



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE**

برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

**2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee on Economic, Social, and Environmental Cooperation**

**“Economic impact of Covid-19 in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions in 2020: the policy response for an effective recovery”**

Rapporteur: Hon. Ljubica Maksimčuk (Croatia)

**Recommendations**

I, the Rapporteur on Economy, on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *Alarmed* by the severe and unprecedented socio-economic crisis precipitated by the lockdown measures and travel restrictions implemented to contain the COVID-19 pandemic;
- b) *Aware* of the disproportional impact that the COVID-19 containment measures have had across industries and individuals, with particular attention to youth, women, and other minority groups;
- c) *Convinced* of the need to extend support schemes to ensure fiscal relief to those employed on the periphery of the formal economy;
- d) *Concerned* that barriers to capital, credit lines, and adequate financial support could threaten the viability of many SMEs in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions;
- e) *Noting* that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed considerable stress on global supply chains, and *recognizing* the importance of strengthening trade arrangements which reinforce regional economic development and resilience to global shocks;
- f) *Recognizing* the importance of the tourism industry to Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf economies and the severe financial impacts of travel bans and social distancing measures on the sector;
- g) *Supporting* the commitment of PAM to work with multilateral institutions, such as the UNWTO and WTTC, to build a comprehensive understanding of the immediate and long-term challenges faced by the tourism industry;

- h) *Aware* that lockdown measures have revealed the immediate need for expanding access to internet services and digital skills for businesses and remote education systems;
  - i) *Supporting* the expansion of IT infrastructure to facilitate the utilization of resources to further access and use of digital technologies;
  - j) *Convinced* that collaboration and joint efforts of national parliaments on restarting economic activity and lifting travel restrictions will be essential in rehabilitating the regional economy;
  - k) *Committed* to the implementation of policies which facilitate an inclusive and sustainable recovery;
  - l) *Recognizing* the need for harmonization between legislation and the commitments made through Nationally Determined Contributions to ensure economic policies reflect climate goals;
  - m) *Recognizing* the value of the strategic partnerships of PAM that have served the interests of parliamentarians and the Mediterranean as a whole;
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- I. ***Call*** on PAM Parliaments to conceive and continue implementing measures, which provide employment and fiscal relief, while ensuring that such measures are effective and target those industries and individuals who have been most impacted;
  - II. ***Reiterate*** the importance of continuing support to vulnerable businesses and segments of the population, even once the epidemiological threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic has decreased;
  - III. ***Encourage*** PAM Parliaments to reinforce targeted schemes which grant SMEs access to credit lines and other forms of institutional support, while also bridging the divide between SMEs and traditional financial institutions;
  - IV. ***Invite*** PAM Parliaments to resume talks surrounding the Arab Maghreb Trade Union and the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area, which would strengthen the regional economy and lessen dependence on global supply chains;
  - V. ***Call*** for greater coordination to support the Mediterranean tourism industry by collaborating on travel and quarantine policies which may hasten the relaunch of this vital sector;

- VI. ***Stress*** the importance of implementing policies which expand the use and access of digital technologies particularly through greater investment in IT infrastructure;
- VII. ***Urge*** PAM Parliaments to implement recovery policies in line with Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement in order to facilitate a sustainable recovery;
- VIII. ***Invite*** its Secretariat to reinforce PAM ties with IFIs, the World Bank, IMF, ECB, EBRD, EIB, and the UN and EU relevant bodies, as well as to continue cooperating with the UNCTAD, OECD, WTO, the WTTC, UNWTO, and the Arab Forum for Environment and Development.