



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

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

“Climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region: an urgent call for cooperation”

Rapporteur: Hon. Alain Perea (France)

Recommendations

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

- a) *Alarmed* by the overwhelming evidence of climate change and environmental degradation in the Mediterranean Basin, and *concerned* that insufficient efforts have been made, at present, to mitigate the long-term damage attributable to current trends;
- b) *Alarmed* by scientific forecasts predicting that average temperatures in the Mediterranean could increase by up to +5°C degrees by 2100;
- c) *Recognising* the harmful economic, social, and environmental consequences for the Mediterranean region if Member States fail to implement comprehensive adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change;
- d) *Acknowledging* that only climate mitigation and adaptation strategies that are inclusive of local communities and cultures have the capacity of being sustainable and resilient in the long term;
- e) *Recognising* that the continuity of commercial activities vital to economies in the Mediterranean Basin, such as tourism, agriculture, and fishing, depend upon resource conservation and the protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems;
- f) *Recognising* the need for greater enforcement and comprehensive implementation of climate-related policies at both the national and regional levels;
- g) *Convinced* that multilateral frameworks like the Paris Climate Agreement, the Agenda 2030, and the Barcelona Convention provide a valuable road map for the establishment and adoption of effective climate and environmental policies;

- h) *Reaffirming* the PAM resolution unanimously adopted by Member States on 3 February 2015 regarding the establishment of a Carbon Added Tax;
 - i) *Recognising* the importance of channelling financial resources towards green initiatives as part of national COVID-19 recovery efforts in order to promote sustainability and the development of circular and carbon-neutral economies;
 - j) *Emphasising* the critical importance of substantive progress in the global climate negotiations that will take place at COP26, achievable only through robust and ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
 - k) *Aware* that Member States must transform the objectives delineated through NDCs into tangible legislative action;
 - l) *Recognising* the value of strategic partnerships for PAM that have served the interests of parliamentarians and the Mediterranean as a whole, and *committing* to the development of a robust science-policy-society interface for the fruitful implementation of national climate policies;
- I. ***Call*** on PAM Parliaments to declare a climate and environmental emergency in the Mediterranean and globally, and prioritise policies and legislative actions that directly address climate change and environmental degradation in the region;
 - II. ***Reiterate*** the importance of placing sustainability and climate-related policies at the centre of fiscal and monetary policies supporting the COVID-19 recovery plans;
 - III. ***Call*** its Member States to regularly update Member Parliaments on progress achieved with regards to their commitments to international agreements and protocols on environmental protection and climate change, ***invite*** the PAM Parliaments to regularly share progress achieved with the PAM Secretariat and further ***invite*** the PAM Secretariat to disseminate the exchange of information and promote best national practices;
 - IV. ***Stress*** the importance of including and respecting local traditions, cultures, and communities in developing climate policies via grassroot consultations, civil society participation, and stakeholder engagement;
 - V. ***Urge*** PAM Parliaments to develop coherent regional strategies and capacity-building instruments to accelerate the green transition of economies, with particular reference to the adoption of resource-efficient technologies such as precision irrigation systems and wastewater reuse solutions;

- VI. **Invite** PAM Parliaments to promote sustainable and responsible tourism practices throughout the region, thus ensuring the industry's key role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- VII. **Encourage** PAM Parliaments to work on a cohesive ecosystem-based approach to fishery policies with the aim of ensuring long-term maintenance of fish stocks and marine biodiversity at large in the Mediterranean;
- VIII. **Call** on PAM Parliaments to adopt water, soil and air pollution prevention and control mechanisms that directly address human and biodiversity welfare;
- IX. **Reaffirm** the necessity of removing subsidies for non-renewable energy sources and supporting the development of carbon markets and the establishment of a Carbon Added Tax;
- X. **Stress** the importance of adopting climate legislation comprehensive of environmental-related security risks and of reinforcing regional information sharing to strengthen regional capacity building and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- XI. **Invite** its Secretariat to reinforce ties with IFIs, the World Bank, IMF, ECB, EBRD, EIB, and the UN and EU relevant bodies, as well as to continue cooperating with UNFCCC, UNEP/MAP, OECD, MEDREG, MED-Tso, Plan Bleu, MedECC, IRENA, and the Arab Forum for Environment and Development.