



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

1st Standing Committee on Political and Security-related Cooperation

Special Task Force on Organised Crime in the Mediterranean

Rapporteur: Hon. Angela Napoli (Italy)

*Resolution endorsed by the 1st Standing Committee
at its 4th meeting on 24 June 2009 in Lisbon*

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

- a) Recalling that achieving peace and political stability throughout the entire Mediterranean is necessary for durable prosperity in the region and that the fight against Organised Crime is an important element to achieving social peace;
- b) Having regards to the fact that on a global scale organised crime has been estimated to control from 2% to one quarter of the world's Gross Domestic Product causing serious disturbances to regional and world trade;
- c) Having regards to the fact that Organised Crime (trafficking of drugs, organs, arms and goods such as cars, cigarettes, counterfeited items, as well as racketing, kidnapping, people smuggling, money laundering, modern days piracy, cybercrime, paedophile and prostitution networks, smuggling of fissile material, stolen artefacts...) poses a serious challenge to countries in the Mediterranean region;
- d) Having regards to the fact that most countries bordering the Mediterranean (EU and non-EU) have become transit countries for people and goods on their way to the mainland Europe;
- e) Having regards to the latest statistics showing an increase in people smuggling from Sub-Saharan Africa into PAM Member States, in cocaine consumption in Europe, and that the biggest growth in Organised Crime during the last decade in the region emanates from the Balkans region;

- f) Having regards to the fact that since 9/11 there have been growing concerns that such activities support wider terrorist networks;
- g) Acknowledging that the Universal declaration of Human Rights, and in particular article 29, should be central to the development and the implementation of a Mediterranean policy against Organised Crime,
- h) Recalling that the fight against Organised Crime and terrorism must be conducted with utmost respect for human rights,
- i) Recalling the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its 2 supplementary Protocols, adopted by the General Assembly resolution 55/225 of 15 November 2000,
- j) Recognising the Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs (1961), the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003) as main international instruments in the fight against Organised Crime,
- k) Acknowledging the leading role played by the OSCE and the Council of Europe in tackling organised crime in the Mediterranean region;
- l) Having regards to the specific issue of criminality pertaining to stolen art objects and antiquities;
- m) Having also regards to the specific issue of human trafficking and people smuggling in the illegal migration phenomenon in the Mediterranean region;

Decides

- 1) To invite all PAM parliaments to host national and regional seminars/conferences/workshop on Organised Crime focusing on current trends and existing measures/mechanisms dealing with the fight against criminal activities at national and international level;
- 2) To invite PAM delegations to identify - with the assistance of the relevant authorities at the national level - areas where criminality was successfully managed in order for PAM delegations to exchange best practices;
- 3) To focus future work on a limited number of specific cross-border crimes (such as people smuggling, goods counterfeiting, drug trafficking, art trafficking or else) in order to raise

awareness and bring solutions to these specific issues at regional level. To that end, invite each PAM delegation to submit to the PAM Secretariat a list of suggested crime-related topics that are cross-border in nature and on which they would wish PAM to pursue work next year;

- 4) To urge PAM Member States to monitor criminal organizations and set up parliamentary committees in their respective parliament to this end ;
- 5) To invite PAM Member States to sign a regional pact on strengthening cooperation on the fight against Organised Crime including the exchange of intelligence, the data collection and the evaluation of the implemented policies;
- 6) To emphasise the need for patrols in the Mediterranean Sea in the framework of regional collaboration,
- 7) To support the organisation of a conference on the topic of “Stolen Antiquities” in Cairo;
- 8) To recommend that the framework of the Law of the Sea be used for cooperation between States dealing with stolen antiquities;
- 9) To study the feasibility of adopting a Charter declaring that what lies at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea be part of a Common Mediterranean Heritage on the model of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- 10) To involve the academic world in future studies and to pursue collaboration with regional organisations active on the fight against Organised Crime in the Mediterranean region, including the UN, the INTERPOL, the OCSE and the Council of Europe.