



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY – UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE – UNION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE

الجمعية البرلمانية للاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

13th Plenary Session - Rome, 13 May 2017 Draft Minutes of the 13th Plenary Session

The 13th plenary session of the PA-UfM was held in Rome at the Chamber of Deputies on 13 May, 2017 chaired by the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Laura BOLDRINI, and the President of the Italian Senate, Pietro GRASSO.

The Bureau was represented by the President of the Egyptian House of Representatives, Ahmed ALY ABDEL AAL SAYED and the President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, İsmail KAHRAMAN.

The meeting was attended by the following delegations: Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, European Parliament, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, and Turkey.

The 13th Plenary Assembly was dedicated to the theme: **“Sustainable development and new job opportunities in the Mediterranean: Med4jobs and Agenda 2030”**.

The session was called to order by the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Laura BOLDRINI, and the President of the Italian Senate, Pietro GRASSO.

The Assembly then adopted the agenda.

The Assembly adopted the minutes of the 21st session of the Plenary Assembly in Tangiers, on 28 and 29 May 2016, drawn up by the Moroccan Presidency and circulated to the delegations.

President BOLDRINI then gave the floor to Federica MOGHERINI, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign and Security Policy and Co-President of the PA-UfM, to present her report.

This was followed by the paper delivered by Enrico GIOVANNINI, Professor of Economic Statistics at “Tor Vergata” University of Rome, and Spokesman for the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS).

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President BOLDRINI then opened the debate.

The following speakers intervened: President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, İsmail KAHRAMAN, the Spanish MP José Ramón BAUZA, Zouhair BAHLOUL (Israel), Santiago FISAS AYXELA (European Parliament), Richárd HÖRCSIK (Hungary), Ali ERCOŞKUN (Turkey), Gilles PARGNEAUX (European Parliament), Konstantinos SPARTINOS (Greece), Suhair SANDUKA (Palestine), Pavel TELIČKA (European Parliament), Marc LAMUÀ (Spain), Jordi SOLÉ I FERRANDO (European Parliament), Costas COSTA (Cyprus), Ahmad HAMISAT (Jordan), Tiziana BEGHIN (European Parliament), Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria), Mohamed Madani HAOUED MOUISSA (Algeria), Anna ZABORSKA (European Parliament), Salah Eddine ABOULGHALI (Morocco), Liliana RODRIGUES (European Parliament), Gentian BEJKO (Albania), Michela GIUFFRIDA (European Parliament), Maria Teresa GIMENEZ BARBAT (European Parliament), Laura AGEA (European Parliament), Pier Antonio PANZERI (European Parliament), Abir EBDELLI (Tunisia), Inés AYALA SENDER (European Parliament), Fabio Massimo CASTALDO (European Parliament), Ana Maria GOMES (European Parliament), Khalid CHAOUKI (Italy).

High Representative Federica MOGHERINI replied to the questions and remarks.

Since there were no further requests to take the floor, President BOLDRINI closed the working session and gave the floor to Fathallah SIJILMASSI, Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean, who presented the UfM activities report.

The meeting then examined the recommendations and proposals of the Committees and the Working Group. Renato SORU (European Parliament), chair of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights, who illustrated the Committee's recommendation. Medhat EL-SHERIF (Egypt) asked for note to be taken of the reservation expressed by the Egyptian delegation regarding paragraph 26, deemed to infringe the principle of national sovereignty. Other speakers were Suhair SANDUKA (Palestine), Mustafa YAGHI (Jordan), and Adil EL BARAKAT (Morocco).

The Assembly then adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights with the Egyptian delegation's reservation regarding paragraph 26.

Subsequently Margarida MANO (Portuguese Parliament), Chair of the Economic and Financial, Social Affairs and Education Committee, illustrated the Committee's recommendation, with an intervention of Imen BEN MOHAMED (Tunisia).

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The Assembly then adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Economic and Financial, Social Affairs and Education by consensus.

Presidente BOLDRINI then announced that on 12 May, the Moroccan delegation had appointed Mohamed IHOUYET to serve as the new Chair of the Committee on Promotion of the Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture. She then gave the floor to Khalid CHAOUKI (Italian Chamber of Deputies), the Deputy Chair of the Culture Committee, to illustrate the Committee's recommendation. Amina MAELAININE (Morocco) and Mousa HANTASH (Jordan) also took the floor.

The Assembly then adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Promotion of the Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture, by consensus.

President BOLDRINI then gave the floor to Yasmine LARSSON (Swedish Parliament), Deputy Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights in Euro-Mediterranean Countries, standing in for the Committee Chair Leila CHETTAOUI, who had been unable to attend, to illustrate the recommendation of the Committee. Amina MAELAININE (Morocco) took the floor.

The Assembly then adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Women's Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Countries by consensus.

President BOLDRINI gave the floor to Samir MURAD (Jordanian Senate), Chair of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water who illustrated the Committee's recommendation. There were no contributions.

The Assembly then adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Energy and Environment and Water by consensus.

Before giving the floor to Tiziana BEGHIN (European Parliament), Chair of the Working Group on Financing of the Assembly and Revision of the Rules of Procedure, President BOLDRINI recalled that pursuant to Rule 16(2) amendments to the Rules must be adopted by consensus. The Chair of the Working Group, Tiziana BEGHIN, then illustrated the proposed amendment.

There being no objection, the Assembly adopted the proposed amendment by consensus.

President BOLDRINI then announced that the Bureau had approved the release of the balance of funds remaining from the 2008-2016 accounts, to be used to

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refund the interpretation costs incurred for the meetings during the previous year. She hoped that the Working Group would meet again soon in order to complete the work on the Financial Rules as soon as possible. She added that while awaiting a comprehensive reform, the present Financial Rules would continue to apply in order to enable the Assembly and all its bodies to operate properly. She concluded by announcing that the Bureau had decided to accept the candidature of MP Atmoun ABDERRAHIM proposed by the Delegation of Morocco to serve as Deputy Chair of the Working Group on Financing of the Assembly and Revision of the Rules of Procedure.

Santiago FISAS AYXELA (EP), representing the President of the European Parliament, Antonio TAJANI, announced that following the decision adopted by the Bureau to release the balance of funds in the Assembly accounts, they would be used in compliance with the provisions of the existing Financial Rules and the financial rules and regulations of the Parliaments responsible for managing the funds.

There being no objection, it was so decided.

President BOLDRINI thanked the speakers, and the Chairs of the Committees and the Working Group for the constant commitment during the Italian Presidency and all the delegations for the productive work performed throughout the year and during the two days' deliberations in Rome.

With that, she adjourned the 13th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean and passed on the Presidency to the Parliament of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who would serve until May next year. Ali Abdel AAL SAYED, President of the House of Representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and new President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean accepted the office and illustrated the priorities of the Egyptian Presidency.