manage the phenomenon.

Libya - Hon. Ihmed Homa, MP and 2nd Deputy of the Speaker, referred to the topic of illicit migration as the main phenomenon with conflict and criminal activities leading to migration in the Mediterranean region. Libya is convinced that a solution can be reached only by common approaches to help the stability and development of Libya, Iraq and Syria, in order to help reducing the terrorism in the area, and the migration phenomenon.

Morocco - Hon. Mounia Rhoulam, MP, referred to the economic and environmental challenges facing the Mediterranean region. Morocco is making special efforts to deal with environmental problems, and to cope with climate change. It is committed to implement all international conventions to which it has signed up, and it will continue its work throughout the Mediterranean area to promote dialogue on all aspects of environmental problems. PAM is one of the bodies that can make a great contribution in this area.

OSCE-PA - Hon. Michel Voisin, MP and Special Representative for Mediterranean Affairs, confirmed the close cooperation between the OSCE Parliament and the PAM and the need to focus on the problem of the migratory crisis, in particular affecting the Mediterranean region. He referred to the Mediterranean forum in June to focus on terrorism as a common enemy.

## **Day Two**

Continuation of the debate on migration, inter-cultural dialogue, and other social issues

Arab Parliament – Hon. Abdelkrim Korichi, Deputy Head of Foreign Affairs, Political and National Security Committee – agreed that in view of the considerable deterioration of the situation in the region, finding solutions to re-establish real peace and democracy was a key priority. Despite the bloody conflict, no proposal for a solution has been seen to resolve it. The situation in the Middle East is a major problem, with the Palestinian issue not yet resolved. He wished for all countries in the region to convene to find ways to reach peace in the region. The Arab Parliament will continue its long-term plan to find peace in the region, as the Arab national security is important for all in the region, to move away from extremism towards regional stability through peace. Political studies are needed to find a feasible solution and build hope for countries in the region with security issues taken care of. The Arab Parliament invites all to participate in multi-party cooperation to achieve a joint success, for which it has given rights to the youth and approved legal documents for their security. It will host a meeting in early March to focus on measures to fight terrorism and find a long-term solution to the Palestinian crisis to bring peace and stability to the area at large.

Greece – Hon. Ekaterini Papakosta-Sidiropoulou, MP, saw the debate as crucial to face the crisis in the Mare Nostrum and the refugee crisis. Greece has faced a financial crisis for the last six years, and has problems to meet the new refugee crisis and migratory flows. Greece needs more solidarity of the EU countries, the international community and in particular the



Mediterranean countries, to provide refugees' hosting countries on both shores with the necessary assistance. She stressed that the implementation of the Schengen agreement is necessary and the prerequisite condition to meet the crisis. The mutual goal should be to provide assistance and move towards joint action.

Syria - Hon. Boutros Merjaneh, – stressed the need to analyse the situation of the Syrian refugees in the surrounding countries. The population remaining in Syria faces a severe crisis, as do the many refugees who have fled their country, a phenomenon on which many meetings have been and will be held. The Syrian people live in insecurity and the situation is deteriorating with new terrorist criminal groups, with numerous deaths of women, children and the elderly. After five years of war in continuum, still no solution has been found to this reality to bring peace and security and create a long-term peace in the country. He called on all to fight terrorist groups operating in Syria, and to enter into a dialogue to cope with and solve this crisis, and to strengthen humanity, and to bring peace to the people. He also called for a law to provide security for the people of Syria and disarm all criminal gangs in Syria, and he encouraged all to work together towards a tangible outcome.

Morocco – Hon. Azzouha El Arrak, MP, expressed the hope that the social and economic crises will be solved to provide a proper basis for the future. She welcomed research in the region related to the problem of global warming to achieve tangible results and reach stability in the region. For this purpose, more resources are needed to further develop work and scientific analysis. Morocco is very willing to participate in this process as it has undertaken several initiatives to reduce global warming. Several projects will be implemented by 2020 to put an end to constant mistreatments, and will go beyond the Mediterranean region to ensure peace and stability and deal with concrete long-term projects to ensure higher levels of economic returns.

Turkey - Hon. Hasan Ozyer, MP and Head of Delegation, referred to the large number of refugees requiring support from UN and international organisations. Turkey contributes to the principle of non-refoulement, hosting more than 2.5 million Syrians, 270,000 of whom are accommodated in 26 temporary centres, where they receive basic services, training and protection. Syrians outside these centres also benefit from Turkey's protection regime and basic services. Access of Syrians under temporary protection to labour market has been opened since early this year, to which Turkey has contributed considerable funding, around USD 10 billion. With the EU, Turkey is working on ending illicit migration. In 2015, it saved 92,000 migrants from the sea, almost six times the number of people saved in 2014. Turkey has suffered from terrorism for years but has never supported it.

