



Minutes of the 14th Plenary Session of the PA UfM Cairo, 29 April, 2018

- The 14th plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean was held in Cairo, at the Egyptian House of Representatives on April 29, 2018 under the chairmanship of Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal, Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives.
- Mr. David-Maria Sassoli, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Ms. Maria Edera Spadoni, Vice-President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Mr. Ali Ercoskun, Member of the Turkish National Assembly, attended as representatives of the bureau of the Presidency.
- The meeting was attended by delegations from Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Egypt, the European Parliament, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and UfM and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.
- The main theme for the 14th plenary session of the Assembly was "Combating Terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean Region".
- Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal, Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives and President of the Assembly, started the proceedings of the 14th plenary session with the item on the adoption of the draft agenda, and in the absence of any objection, the Agenda was officially adopted.



- Afterwards, the item on the adoption of the minutes of the 13th plenary session held in Italy on 13 May 2017, drafted by the previous Italian Presidency of the Assembly, was discussed. In the absence of any objection, it was officially adopted.
- Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal opened the general discussion. The following attendees made interventions:

Mr. David-Maria Sassoli, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr. Klevis Balliu (Albania), Mr. Mohammed Mohammed Abou El-Enein, Honorary President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Mr. Reinhard Todt, the President of the Austrian Federal Council, Ms Ana Miranda (The European Parliament), Mr. Stephane Crusniere (Belgium), Ms. Hoda Talha (Algeria), Mr. Renato Soru, Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs of the Assembly (The European Parliament), Mr. Peter De Roover (Belgium), Mr. Fabio Massimo Castaldo (The European Parliament), Ms. Karima Adman (Algeria), Mr. Nicolaos Tornaritsk (Cyprus), Mr. Santiago Fisas Ayxela (The European Parliament), Mr. Damen Hussein (Algeria), Mr. Roderich Kiesewetter (Germany), Ms. Laura Agea (The European Parliament), Ms. Simone Beissel, Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, Mr. Glenn Bedingfield (Malta), Mr. Gordi Soli (The European Parliament), Ms. Liliana Rodriguez (The European Parliament), Dr. Marian Azer (Egypt), Ms. Laila Shattawy, Chairperson of Women's Committee in the Assembly (Tunisia), Ms. Fimanas (The European Parliament), Mr. Miguel Urban (The European Parliament), Ms. Tiziana Beghin, Chair of the Working Group on Financing of the Assembly and Revision of the



PA UfM's Rules of procedure (The European Parliament), Mr. Ali Ercoskun, Head of the delegation of the Turkish Parliament, Ms. Amina Maelainine, Deputy Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, Mr. Abderrahim Atmoun (Morocco), Ms. Khadija Zoumi (Morocco), Mr. Jose Ramon Bauza (Spain), Mr. Marc Lamua (Spain), Mr. Adel El Barakat (Morocco), Mr. Moulay Hicham Al-Muhajiri (Morocco), Mr. Mahmoud Al Titi (Jordan), Mr. M'jid El Guerrab (France), Mr. Konstantinos Spartinos (Greece), Mr. Huseyin Sahin (Turkey), Ms. Agata Borowiec (Poland), Ms. Gabriela Zania (The European Parliament), Mr. Raed Alkhazaleh (Jordan), Mr. Medhat El-Sherif (Egypt) and Ms. Injy Murad Fahim (Egypt).

Since no one else asked for the floor, Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal has adjourned the session for half an hour.

- After half an hour of rest, Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal resumed the proceedings by giving the floor to Mr. George Borrego, the acting UfM Secretary-General, to present the activities of the Union for the Mediterranean.
- The recommendations of the committees and working groups were then discussed. The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Renato Soru, Chairman of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights, to present the Committee's draft recommendations. After concluding, the Assembly adopted by consensus the recommendations of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights.
- The Chairman then gave the floor to Ms. Margarida Mano, Chairperson of the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education, to present the draft



recommendations of the Committee. After concluding, the Assembly adopted by consensus the recommendations of the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education.

- The Chairman then gave the floor to Mr. Mohamed Ahwait, Chairman of the Committee on Improving the Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture, to present the draft recommendations of the Committee. After concluding, the Assembly adopted by consensus the recommendations of the Committee on Improving the Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture.
- Ms. Laila Shattawy, Chairperson of the Committee on Women's Rights in Euromed Countries, presented the draft recommendations of the Women's Committee at the first part of the session and they were adopted by consensus.
- The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Ammar Makhloufi, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water, to present the draft recommendations of the Committee. After concluding, the Assembly adopted by consensus the recommendations of the Committee.
- The Chairman then gave the floor to Ms. Tiziana Beghin, Chairperson of the Working Group on Financing the Assembly and Revision of the Rules of Procedure, to deliver her speech. After that, the Assembly adopted by consensus the recommendations of the Working Group.



- Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal thanked Chairman of the session, all speakers, chairpersons of committees and the working group, and announced the transition of the presidency of the Assembly to the European Parliament. On this occasion, he gave the floor to Mr. David-Maria Sassoli, Vice-President of the European Parliament. He thanked the Egyptian presidency and mentioned the priorities of the European Parliament during its presidency of the Assembly. He confirmed that one of the main priorities is to reassert the concept of parliamentary diplomacy as well as other topics to be announced by the European Parliament in the future with regard to the economic cooperation among the Assembly members or with regard to cooperation in the field of security.
- Before the end of the session, there was an intervention by the Chairman of the session concerning the financial situation of the Assembly. He pointed out that the last budget approved was in 2013 and the last approved contributions of the countries were in 2010. The Egyptian presidency has prepared an estimated budget for the current year 2018, and it was referred to the Working Group on Financing the Assembly and Revision of the Rules of Procedure for study.

Until this matter had been studied by the Working Group and in order to pay the previous debts of the Assembly to the former Italian Presidency and then to the Egyptian Presidency, the Chairman asked the members of the Assembly to re-authorize the Assembly President to ask the member parliaments to pay their contributions pending the new budget is presented to the General Assembly at its next meeting.



No one objected, and the attendees agreed to the said re-authorization.

- At the end of the session, Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal thanked the General Secretariat of the Egyptian House of Representatives, mainly Counsellor Ahmed Saad Al-Din, Secretary General of the Egyptian House of Representatives for the efforts exerted to prepare for these meetings. He also thanked all the attendees, expressed his sincere wishes for the presidency of the European Parliament of the Assembly, and declared the closure of the session.