



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

**2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social
and Environmental Cooperation**

Launch of the “Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean”

Rapporteur: Hon. Ridha Bouargoub (Tunisia)

***Resolution unanimously adopted on 29 October 2010,
during the Vth Plenary Session, Rabat***

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

- a) ***Convinced*** that the Mediterranean region is a large reservoir of economic growth;
- b) ***Further convinced*** that trade is a powerful tool to improving relations between countries and promoting inter-cultural dialogue, a fundamental objective of the Assembly; ***Supporting*** a Free Trade Area in the Mediterranean region as the right tool to boost prosperity in the region;
- c) ***Recalling*** the 1995 Barcelona Declaration which sets 2010 as a target for the realization of the Euromed Free Trade Area (i.e. the free movement of goods, services, and capital). Noting, in that respect, the achievements of the Euro-med process in bringing closer the economies of the North and the South of the Mediterranean (mostly through the conclusions of a network of Association Agreements), as well as the need to pursue economic dialogue to achieve the goal of a Euromed Free Trade Area in the near future, while strengthening, in particular, the South-South economic dimension;
- d) ***Having regard*** to the Conclusions of the VIIIth Euromed Trade Ministerial conference held in Brussels on 9 December 2009 endorsing the Euromed Trade Roadmap beyond 2010, which considers progressively turning the existing Associations Agreements into deep and comprehensive Free Trade Agreements;
- e) ***Recalling*** also the Arab Mediterranean Free Trade Agreement initiated in Agadir in May 2001 by Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt with the aim to establishing a Free Trade Area between these four countries; Noting in that respect the Joint Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Trade in Agadir, on 18 February 2010, calling in particular for a future plan of action to lift obstacles that impede commercial exchange and flow of goods;
- f) ***Having regard*** to the Union for the Mediterranean’s objectives in promotion regional integration by fostering open trade and investments through concrete regional projects; ***Stressing***, in that respect, the need to give particular attention to sectors of inter alia

renewable energies, water, fisheries, agribusiness, new technologies, textile and maritime trade;

- g) **Having regard** to its own reports and resolutions adopted in 2008 and 2009 on the respective themes of “Free Trade in the Mediterranean – Strengths, Weaknesses, and Future Development” and “the role of SMEs in the Mediterranean region”;
 - h) **Acknowledging** the essential role played by national Agencies for Trade and Investments of PAM countries in fostering economic growth, alongside the ministries for Industry, Commerce and Trade, regional business networks and public/private financial institutions in the Mediterranean region;
 - i) **Recalling** PAM’s overall aims of enhancing economic and social cooperation between all PAM member states through partnership. In that context, acknowledges that PAM can act as a bridge between the business world and the political world on issues of common interest;
 - j) **Underlining** the key role played by parliamentarians in shaping the legislative framework against which to conduct business, attract foreign investments, and in the allocation of public spending in trade promotion and R&D. *Underlining also* the importance of the vital link they maintain with the citizens and private sectors (employers’ federations, employees’ trade unions, chambers of commerce, local and regional authorities etc...) in their countries;
 - k) **Convinced** of the benefits of establishing a platform for dialogue where parliamentarians and the business sector can regularly meet and keep each other informed of new business opportunities and public policies to promote trade and investments, exchange best practices/success stories and boost regional trade ;
 - l) **Finally, stressing** that a peaceful, stable and secure Mediterranean is key to prosperity and improved living conditions for the peoples of the Mediterranean region;
1. Welcomes the launch of the “Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean”¹ in Lisbon on 28 May 2010, as a unique horizontal interface for dialogue and action between parliamentarians and the business sector in the region;
 2. Calls on the Governments and the Parliaments of the PAM Member States to promote the existence of the Panel as a useful instrument to boost Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean region, in complementarity to other individual and regional initiatives;
 3. Recalls that all Trade and Investments Agencies of PAM countries are *de facto* members of the Panel, alongside the 25 parliaments of the PAM countries, Associated countries and PAM candidate countries;
 4. Invites all business/financial national and regional networks promoting enhanced business/greater economic integration in the Mediterranean region to join the Panel;

¹ Referred to as « the Panel » in the remainder of the document

5. Given the current world economic conditions and the instabilities affecting investment markets, meetings of the Panel should be held annually.
6. Fully supports the establishment of the “Mediterranean Investments Bank”.
7. Requests the PAM and the national parliaments to forward this resolution, the annexed report and the Lisbon meetings conclusions to all Trade and Investments agencies of the PAM member countries, the European Commission, the signatories of the Arab Mediterranean Agreement, the Union for the Mediterranean and other regional and international organisations actively engaged in global trade in the Mediterranean region.