Portugal – Hon. Maria Merces Borges, MP, agreed that parliaments must actively contribute to seek an end to the suffering of refugees, saving lives, and preserving human rights. But access to the labour market and recognition of their education and skills are important, creating conditions for dignified lives. Different types of migrants are subject to different treatments in their host countries, and PAM can contribute to peace and development of the Mediterranean countries.

Cyprus – Hon. Roula Mavronikola, MP, mentioned the massive refugee flow to Europe in 2015, many of whom across the Mediterranean Sea. EU members must define a unified response to the refugee crisis. The occupation by Turkey of a part of Cyprus has led to refugees who are the only ones who can understand what it means to lose identity and to be dependent on hand-outs for survival, and leave family members behind to fight for their country. She referred to her own memories as a refugee which comes back when seeing the queues of refugees whose human rights to life and dignity have been violated. Not only financial support but also this respect for the humanitarian aspect of the problem and the right to life and dignity is needed.

Sovereign Order of Malta – H.E. Mr. Alberto Di Luca, Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, expanded on the role of the organisation and its wider membership and longstanding relations with international and regional organisations. At interstate level, it can contribute to analysis and finding ways to solve migration problems. With 185 million people affected by conflict and natural disaster and 85 million people dependent on humanitarian assistance, more than 700,000 people crossed the Mediterranean to Greece, the Balkan and European countries. Today human trafficking is more profitable than drug smuggling, with plans to use smaller boats and causing more deaths in the future. Even if the flow of migrants to Europe will continue, this does not mean that the implementation of orderly border procedures and registration of migrants should not take place.

Turkey – Hon. Mustafa Akaydin, MP, summarised the history of the Turkish citizens in Cyprus stemming from 1960 treaties and contents of the UN comprehensive settlement process, and the presence of its troops on the island belongs to the framework of the Turkish rights and obligations as a guarantor power, as well as to protect Cypriots from genocide. He mentioned that 2.6 million Syrian refugees were currently hosted in Turkey, for which it expects more support from European countries.

Morocco – Hon. Sen. Mohammed Alami, MP, referred to all interventions in the debate on the issue of migration and its implications. The Moroccan government is very willing to assist in finding a solution to the issue of migration, as it is one of the stable countries in the African region, and many illegal immigrants try to pass through the country, but it may become a major route for migration, which may lead to new economic and social problems. Therefore, more must be done for the security in the entire region, and the Moroccan Parliament favours a permanent solution to the problem of the Sahel migration. Each has to bear relevant responsibilities and work together to find a solution to the crisis.

Assemblée des Citoyens Méditerranéens (ACM) – Mr. Graces – introduced ACM as an NGO involving citizens of about 20 countries of the Mediterranean region in a network to encourage a dialogue and humanitarian action through civic diplomacy. It is now in the process of analysing the situation in the Mediterranean, underpinned by the great concern about the violation of basic rights, corruption, social exclusion, marginalisation, and unemployment. Problems of inequality and violence are damaging the right to freedom and democracy towards which we have to work together. The Mediterranean Sea has to become a uniting force and not create a barrier between populations.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) – Mr. Miliadiadis Makrygiannis, Deputy Secretary-General, welcomed the strong cooperation with PAM, with which it shares the vision to tackle differences between states, and to address the refugee crisis in a consolidated way rather than in isolation at national level. A truly comprehensive approach is needed to offer protection and opportunities for legal migration, including integration and participation in the labour market of the host countries. Better preparation for future developments is needed to provide a more successful response and act as early and broadly as possible to meet migration threats.

Malta – Hon. Justyne Caruana, Parliamentary Secretary and Head of Delegation, mentioned the arrival of illegal migrants and the high number of asylum applications. The huge influx into the country with a population of just over 400,000 causes considerable problems. The EU-Africa Summit focused on efforts to find ways by common solutions to boost a response to economic, social and environmental challenges. Malta condemns human trafficking and calls for international cooperation to end this human plight.

Syria - Hon. Boutros Merjaneh, MP, highlighted two key points: Turkey continues to build refugee camps, which has led to a huge flow of refugees, but there are not over 1.7 million Syrian refugees. Those registered as refugees cannot enter, but the borders remain open for weapons and money. He claimed Turkey uses all movements for economic reasons as it has an impact on migrants to go to Europe and create problems and instability there.

