

**Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean  
Declaration  
Lisbon, 9 December 2014**

**The Bureau of the PA-UfM**

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the swift decision of the International Organization for Migration to grant the PA-UfM Observer status at the IOM's Council meetings, at the request of the Portuguese Presidency. This decision was taken at the 105<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the IOM, which took place in Geneva on 25-28 November.
2. Expresses its satisfaction with the decision of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) to grant the PA-UfM Observer status at the 131<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly, which took place in Geneva on 13-16 October.
3. Having organized, with the Italian Parliament and the European Parliament, a fact-finding mission to Lampedusa, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the tragedy that occurred on the island in October 2013 in which more than 350 people died:
  - reiterates its condolences to all victims' families;
  - commends the efforts made by the local authorities of Lampedusa and the generous involvement of the local population in rescuing and sheltering the migrant survivors;
  - acknowledges the efforts of the Italian authorities and the deployment of the Mare Nostrum operation which has rescued over 160,000 people during the past year; pays tribute to the fishermen and merchant ships for their participation in several rescue operations;
  - expresses its concerns as regards the dramatic human toll of irregular migration and its marked social impact on transit and receiving countries;
  - recalls that the rising migration and flow of refugees across the Mediterranean towards Europe is strongly related to the social and political turmoil in the region;
  - invites transit and receiving countries to work better together in order to address the challenge of this unprecedented humanitarian crisis, to more adequately protect people in need and to process asylum requests in full compliance with the international standards;
  - whilst welcoming Operation Triton, jointly undertaken by the European Union Agency Frontex and Italy, as a successor to the Mare Nostrum operation, insists that its geographical scope of intervention be extended in order to effectively save endangered lives in international waters;
  - invites all member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean, in coordination with the Co-Presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean, to adopt a comprehensive approach to migration and mobility, with the aim of improving the social and economic development of sending, transit and receiving countries;
  - emphasizes the crucial role that parliamentarians as legislators have and must play in this regard;

- expresses its support to the Portuguese Presidency in its decision to establish migration as a key priority of the Second Summit of Speakers of Parliaments of the UfM, which it will host in Lisbon on 3 February 2015.
4. Welcomes the efforts deployed so far by the Cities of Catania and Tangiers – whose mayors agreed to be present in Lisbon to share their respective experiences – as well as by other cities, such as Lampedusa and Ceuta, in order to shape a common and comprehensive approach to questions of migration and refugees that is in full compliance with relevant international law.
  5. Congratulates the Tunisian people and the Tunisian authorities for the success of the recent legislative elections; Congratulates Mohammed Ennaceur on his election as Speaker of the new Tunisian Parliament; praises the involvement of the Tunisian civil society in the smooth running of these elections and welcomes this milestone in Tunisia's transition to democracy; Encourages the newly elected members to preserve the spirit of compromise and responsibility that has prevailed so far in order to meet the high aspirations of social justice, freedom and prosperity for all Tunisians.

#### **The PA-UfM**

6. Decides that the Second Summit of Speakers of Parliaments of the Union for the Mediterranean will take place on 3 February 2015 in Lisbon, with the objective of discussing urgent political responses to the challenges that both shores of the Mediterranean have faced and with the intent of writing a Decalogue of concrete common measures to set up a new migration policy for the Euro-Mediterranean region. Decides, furthermore, that this Decalogue will be submitted to the political authorities of the European Union and to the Union for the Mediterranean.
7. Decides that the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the PA-UfM will take place in Lisbon, in May 2015.