



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly
EMPA

The Minutes of the Sixth EMPA General Assembly Meeting

March 13 2010
Amman- Jordan

- The opening keynote speech by His Excellency Abdel Hadi Al Majali, EMPA chairperson.
His Excellency Abdel Hadi Al Majali delivered the opening keynote speech where welcomed the members of the general assembly and stressed the significance of EMPA in the international arena namely in the context of the international events related to the peace process in the Middle East. He also reiterated the urgency for all EMPA members to work collaboratively in order to arrive at a solution for this conflict and support the Arab Initiative. Al Majali also highlighted the importance of EMPA role particularly that it is the legislative and oversight arm of UFM.

- **Adopting the draft agenda**
Agenda adopted.

- **Adopting the minutes of the fifth EMPA General Assembly**
Meeting minutes adopted.

- **First Session: Peace Process in the Middle East**
Speakers



- **Her Excellency Nancy Bakeer**, the Deputy Secretary General of Pan Arab League, representing his Excellency Amer Moussa the Secretary General of Pan Arab League.

Her Excellency stressed the Arab League stand from the peace process in the Middle East, and reiterated the importance of collaborating to reach a solution through the Arab Peace Initiative. She also highlighted the importance of resuming the negotiations, halting settlement constructions in Jerusalem and the importance of implementing Goldstone report and terminating the siege on Gaza.

- **His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Mustafa Kamal**, the Egyptian Deputy Minister of Parliamentary Affairs representing his Excellency Mr. Ahmad Abul Ghait.

His Excellency stressed the need for exerting international pressure on Israel to resume peace negotiations and creating stability in the region. He also highlighted the role Egypt plays on the international level to resolve the conflict in the Middle East.

- **His Excellency Mr. Jose Rira Square** the official in charge of the Affairs of the Mediterranean and the Union for the Mediterranean representing the Spanish Presidency to the European Union.

He reiterated the importance of building the Union for the Mediterranean on the basis of Barcelona Process. He further mentioned that the UFM will be strongly structured, and highlighted the importance of strengthening the relation between the legislative and executive authorities in UFM. He also referred to the UFM role in supporting the peace process and the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative in reaching a just comprehensive solution and durable peace in the region.

- **His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Massadeh, UFM Secretary General**

He talked about the importance of regional projects in promoting political dialogue and building trust in a region needing security and stability, which can be arrived at through the two-state solution. He stressed the importance for the secretary general to work UFM committees in order to achieve the best results.



- **Second Session: Climate and environmental change and renewable energy in the Mediterranean**

Speakers

- **His Excellency Khaled Al Irani**, the Jordanian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

He reiterated the urgency of curbing the CO₂ emissions in order to deal with the major international threats, like climate change which is even more difficult in the Mediterranean. His Excellency briefed the participants about the political measures taken by his country with a view to gradual movement towards green economy highlighting the need for investments that guarantee technology transfer and the urgency of initiatives like establishing solar plants and utilizing other renewable sources of energy. He concluded by stressing the fact that unless the model changes on the political economic and social level there will not be any progress in sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

- **Third Session: Transforming the Euro Mediterranean Partnership and Investment Facility into a Euro Mediterranean Bank.**

Speakers

Charles Henri

He referred in his speech to the main themes highlighted by the French President including the analysis of funding financial analysis, analyzing the strong and weak points of the current fund system, and determining the Bank operation module.

He also mentioned that the transformation will promote SMEs, and create job opportunities for people in the Southern Mediterranean which will have a great impact in sharing respective knowledge.

All participating delegates participated in the open discussion addressing various subjects.



*14 March 2010
Amman Jordan*

- The report of the Euro Mediterranean University working group

Mrs. Kratsa presented a report on the working group and its objectives that aim at promoting cooperation among universities, free access to information for all players in the region. She urged the member states to take part in the support of the working group in order to achieve the best results.

- Discussing the proposal to establish the Secretariat and ratifying its budget

Mr. Gianni Pittella the Chairman of the Working Group for Financing the Assembly and Revision of the EMPA Rules of Procedure presented the Bureau's proposals and then approved by the general assembly.

The points were:

- EMPA Budget: 608762 Euros and the contributions breakdown per member delegation. It was approved with reservations expressed by Austria, Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom.
- creation of the Assembly Secretariat to be based in Brussels and its structure that would include four administrators and four assistants seconded by the four Parliaments members of the Assembly's Bureau . The proposal was approved.
- The proposal to upgrade the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water to a standing committee was approved.



Modification of the composition of the standing Committees: The proposal for a new composition of the five permanent committees in order to include the delegations from the new member Parliaments (Albania, Monaco, Mauritania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro) was approved and it will enter into force in March 2012. The modification approved comprises a slight reduction of seats within four committees: (from 70 to 64 for Political, Economic, and Culture Committees and from 50 to 44 for Women's Committee), as well as a slight increase of seats within the Committee for Energy, environment and water (from 40 to 44). The introduction, in the Rules of Procedure, of the notion of "permanent substitute members" was approved, in order to enable each delegation to participate to each Committee's work.

Change of the Assembly's name

Upon recommendation of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights, it was approved to change the Assembly's name from the Euro Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly into the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Composition of the Committees' Bureaus

Upon recommendation from the Bureau, the Plenary decided to extend the mandate of the Committees' Bureaus for two years (until March 2012).

- **Approval of the membership applications from Montenegro and Croatia.**

The requests of Montenegro and Croatia were approved by the Plenary

- **Observers and Guests:**



The Assembly approved the granting of the observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, The Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Transitional Arab Parliament, and the Parliamentary Assembly for the Mediterranean.

The Plenary considered that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight to Poverty in the Mediterranean-Black Sea (FISPMED) do not meet the criteria for being observers. It was decided that they may be invited by the Bureau to attend a meeting of the Assembly.

- **Ratifying the Committees' Recommendations**

- **Committee of Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights**

Mrs. Tokba Al Saifi, the committee chairperson, presented the committee's recommendations and were ratified, while Israel had reservations on paragraph 7.

- **Economic, Financial and Social Affairs and Education**

The committee chairperson, Mr. Mohammad Abul Enein, reported the committee's recommendations and were ratified with two paragraphs (19 and 20) added along with a clarification memo by the committee chairperson.

- **Promotion of the Quality of Life, Human Exchanges and Culture**

Mr. Eduardo Caprita, the chairperson, reported the committee's recommendations and they were approved.

- **Women's Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Countries**

The committee's recommendation was presented by Afifa Salah, the Committee's Chairperson. The Plenary adopted the recommendation, with reservations on paragraph 28 expressed by some members of the European Parliament, Belgium, Denmark, France, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



- The committee on Energy Environment and Water

The committee chairperson, Mr. Stefan Schennach, presented the recommendations and were adopted.

- Presidency transference to Italy

The presidency has been passed to Italy and Mr. Gianfranco Fini, the Italian Parliament spokesperson delivered a speech in this occasion.

The End of the Sixth General Assembly Meeting of EMPA