### **2015 PAM Prize laureates Award ceremony**

The PAM Secretary-General introduced the ceremony by indicating that the Assembly every year wants to recognize several personalities who contribute to the principles and goals set by the Assembly for a better future in the region. The PAM President handed out the prizes.

H.E. Eng. Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Former Speaker of the Parliament of Jordan, which was host of the first and inaugural PAM Plenary Session, stressed that the PAM, since its start in 2006, has had an impact on our lives with its major achievements in the Mediterranean and the world. He thanked all those who contribute through their mission in ensuring inter-parliamentary cooperation in all socio-economic and cultural areas, and to mitigate the hard challenges in the region. They must focus on putting an end to anarchy in the crisis of migration to Europe, which is lasting far too long because of criminal extremist groups in the area and beyond. PAM should address all these challenges in the right way to make this a dynamic forum for discussion and to find solutions. There is a need to raise a voice in all relevant fora in the Mediterranean countries to resolve conflicts in the region and beyond with the aim to expand economies and prevent new conflicts between East and West affecting the whole world. The dialogue with all parties concerned must be continued for a vision for the future, with mutual respect and trust, and to ensure stability in the region and elsewhere. Jordan plays an important role to unite Mediterranean countries and surrounding areas and cooperate in the economic field, through the help of the King and other institutions in the country, and also through the PAM in all fields to find solutions and strengthen relations among those in the region. Jordan needs more resources to assist 1.5 million refugees, as in

other countries in the region to cope with the crisis, but requiring greater support of international institutions. Jordan wants a new approach with the help from Europe, as Jordan cannot take in more refugees. He wished PAM success for its work and ideas to bring wellbeing to all.

H.E. Dr. Angelo Farrugia, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta, believes in the autonomous role of the PAM to carry out its mandate. He dedicated the award to the countless victims perished in the common sea, “Mare Nostrum”, trying to cross the sea. The Mediterranean region continues to be associated with tragedy, misery and conflict. The one time blue seas that enriched the shores of common nations with real opportunities have been transformed into an ocean of despair and division. The strong human bond should make the Mediterranean a region of richness and its precious resource that is its people, and re-inject energy into a peaceful solution. Parliamentarians can and must commit to do more and add value to international efforts of cooperation. The work of the PAM has been traditionally viewed as intrusion, but it was soon realised to be a complementary tool of diplomacy. From the bilateral level to the work of regional organisations, it will be a recognised voice for inter-parliamentary diplomacy. Members need to reflect more on the future and wellbeing of the Mediterranean and its people, be more courageous to inject political will and ensure an end of conflict and war, with cooperative agreements contributing to transform the sea into the usual cultural precious region.

Hon. Michel Vauzelle, Former President, Inter-Mediterranean Commission of CRPM, France, had worked for the end to xenophobia and other forms of discrimination in the Mediterranean region and support for the work of PAM. In accepting the award, he expressed the will of all to work with the civil society and governments towards peace. The Syrian people deserve full solidarity for its terrible drama. All those working towards peace need to understand the ultimate pain of those people currently at a war, and to face the consequences of this war. He hoped Albania will become an EU member state, and thanked all parliamentarians who can give their own contribution to peace. The President of PAM has showed how diplomacy can work towards peace in the region. PAM should open a dialogue with the Euro – Mediterranean parliament and strengthen all ties, and encourage Spain’s membership in PAM. Parliaments should not agree with countries not accepting refugees, and respect countries in the Mediterranean region such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, and Greece and Italy, who receive so many refugees.

He also accepted the prize on behalf of Ms. Anne Hidalgo, the Mayor of Paris, a city that was targeted twice by terrorist attacks.

Mr. Spyros Galinos, Mayor of the Island of Lesbos – Greece, received the prize and dedicated it to Lesbos and all islands of the Aegean and all Greeks who had shown great solidarity with the victims of the human crisis. He expressed some thoughts on how to better understand the problems at hand and better deal with them. Defining the problem in the first place is necessary to solve it, as it is a problem of the conflicts and not just of refugees, and is lacking a concrete European policy to deal with the issue and not the other way around. Dealing with the problem has been undertaken by scrupulous traffickers taking advantage of those trying to escape the horrors of war and find a better life, putting them in boat wrecks

through perilous seas to the other side to Europe. Many question how to ever deal with 550,000 migrants last year, which was managed by convincing all that these are the victims and not the perpetrators. They were offered hospitality and warmth to show the values on which Europe was built are still valid and vibrant in our area. We need to try to stop this crime against victims and show them that policies in the EU have to change, and all should assume their responsibility to solve this problem. The crux of the problem is to be able to monitor and register all refugees in Turkey to give them no more a reason to cross the sea to go to Europe. Another crime perpetrated against our own societies – not against the victims – is in the way the refugee crisis is handled and which raises racist and fascist movements to gain force in several countries. All of us must work together to prevent racism and fascism to flourish, and follow the voices of our conscience.

