



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



***ITALIAN
PRESIDENCY***



Palermo, 18 June 2010

Bureau statement on the Union for the Mediterranean

On the occasion of its meeting held under the Italian Presidency on 18 June 2010 in Palermo, recalling the EMPA recommendation of 12 October 2008 on the role of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly within the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), as well as the previous Bureau statements on the UfM of 20 November 2009 and 22 January 2010

The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM):

- Reiterates that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA UfM) should be informed on all projects or strategies developed within the framework of the UfM, so as to give its opinion, and invites the various Committees of the Assembly to hear regularly the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretaries General of the Secretariat of the UfM;
- Reiterates the essential institutional function ensured by the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM in policy setting and democratic oversight as the parliamentary dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean recognised in the Paris Declaration, emphasising the importance of fully integrating the Committees and Working Groups making up the Assembly into the work performed at the intergovernmental level;
- stresses the importance of the Union for the Mediterranean as a whole and advocates the re-convening in Barcelona of the Second Summit of the Heads of State and Government in November 2010 – on the 15th anniversary of the Declaration initiating the partnership – and stresses the need for the UfM to give a powerful political impetus to Euro-Mediterranean co-operation and in particular to the resumption of the Middle East peace process;
- regrets the postponement of some ministerial conferences and recommends that they be held regularly so as to offer opportunities for the ongoing projects to make real progress, thanks also to the contribution of the Committees and Working Groups of the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM;
- warmly welcomes the establishment of the UfM Secretariat, recommending the prompt adoption of its annual budget, in the hope that every possible synergy with the PA-UfM Secretariat will soon be established;



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- emphasises the need for a strong, efficient and inclusive Union for the Mediterranean able to play its role in the common commitment to addressing the world economic crisis that is making it more and more urgent to pursue regional integration, to establish a free-trade area and increase investment, also by putting in place more effective financial facilities, such as the institution of a Euro-Mediterranean Bank.

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

Hon. Gianfranco FINI
President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies
Co-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Hon. Abdelwahed RADI
President of Morocco's Chamber of Representatives
Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Hon. Gianni PITTELLA – representing Mr BUZEK,
President of the European Parliament
Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Sen. Abdel-Hadi MAJALI
Member of the Senate of Jordan
Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean