



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

**THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)**

PARLIAMENTARY FORUM OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND GULF REGION

**ORIGIN & OBJECTIVES**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) is an international organization established in 2005 by the national parliaments of the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region. It is the legal successor of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM), launched in the early '90s.

The main objective of PAM is to forge political, economic and social cooperation among the Member States in order to find common solutions to the challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf region, and to create a space for peace and prosperity for its peoples.

PAM is the centre of excellence for regional parliamentary diplomacy, and a unique forum whose membership is open exclusively to Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf countries, which are represented on equal footing. This is reflected in the composition of the Bureau and the alternating Presidency. The President of PAM is **H.E. Sen. Enaam Mayara**, President of the House of Councillors of Morocco. Each national delegation has up to five members with equal voting rights and decision-making powers.

PAM conducts the bulk of its work within three Standing Committees<sup>1</sup>. It convenes annually in a Plenary Session. It may also set up Working Groups, ad-hoc Committees or Special Task Forces to tackle a particular topic (i.e. Counter-Terrorism, Confidence Building, Peace Support, Conflict Resolution, Middle East Peace Process, Mass Migration, Free Trade and Investments, Economic Integration, Climate Change, Energy, Human Rights, Dialogue of Civilizations, Gender issues, etc...). The main operational and coordination instruments of PAM in these fields are Field Missions, Electoral Observation Teams, the Economic Panel on Trade and Investments, the Academic Platform and the Women Parliamentary Forum.

Although the reports and resolutions adopted by PAM are not legally binding per se, they are a powerful “soft diplomacy” tool when dealing with parliaments, governments and civil society in the region.

The PAM Secretariat is also entrusted with the parliamentary dimension of the 5+5 Western Mediterranean Forum and the MEDCOP.

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<sup>1</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee: Political and Security-related Cooperation and Regional Stability.

2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee: Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation, Development and Partnership.

3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee: Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights.

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE PAM SECRETARIAT

The international Secretariat, an autonomous, independent and decentralized body of the Assembly, assists and advises the PAM President, the PAM Bureau and all members in the execution of their mandate and is responsible for the follow-up on the decisions taken by the Assembly providing coordination, assistance and support to the work of the Committees and all other bodies established under PAM.

The Secretariat interacts with national delegations, as well as with regional and international bodies sharing an interest in the PAM region. It has the mandate to stimulate the activities of the Assembly. It also coordinates the awarding of the PAM Prize dedicated to individuals or institutions whose work is considered of great value for the PAM region.

The Secretary General, assisted by international and local staff, coordinates the activities of the Assembly<sup>2</sup>.

PAM has a regional office in Naples, Italy, an international study centre, in the Republic of San Marino, and diplomatic representations in Geneva, New York and Vienna, as well as in Jerusalem, Bucharest and Cairo.

## PAM RELATIONS WITH NON EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

PAM was granted by the General Assembly of the United Nations the Permanent Observer Status, by Resolution A/RES/64/124, at its 64<sup>th</sup> Session on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

An essential link with civil society, parliamentarians are key to any political decision-making process. In order to ensure coherence and coordination in decision processes, including social peace, it is necessary that parliamentarians fully participate in today's regional debates thereby contributing to the elaboration of policies that bear both an immediate impact and a long-term impact for future generations. Today's challenges, including mass migration, climate change and most importantly the resurgence of conflicts and the evolution of terrorism, require a collective effort, goodwill and confidence-building measures.

The political dialogue established among members of PAM, in particular with respect to the Middle East issues, Syria and Libya crises, and the Russian aggression against Ukraine, are of crucial importance.

To further its objectives, PAM encourages the inter-governmental support of the main actors in the region as well as regional institutions.

## PAM MEMBERSHIP

**31 Member States:** Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia<sup>3</sup>, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

**2 Associate Member States:** Holy See, Sovereign Order of Malta

**1 Candidate member:** Russian Federation (suspended)

**Partner States:** Bahrain, Bulgaria, Georgia, KSA, Kuwait, Moldova, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Furthermore, PAM signed cooperation agreements with or is partner of the following regional and international organizations:

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<sup>2</sup> Pro-tempore Secretary General is Ambassador Piazza, a veteran diplomat, former staff of the UN, with broad experience in Crisis Management.

<sup>3</sup> Slovenia has temporarily suspended its membership

- EU, LAS and OSCE;
- European Parliament, Commonwealth PA, OSCE PA, NATO PA, PABSEC, TURKPA, Pan-African Parliament, Arab parliament, Arab IPU, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Orthodoxy (IAO), the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, IPA CIS, UfM PA;
- MEDREG, the Euro Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), the Chamber of Commerce of Salerno (INNEXTA), Groupe inter-académique pour le Développement (GID), International Centre for Migration Policy, International Federation of Consular Corps and Associations (FICAC), the UN Alliance of Civilizations, Vittorio Occorsio Foundation, the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and human Rights, the Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation (MCAF), PLATFORMA, UNITE, the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).
- EBRD, EIB, OECD, UNEP, UNODC, UNOCT, UNCTAD, FAO, WB, IMF, UNIDO, UNESCO, ISESCO BusinessMed, CTED,WHO, North-South centre of the Council of Europe.

In addition, PAM cooperates, among others, with the following universities: Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), John Hopkins University SAIS Bologna Center, Bocconi University, Bari, Beirut, Catania, Cagliari, Enna, Fez, Firenze, Ljubjana, Macerata, Malta, Naples Federico II and Parthenope, Nice Sofia Antipolis, Padova, Rabat, Salerno, Siena, Sorbonne, Torino and Valencia.