Mr. Mustapha Bakkoury, President of the Masen Group – Morocco, focused his intervention on solar energy and environmental friendly energy supply beyond the national borders. The project by Masen really took off when the King of Morocco became involved, and represents a major potential, and also a new hope for the future. Reduction of the use of fossil fuel may respond to the current and future needs of national economies and allow people to live in full harmony with nature. Solar energy use is of major importance for all of Africa suffering chronic energy deficits, and helping to mitigate this shortage. Morocco will host COP 22, as it will bring hope for the future for the human race. Two more projects are in the pipeline with the King's blessing for strengthened capacity, and a long-term energy agency.

Prof. Giacomo Pignataro, Magnificent Rector of the University of Catania – Italy, and Mr. Domenico Ioppolo, Chief Operating Officer Campus Editori – Italy, received the prize in view of their key role in the launch of the Academic Platform of PAM for higher education, which is growing very fast, with more than 70 universities associated and mobilisation of scholarship funds for students from Tunisia and Egypt. Both had provided great input to the success of this initiative.

Prof. Pignataro referred to the large number of refugees to Sicily in 2015, mentioning that higher education and knowledge are main instruments for the life and respect for human rights, fight against terrorism, and proper response to issues of migration. Today universities can be the core in the construction of a new world built on peace.

Mr. Ioppolo mentioned that students are already living in a world without frontiers and do not want to be left with a world with walls. The 250,000 students participating in the organisation meet their future in yearly events.

### **Closing remarks**

The PAM President closed the Plenary Session and pointed out that no time limit had been imposed on the debate with 14 speakers. He thanked all participants, and joined the many speakers in expressing gratitude to the Albanian Parliament for their hospitality and excellent organisation of the Tenth Plenary Session.

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## **Session reserved to member parliaments**

The final session listed on the agenda was reserved for PAM Member Parliaments only.

PAM Secretary General explained that in 2015, despite the resources available, the Assembly had carried out a considerable amount of work. Therefore, it was able to provide its parliamentarians with a comprehensive program of activities, in accordance with the Assembly's work plan. The Secretary General noted that PAM should be proud of its results and remarked that it is for this reason that other regional parliaments regularly consulted with PAM to learn from its approach.

Within the framework of its three Standing Committees, PAM was able to organize an increased number of meetings than in 2014, especially thanks to the support of the Parliaments of Italy, Morocco and Romania. In addition and through the partnership with the Bureau of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, a training seminar was offered to PAM parliamentarians who, in cooperation with staff from the United Nations, are ready to go in the field, so as to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to promote the protection of civilians. A similar project is planned for 2016, with the cooperation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Court of Human Rights. With regards to the activities of the PAM Academic Platform, more than 200.000 Euros were made available for Tunisian and Egyptian students for scholarships in Slovenia and more scholarship programs are planned.

In 2016, PAM is seeking the assistance of all national delegations for the preparation of a high quality work plan. Some meetings of the Standing Committees on renewable energy and climate change in preparation for COP22 (Moroccan Parliament), on the fight against violent extremism and on the promotion of intercultural dialogue (Italian Parliament), are already included in the work calendar of 2016. At the request of the UN, and in cooperation with the EC, a major event is also expected to evaluate the implementation, by national parliaments, of the resolutions of the UN Security Council on the fight against the terrorism and the financing of the foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). A meeting of the parliamentary dimension of the Forum for the dialogue in the Western Mediterranean – 5+5 Dialogue – should also take place and for that meeting the PAM Secretary General would like the support of the French delegation.

Regarding its influence in 2015, PAM participated in 71 events, either during its own meetings or for other key conferences and consultations. It is important to note that many of these missions have been carried out at no cost to PAM.

The Secretary General recalled that with regards to the mission flights for external activities, the PAM Secretariat strictly respects the United Nations Staff Statute and Regulations, while trying to travel at the minimum rates available. In 2012, the verification of the PAM accounts and financial data were outsourced to a major accounting firm, which certifies our accounts on a monthly basis. Furthermore, an international firm audits the accounts on an annual basis. Additionally, PAM receives substantial support, at zero cost, thanks to qualified trainees from

its Academic Platform and also to a certain number of specialized consultants and representatives.

With reference to the financial situation of the Secretariat and of the Assembly, PAM Secretary General stated that, at previous Bureau meetings, including the one held in December 2015, a 10% increase in the budget for 2016 was approved for submission to the Assembly, in order to meet new needs and challenges, to continue the activities of the Assembly and to create a small reserve fund to cover the end of this transitional period, as specified in the PAM Statute.

