



**THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR
THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Declaration of the PA-UfM Bureau

On the occasion of its meeting held under the Moroccan presidency on the 11th July 2011 in Rabat

The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

- Strongly supports the member parliaments of the South of the Mediterranean who seek to strengthen their control over the executive bodies. In this regard, the implementation of a real democratic legitimacy is of a great importance for the Union for the Mediterranean. As a parliamentary body of the UfM, the Assembly confirms its role to monitor and follow up, in a democratic way, the institutional structures of the UfM.
- Welcomes the constitutional reform in Morocco, a country engaged in a clear separation of powers with the enforcement of the parliament position, especially, with a government emanating from the parliamentary majority, an independent judiciary, primacy of international law, regionalization, gender equality and the constitutionalization of Amazigh as the country's official language alongside with Arabic.
- Congratulates the Moroccan people for their choice promising a better future and encourages the national authorities to implement these reforms. It also calls for the EU to strongly follow up and support these efforts in the framework of the advanced status and the European Neighbourhood policy.

- Expresses its support to the reform movements and the democratic changes in the Southern side of the Mediterranean, as well as its solidarity with peoples of the region who deserve living in a state where the rule of law reigns and which respects individual and collective liberties. It further denounces all sorts of violation of Human Rights particularly in Syria and Libya.
- Welcomes the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy that makes among its priorities the support of democratic transition and civil society in the countries of the southern side of the Mediterranean. It also calls for the member states of the EU to take relevant measures that facilitate the access of the countries of the south of the Mediterranean into the European market and to establish, with the eligible countries, real partnerships that respond to the aspirations of people especially the youth of the south of the Mediterranean.
- Strongly supports direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians based on the relevant UN resolutions, and the agreements previously reached by the parties as a necessary step towards achieving comprehensive peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and in the region.
- Expresses its conviction that in the absence of negotiations under the current circumstances, granting the status of a full UN membership to a Palestinian State comprising the East Jerusalem as its capital, in the following September, will help convince the parties to enter serious negotiations.
- Welcomes the appointment of Mr. Youssef Amrani as the new General Secretary of the UfM and considers that the designation of a new General Secretary of the UfM will promote the visibility of the UfM and accelerate the implementation of concrete projects that the citizens of the Mediterranean countries are expecting.