For 2015, the theoretical income would have amounted to 736.800 EUR, while the real income was up to 634.000 EUR, thus representing a deficit of 101.000 EUR from the standard budget. Contribution arrears amounted to an approximation of 372.000 EUR, in particular with regards to the lack of payment from Egypt, Libya, Mauritania and Syria; their payments would avoid the necessity of a budget increase for the purpose of establishing a reserve fund. The Secretary General wanted to thank the parliaments that have already paid their contribution for 2016 and encouraged other parliaments to do the same. He also addressed the issue of VAT refunds, by soliciting the assistance of the Maltese delegation, for PAM to receive the outstanding amount (circa. 20.000 EUR).

Finally, the Secretary General presented the expenses of the Assembly in 2015, with the supporting documents having already been distributed in advance.

Regarding the document distributed by the French delegation, the Secretary General said that he would respond in writing after reading it carefully. Furthermore, he highlighted the fact that his presence at PAM was regulated by an ad hoc inter-agency agreement between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the International Parliamentary Union and the United Nations. Staff costs increased in 2015 due to a different exchange rate between the Euro and the US dollar. In fact in 2008, PAM signed an agreement with the United Nations for the provision of a high official to lead the Secretariat and United Nations bills are issued in US dollars. The Secretary General does not have a contract with the PAM however; the inter-agency agreement can be extended only for limited periods of time so as to avoid long-term financial obligations. The PAM Secretary General is a high-level United Nations official, therefore, all information concerning the salary and benefits are public and conform to the United Nations scale. Each year, the PAM pays a specific amount directly to the United Nations for the costs related to the mission of the Secretary General in Malta and for that an official invoice from the United Nations is received. The real standard wage is, therefore, lower than the amount specified in the French document.

In the debate that followed, France, after circulating a note on budget analysis, discussed the request to increase PAM budget. The French delegation pointed out that PAM expenses could be reduced and therefore the French delegation stipulated that it does not support the proposal of the 10% increase of the Assembly's budget. Moreover, the French delegation mentioned the mandate of the Secretary General with reference to the PAM Statute. The extension of the four-year term expired in 2011 and was renewed without being subjected to approval, whereas the second extension had not been raised at the Plenary Session in 2015.

Consequently, France proposed that the extension of the mandate of the PAM Secretary General be submitted to the Assembly for approval.

Mauritania congratulated the Secretary General for the excellent work of PAM allows for a powerful visibility for a region which is rapidly changing. The delegation proposed to have more PAM peace ambassadors (Roving ambassadors) for regions where tensions run particularly high, and referred to the crucial role of PAM within the energy sector, and peace initiatives in the Mediterranean, once the birthplace of civilization, which is now passing through a major crisis.

Libya apologized for not being able to pay its annual contributions to PAM due to the country's current problems. However, it hopes that these payments can be made in the near future. PAM parliamentarians were formally invited to visit Tobruk, the city in which the Libyan Parliament is situated.

Romania has contributed as much as possible to PAM activities in the region. It organized an important meeting on the fight against terrorism and on the migration crisis and will always be pleased to participate in all the events organized by the PAM throughout this year.

Malta wished to clarify the issue of VAT refunds mentioned by the PAM Secretary General, stating that the process followed Maltese law, however Parliament intended to support PAM's request. Malta, as host country of the PAM Secretariat headquarters, indicated its wish to become a permanent member of the Bureau, which would help to accelerate a number of issues.

Israel supports the peace process and the "two-State" solution. The Israeli delegation requested the extension of the PAM Secretary General's mandate, who proved his diplomatic and management skills, in order to allow the new PAM President to work with the Secretary General in a fruitful way.

Italy, called on all to work together at the evaluation exercise, open to all partners, for the future of PAM to forge a plan to reflect on what the Assembly should aspire. He also called on other parliamentarians to join the working group, which includes several academics and non-parliamentarians.

PAM Former President pointed out that the issue of PAM Headquarters is not a real issue because an extension agreement had already been signed with Malta. Only when this agreement expires will it be up to the Assembly to make a decision in this regard. He emphasized that the success of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session was the result of continuous work, not only by all the delegations, but also by the Bureau and by the Secretariat who make PAM a central forum for the Mediterranean, a status acquired through joint actions. It has earned the respect of many institutions and has inspired other regional parliaments, as also confirmed by the interest from the UN and other organizations. The budget of PAM is much lower than those of similar institutions, for which the individual members of the Secretariat should be commended. PAM is growing in importance and is represented in most of the meetings in the Mediterranean region, and does not deal with parliamentary tourism. New ways of approaching problems should continue to be found and the hard work of the Secretariat must



be recognized. He remarked that the PAM Secretariat had a specific mandate and the Secretary General had a diplomatic role of supporting and stimulating the activities of the Assembly, beyond its administrative task. He concluded by recalling the current agreement with the UN, relative to the secondment of the PAM SG, as discussed and agreed in Monaco.

Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed its full support to the work of the PAM Secretary General and the extension of his mandate. However, a ten percent increase in the budget would be difficult to approve, and shifts between budget lines would be welcomed

Cyprus did not agree with a ten percent increase in the budget due to the economic crisis, but wanted to have more activities for parliamentarians. Discussion in the next Assembly was proposed.

Portugal, as a founding member of PAM, was proud to have contributed to the work of the Assembly since its foundation. The Portuguese delegation welcomed the intervention of the Italian delegation, as well as the work of the Secretary General. If the Mediterranean region has changed over the last decade, this is also the case for PAM, but the changes made in the Assembly are positive ones.

France wanted to remove all doubts regarding the document that was distributed. France, aware of the current situation in the Mediterranean, wishes that the role of the Assembly increases. The delegation requested that more time should be given to parliamentarians to be able to study the document referring to PAM's budgetary issues and the mandate of the Secretary General. In a critical period for the region, France wanted to ensure that PAM Statutes and budget are both respected. The French delegation also noted that the location of PAM Headquarters was not under discussion, due to Malta's geopolitical location in the heart of the Mediterranean.

Monaco would welcome more discussions and less formal speeches, but it could currently not support a ten percent increase of the PAM budget. A meeting about the budget and other administrative and procedural issues would be helpful.

Malta pledged full support to the PAM to see it flourish, and looked forward to the outcome of the ongoing evaluation process of its work.

The President said that all discussions were constructive for the Assembly and commended the positive of the session. He also thanked France for the budget analysis, stating that it was a great contribution to the evaluation report. He stated that the Secretary General will answer to any questions raised about the work of the Assembly during the Session, with a written reply. A one-day meeting in Morocco will be held to review specific points and assess the future of PAM.

The Secretary-General added that if each national parliament paid its contribution, including the arrears, there would be no need to increase the budget by 10% to fill the gap. The increase of 10% was approved by the Bureau to be submitted to a vote by the Assembly.

The budget of the Assembly has been subsequently voted upon: it will remain unchanged for the year 2016.

The President of the Assembly concluded the PAM 10th Plenary Session acknowledging the work of the Secretary General and the Secretariat staff.

The two-day event helped to debate on several issues such as terrorism, extremism, migration, wars, revolutions consequences of the economic crisis, climate change and other challenges specific to our region.

The discussions led to the following conclusions: member Parliaments have the duty to do what is in their power, within the framework of parliamentary diplomacy, to deal with the dramatic situation in Syria and Libya, helping these countries to develop modern institutions and support Jordan and Lebanon to deal with migration flows. Europe must do more, because the solution for many issues has to do with the economic growth of the southern areas of the region, as without a prosperous and stable Mediterranean there cannot be a prosperous Europe.

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PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE  
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

## **PAM 10<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY SESSION**

**Hotel Sheraton**

*Tirana, Albania, 18-19 February 2016*

### **Thursday 18 February**

9.00 – 10.00 29<sup>th</sup> PAM Bureau meeting

10.30 – 11.15 **Opening Session**

Welcome note by **H.E. Mr. Ilir Meta**, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament

Address by **H.E. Mr. Edi Rama**, Prime Minister of Albania

Address by **Sen. Lhou Lmarbouh**, PAM President

Message from **H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary General of the United Nations

*Family photo*

*Break*

11.30 – 13.00 **High-level debate on political developments and perspectives in the Mediterranean** – chaired by **Sen. Dr. Mohammed Halaïqah**, President of PAM 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee

Keynote addresses by

**H.E. Mr. Yury Fedotov**, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

**H.E. Mr. Michael Moller**, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva and Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament

**Hon. Andrea Manciuilli**, Head of the Italian Delegation to the NATO PA and Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism

**H.E. Amb. Florian Raunig**, Head of the Presence in Albania of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Debate

13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch Break*

14.30 – 16.00 **High-level debate on economic and environmental challenges in the Mediterranean** – chaired by **Hon. Pedro Roque**, President of PAM 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee

Keynote addresses by

**H.E. Mr. Lefter Koka**, Minister of Environment of Albania

**H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Amara**, Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of the Kingdom of Morocco

**H.E. Mr. Wu Hongbo**, UN Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs

**Mr. Eberhard Bömcke**, Deputy Head of Division of the European Investment Bank (EIB)

**Mrs. Virginia Cram-Martos**, Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

**Mr. Christian Blondin**, Director of the Cabinet of the Secretary-General and of the External Relations Department of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Debate

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.00 **High-level debate on migration, inter-cultural dialogue and other social issues** – chaired by **Hon. Nathalie Amoratti Blanc**, on behalf of the President of the PAM 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee

Keynote addresses by

**H.E. Mr. Blendi Klosi**, Minister of Youth and Social Welfare of Albania

**H.E. Mrs. Mirela Kumbaro**, Minister of Culture of Albania

**H.E. Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde**, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

**H.E. Mr. Toby Lanzer**, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel

**Mr. Hakim El Ghissassi**, Advisor at the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco

**Mr. Andrew Mayne**, Regional Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for South Eastern Europe

**Mr. Peter van der Auweraert**, Senior Regional Expert on Humanitarian Affairs and Transitional Programming of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**Mr. Donato Kiniger-Passigli**, Coordinator Fragile States and Disaster Response of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Debate

19.45 Bus transfer to the Royal Palace of Tirana

20.00 *Official dinner hosted by H.E. Mr. Ilir Meta, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament*

**Friday 19 February**

9.30 – 10.30 **2015 PAM Prize laureates Award ceremony**

10.30 – 11.00 **Session reserved to PAM Member Parliaments only**

Report by **Amb. Sergio Piazzì**, PAM Secretary General, on the activities and status of finance of the Assembly

*Coffee Break*

11.15 – 12.00 **Closing remarks by Sen. Lhou Lmarbouh, PAM President**

12.15 – 12.45 **Press conference**

13.15 Bus transfer to Durres

13.45 *Lunch*

15.00 **Visit to the archaeological museum of Durres**

16.00 Bus transfer back to Tirana

16.45 **Arrival in Tirana and end of the programme**





PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE  
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

## PAM 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session / 10<sup>ème</sup> Session plénière de l'APM

Tirana, 18-19 February 2016 / Tirana, 18-19 février 2016

### *List of participants*

#### PAM NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

<b>Albania</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Ilir Meta</b> , Speaker <b>H.E. Mr. Edi Rama</b> , Prime Minister <b>Hon. Klodiana Spahiu</b> , MP <b>Hon. Dashamir Shehi</b> , MP <b>H.E. Ms. Albana Shtylla</b> , Secretary General <b>Amb. Arben Cici</b> , Director of Protocol <b>Mr. Ralf Gjoni</b> , Adviser to the Speaker <b>Ms. Irma Pashkja</b> , General Director of the Foreign Relation Service <b>Ms. Albana Kraja</b> , Head of the Translation Unit <b>Mr. Dritan Delija</b> , Specialist of the Foreign Relations Service
<b>Algeria</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Ould Khelifa Mohamed Larbi</b> , Speaker of the People's National Assembly <b>Hon. Mohamed Lebid</b> , MP <b>Hon. Mohamed Laid Bibi</b> , MP <b>Mr. M'hand Berkouk</b> , Advisor for international relations of the Speaker <b>Mr. Farid Sellami</b> , Director of Protocol

<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<p>H.E. Ognjen Tadic, Speaker of the House of Peoples  Hon. Semsudin Mehmedovic, MP  Hon. Mensura Beganovic, MP  Ms. Tea Mandilovic, Secretary of Delegation  Ms. Dubravka Istuk-Pavlovic, Interpreter</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>Hon. Nicos Tornaritis, MP  Hon. Roula Mavronikola, MP  Hon. Georgios Georgiou, MP  Hon. Angelos Votsis, MP  Ms. Georgia Neophytou, International Relations Officer</p>
<b>Egypt</b>	<p>H.E. Ali Abdel AAI, Speaker  Hon. Hassan Ali, MP  Hon. Ahmed Elsegeny, MP  Hom. Silvia Sedhom, MP  Hon. Ebrahim Hegazy, MP  Hon. Radwan Elzayaty, MP  Hon. Mohamed Rashwan, MP  Hon. Mohamed Elorabi, MP  Hon. Karim Darwish, MP  Hon. Anissa Hassouna, MP  Hon. Suzy Nashed, MP  Mr. Mohammed Abu El Enein, PAM Honorary President and Roving Ambassador  Mr. Ahmed Saadeldin, General Secretary  Mr. Yousri Elsheikh, Consultant Head of sector  Mr. Ashraf Abdelwahab, Chief of Protocol  Mr. Mohamed Morgan, Chief of Security</p>



<b>France</b>	<p><b>Hon. Michel Vauzelle</b>, PAM Vice President and Head of Delegation  <b>Sen. François Commeinhes</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Chantal Guittet</b>, MP  <b>Mr. Edouard Denouel</b>, Senate Staff  <b>Mr. Didier Eifermann</b>, Advisor  <b>Mr. Maxime Georges</b>, Advisor</p>
<b>Greece</b>	<p><b>Hon. Eleni Avlonitou</b>, MP and Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Antonis Balomenakis</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Ekaterini Papakosta-Sidiropoulou</b>, MP  <b>Mr. Georgios Chondronasios</b>, Officer of the Directorate for European Affairs</p>
<b>Israel</b>	<p><b>H.E. Yuli-Yoel Edelstein</b>, Speaker of the Knesset  <b>Hon. Armand Amir Peretz</b>, MP and PAM Vice-President  <b>Hon. Dov Khenin</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Hamad Amar</b>, MP and Chair of the Israel-Albania Parliamentary Friendship Group  <b>Hon. Majalli Wahabe</b>, PAM Roving Ambassador  <b>Amb. Oded Ben-Hur</b>, Senior Diplomatic Advisor to the Knesset  <b>Ms. Florina Elman Levin</b>, Adviser on External Affairs to the Speaker  <b>Mr. Zvi Bierman</b>, Advisor  <b>Mr. Eyal Sultan Cohen</b>, Security Guard  <b>Mr. Eran Ezra Gigi</b>, Security Guard  <b>Mr. Elior Shitrit</b>, Security Guard  <b>Mr. Yair Shalom Ofri</b>, Security Guard  <b>Mr. Alexander Levit</b>, Security Guard</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p><b>Sen. Francesco Maria Amoruso</b>, MP, PAM Honorary President and Head of Delegation  <b>Sen. Luigi Compagna</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Giorgio Girgis Sorial</b>, MP  <b>Mr. Stefano Thaulero</b>, International Affairs Department – Secretary of the Delegation  <b>Ms. Susanna Radoni</b>, Protocol – Secretary of the Delegation  <b>Mr. Claudio Olmeda</b>, Interpreter (Italian Senate)  <b>Ms. Antonella Lasorsa</b>, Interpreter (Italian Chamber of Deputies)</p>

<b>Jordan</b>	<p> <b>Hon. Abdulhadi Majali</b>, MP and Head of House of Representatives Delegation  <b>Sen. Marwan Al-Hmoud</b>, MP, Head of Senate Delegation  <b>Sen. Dr. Mohammad Halaiqah</b>, MP, PAM Vice-President and President of PAM 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee  <b>Hon. Raed Hijazin</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Mohammd Al-Alaqmeh</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Mohammad Hedaib</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Faisal El Awar</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Assaf Alshawabkeh</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Fatin Alkhlaifat</b>, MP  <b>Mr. Hazem Hawamdeh</b>, Head of Public Relations  <b>Mr. Hassan Al Tarawneh</b>, Administrator  <b>Mr. Shadi Obeidat</b>, Secretary of Delegation </p>
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#### KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS

<b>United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV)</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Yury Fedotov</b> , Director-General of the UNOV and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) <b>Mr. Sergey Presada</b> , Programme Management Officer and Special Assistant to Director-General
<b>United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG)</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Michael Moller</b> , Director-General of the UNOG and Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament
<b>NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO-PA)</b>	<b>Hon. Andrea Manciuilli</b> , President of the Italian Delegation to the NATO-PA and Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism
<b>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</b>	<b>Amb. Florian Raunig</b> , Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania
<b>Republic of Albania</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Lefter Koka</b> , Minister of Environment
<b>Kingdom of Morocco</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Amara</b> , Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment <b>Mr. Abderrahim El Hafidi</b> , Secretary General of the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment
<b>United Nations</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Wu Hongbo</b> , UN Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs <b>Ms. Lin Yang</b> , Special Assistant to Under-Secretary General

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<b>International Organization for Migration (IOM)</b>	<b>Mr. Peter Van Der Auweraert</b> , Senior Regional Expert on Humanitarian Affairs and Transitional Programming
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	<p><b>Ms. Magda Ninaber</b>, Rapporteur of the Plenary Session (Note-taker) <b>Amb. Peter Schatzer</b>, Permanent Observer in Vienna <b>Amb. Gerard Putman-Cramer</b>, Permanent Observer in Geneva <b>Eng. Alessandro Ortis</b>, Co-President of the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean <b>Mr. Emanuele Sessa</b>, Expert</p>
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